Executive Officer: Professor Jeffrey Rothman
The Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016
Email: physical_therapy@gc.cuny.edu
http://www.gc.cuny.edu/PhysicalTherapy/

FACULTY
Zaghloul Ahmed n Neil J. Anastasio n Suzanne R. Babyar Rothbart n Maureen C. Becker
n Yocheved Bensinger n Diane M. Caravone-Nieves n Lorayne C. Castiglione n Michael
Chiacchiero n Jeanne Marie Cioppa-Mosca n Bernice Cuscuna n Elizabeth A. Dominick
n Eva C. Durand n Debra Engel n Greg X. Gao n Kristin Hansen n Lawrence A. Harding
n Amy Hess n Diane L. Holland n Thomas J. Holland n Michael M. Ingino n Herb
Karpatkin n Barbara A. Karpinska n Paul M. Kelleher n Maria Knikou n Gary Krasilovsky
n Milo N. Lipovac n John Lugo n Robyn M. Lugo n Michael F. Masaracchio n Michael
Mattia n Susan E. Medford n Richard J. Mellor n Keith G. Peterson n Carol A. Pisapia
n Elaine R. Rosen n Jeffrey Rothman n Lisa H. Rothman n Cory Taglianetti n Melissa
Terrusa n Allison Weiner n Candace E. Zaiff n Wei Zhang

THE PROGRAM
The Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy, offering the doctor of physical therapy degree (DPT),
is designed to prepare students to become clinician-scientists who can perform all aspects of
physical therapy practice and conduct clinical research. This program conforms to curriculum
guidelines set by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Students will be prepared to become clinician-scientists who can competently apply
research to clinical practice, perform all aspects of physical therapy practice, and perform clinical
research. It will prepare graduates to examine, evaluate, diagnose, and intervene in the
management of individuals with impairments in the cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular,
and integumentary systems which result in functional limitations, and disability. The
program meets changing national standards as well as community needs for physical therapists
working in a multitude of settings, especially in the diverse multicultural, multiethnic population
residing in the New York metropolitan area. A variety of clinical affiliations are available for
students to acquire their clinical experiences and also to allow for the opportunity to work with
diverse populations.

The goal of the DPT program is to select and prepare promising candidates with the skills
and knowledge necessary to adapt to the changing needs of the health care delivery system
and society. These skills include performing differential diagnosis, determining appropriateness
of physical therapy interventions and/or referral to other health care providers, and formulating
interventions that result in outcomes that enhance the patient’s quality of life. Graduates will
be competent to perform outcomes assessment of their clinical effectiveness. Cost containment
must be balanced with clinical interventions which will be identified through systematic inquiry
to attain optimal quality of life for the physically challenged.

A graduate of this program will have the confidence and competencies that are necessary
to demonstrate leadership in meeting society’s need for the care of an aging, active popu-
lation. Graduates of this program will contribute to the body of knowledge of health care
through systematic clinical inquiry of people entrusted to their care. The Physical Therapy pro-
gram’s faculty members seek out evidence based interventions with their students relating to
the prevention and elimination of abnormal movement and evolve new models of clinical prac-
tice to serve an urban population.

The DPT program’s curriculum prepares candidates:
To provide clinical assessment and management of a variety of patient populations.
To provide strategies for health maintenance and disease prevention.
To conduct clinical research.
To respond to the health needs of the greater New York area.
To be capable of assimilating the changing health care needs of society into their delivery of services.
To be knowledgeable consumers of scientific information and research.
To be professionally committed to the further development of the Physical Therapy profession.
To have an appreciation for lifelong learning throughout their careers.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION
In addition to meeting the general University requirements for admission stated earlier in this bulletin, the student must meet the following requirements.

Students must have completed a baccalaureate degree, with an overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, from a regionally accredited four-year institution by the end of the semester prior to entry.

