2004

Physical Therapy 2004

Nova Southeastern University

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physical therapy

college of allied health and nursing

Health Professions Division 2004

Nova Southeastern University
Beyond the Classroom
Nova Southeastern University, synonymous with dynamic innovation and intellectual challenge, is the largest independent not-for-profit university in the southeast, and with an enrollment of approximately 21,000, is the 12th largest in the United States. Situated on a beautiful 300-acre campus in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the university is experiencing a sustained period of academic growth, fiscal strength, and commitment to the challenges of the 21st century.

In this environment of expansion and stability, the university is capitalizing on its strengths in such areas as academic innovation, comprehensive clinical training, and flexible educational delivery systems.

Founded in 1964 as Nova University, the institution merged with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences in 1994, creating Nova Southeastern University. To date, the institution has graduated more than 74,000 alumni. Fully accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the university awards associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees in a wide range of fields including the health professions, law, business, marine sciences, psychology, social sciences, computer and information sciences, and education.

The university's programs are administered through 15 academic centers that offer courses at the main campus and at field-based locations throughout Florida; across the nation; and at selected international sites in Europe, Canada, the Pacific Rim, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

With a budget of more than $220 million a year and an upward trend in enrollment, the university will continue to maintain a solid record of academic and fiscal strength and excellence in teaching and community service, while expanding its mission in research and scholarship.

nsu mission statement

Nova Southeastern University is a dynamic, not-for-profit independent institution dedicated to providing high-quality educational programs of distinction from preschool through the professional and doctoral levels, as well as service to the community. Nova Southeastern University prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in business and the professions. It offers academic programs at times convenient to students, employing innovative delivery systems and rich learning resources on campus and at distant sites. The university fosters inquiry, research, and creative professional activity by uniting faculty and students in acquiring and applying knowledge in clinical, community, and professional settings.
As a student in the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University, you can anticipate a remarkable experience. You will train, study, interact, and share faculty and resources (either campus-based or online) with students from various backgrounds and disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach distinguishes the Health Professions Division as unique and will better prepare you to master your discipline with a sensitivity and understanding of the entire health care system.

The Health Professions Division, with a student body of more than 2,500, is home to six colleges. The College of Osteopathic Medicine, the first one in the southeastern United States, grants the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree. The College of Osteopathic Medicine also awards the master of public health degree (M.P.H.). The College of Pharmacy offers the doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree to traditional, international, and postbaccalaureate students. The College of Optometry is the only institution in the state of Florida that awards the doctor of optometry (O.D.) degree as well as the master in clinical vision research (M.S.). The College of Allied Health and Nursing offers a bachelor of science in nursing, a dual-degree physician assistant program that awards the bachelor of science/master of medical science (B.S./M.M.S.) degrees, and a master of occupational therapy degree (M.O.T.), as well as the entry-level doctor of physical therapy (D.P.T.) degree. Doctoral programs are also offered in occupational therapy (Ph.D./O.T., O.T.D.), physical therapy (Ph.D./P.T., D.P.T.), and audiology (Au.D.). In addition to these programs, the College of Allied Health and Nursing offers the master of medical science (M.M.S.), the bachelor of health science (B.H.Sc.), and doctor of health science (D.H.Sc.) degrees open to midlevel clinicians and allied health professionals. The College of Medical Sciences grants the master of biomedical sciences (M.B.S.) degree. In the fall of 1997, the College of Dental Medicine admitted its charter class into the doctor of dental medicine (D.M.D.) program.

The Health Professions Division occupies a $70 million complex