Two semesters of anatomy and physiology for science majors, with laboratories.
Two semesters of physics for science majors, with laboratories.
Two semesters of chemistry for science majors, with laboratories.
Two semesters of psychology (including one semester of developmental psychology or child psychology).
One semester of mathematics (precalculus or college algebra and trigonometry).
One semester of statistics (we recommend a course that includes computer applications).
One semester of English composition (e.g., expository writing).
CPR Certification by the American Health Association or Red Cross.

Documented clinical experience of at least 100 hours in the United States under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, with a minimum of 50 hours in one or more different practice settings (e.g., private practice, nursing home, pediatric or school setting, outpatient setting). Applicants should have a minimum of 50 hours in an acute care hospital or inpatient rehabilitation setting. The potential applicant may inquire at any hospital or other facility about volunteering in its physical therapy department as a means of gaining access to clinical experience. A Clinical Experience Form must be provided by the physical therapist by the deadline of November 1; see the DPT program website for more information regarding the Clinical Experience Form.

All prerequisite requirements must be completed prior to the starting date of the program in which the applicant is seeking admission.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Course of Study
The DPT program is composed of 105 credits and can be completed over a three-year period. In addition to course and program requirements, students will be required to: pass a first and second examination, complete all clinical internships, and complete a research project. Students must also complete the requirements for Professional Development I & II.

Academic and Clinical Education Grading Policy Summary
Students are required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or above to remain in good academic standing. Students earning a grade below "C" in any required course in the Physical Therapy Program will not be permitted to continue the sequence of physical therapy courses. A meeting with the faculty will be scheduled to discuss whether the student should retake the course and continue in the program the following year. This will not prevent the student from applying for admission to enter the Graduate Center in another major. Students are permitted to repeat a failed course one time only.

If a student repeats a failed course, it is required that a grade of “C” is earned in the repeated course and that the student’s GPA must remain above 3.0. Students are permitted to repeat a failed course one time only. Students may repeat a maximum of one course while enrolled in the DPT Program; this policy includes clinical affiliations. A student is limited to failing
one clinical affiliation throughout the entire curriculum sequence. If a clinical affiliation is failed, the student is placed in one make-up clinical affiliation. This make-up clinical affiliation, and any and all remaining clinical affiliations, must be passed for successful continuation and graduation from the program.

The grading policy in courses that include a practical (laboratory) examination or check-out as part of their grades is determined by the faculty member instructing the course. In all courses, the syllabi state that students must pass all practical examinations.

All students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above to remain in good academic standing and to be approved for graduation. If a student’s cumulative GPA falls below 3.0, the student is placed on academic probation.

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The First Examination will be a series of written and practical comprehensive exams in foundational science course and clinical courses as well as successful completion of the students’ first clinical affiliation. The first component of the exam is the written examination administered after completion of at least 35 credits and the first year of the curriculum. At Hunter College, this examination would be scheduled after final exams in the spring semester. At the College of Staten Island, it would be scheduled in January or the first week of February. The second component of the first examination is the result of the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) used to evaluate students after completion of their first clinical affiliation. This occurs in the Fall semester of the second year for Hunter College students and in the summer of the second year for CSI students. This is considered a pass-fail evaluation. After successful completion of both components, students will have completed more than 45 credits and be eligible for Level Two tuition.

The Second Examination will consist of a written examination followed by the results of the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) used to evaluate students during their clinical affiliation. The first component of the second examination is a written exam administered after completion of at least 73 credits of the curriculum. For Hunter College, this would be scheduled after final exams in the spring semester. For CSI, this would be scheduled after the fall semester, in January or the first week of February. The second component of the second examination constitutes results from the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) used to evaluate student performance upon completion of their second clinical affiliation. At Hunter College, this is in the summer at the beginning of the third year and at CSI this is in April at the beginning of the third year. This is considered a pass-fail evaluation.

The research requirement includes a series of research courses leading toward the completion of a research project which can be completed as a small group, or by an individual working alone. Successful completion of this research requirement includes a manuscript deemed suitable for submission for publication to a refereed journal. Upon graduation, each degree candidate will be eligible to complete the National Physical Therapy Examination and will qualify for state licensure.

Satisfactory Academic Progress for Students in the DPT Program
A DPT student is deemed not to be making satisfactory progress if he or she:

1. has completed 58 credits (College of Staten Island) or 55 credits (Hunter College) and has not passed the First Examination;
2. has a grade point average below 3.00;
3. has not completed his or her degree in nine terms after matriculation;
4. has accumulated more than two open grades (“INC,” “INP,” “NGR,” “ABS,” and “ABP”).

Courses
The curriculum consists of the following courses, in a prescribed sequence, and includes course work and clinical practice. Credits are listed below.

PHT 70100 Clinical Anatomy
4 credits
PHT 70200 Medical Terminology
1 credit
PHT 70300 Foundations of Patient Care
2 credits
PHT 70400 Introduction to PT Practice and Ethics
2 credits
PHT 70500 Upper Extremity Kinesiology and Assessment
2 credits
PHT 70600 Psychosocial Aspects of Clinical Practice
2 credits
PHT 71000 Research Design
2 credits
PHT 72000 Human Physiology and Exercise Physiology
4 credits
PHT 73000 Structure and Function of the Nervous System
3 credits
PHT 74000 PT and Prevention Intervention
4 credits
PHT 75000 Physical Modalities—Clinical Decision Making and Application
3 credits
PHT 76000 Lower Extremity Kinesiology and Assessment
2 credits
PHT 77000 Directed Research I
1 credit
PHT 78000 Clinical Medicine for PT
3 credits
PHT 79500 Integumentary System: Assessment and Intervention
1 credit
PHT 80000 Introduction to Musculoskeletal Examination
1 credit
PHT 80100 Pulmonary Evaluation and Interventions
2 credits
PHT 80200 Clinical Education: Education Theories
2 credits
PHT 80300 Differential Diagnosis and Intervention in Clinical Orthopedics I
2 credits
PHT 80400 Introduction to Neurological PT
2 credits
PHT 80500 Musculoskeletal Examination and Interventions I
2x credits
PHT 80600 Clinical Affiliation I
3 credits
PHT 80700 Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation
1 credit
PHT 80800 Differential Diagnosis in Neurological Evaluation
1 credit
PHT 80900 Directed Research II
1 credit
PHT 81000 Neurological Interventions I
3 credits
PHT 81100 Cardiac Rehabilitation
2 credits
PHT 82000 Clinical Orthopedics II/Radiology and Imaging
3 credits
PHT 83000 Orthotics and Prosthetics
2 credits
PHT 84000 Differential Diagnosis and Intervention in Clinical Neurology
3 credits
PHT 85000 Musculoskeletal Examination and Intervention II  
3 credits
PHT 86000 Directed Research III  
1 credit
PHT 87000 Health Promotion Through the Lifespan  
2 credits
PHT 87200 Topics in Physical Therapy  
variable credits
PHT 88000 Neurological Interventions II  
2 credits
PHT 88100 Seminar in Departmental Organization and Management  
3 credits
PHT 88200 Pediatric Development and Assessment  
2 credits
PHT 88300 Pharmacology and Body Systems Review  
3 credits
PHT 88400 Musculoskeletal Examination and Intervention III  
3 credits
PHT 88500 Electroneuromyography and Motion Analysis  
2 credits
PHT 88600 Clinical Affiliation II  
5 credits
PHT 88700 Clinical Decision Making  
1 credit
PHT 88800 Directed Research IV  
1 credit
PHT 88950 Clinical Affiliation III  
5 credits
PHT 89000 Clinical Affiliation IV  
4.5 credits
PHT 89800 Biofeedback Interventions in Physical Therapy  
1 credit
PHT 89900 Independent Study in Physical Therapy  
1-3 credits
PHT 90000 Directed Research V  
1 credit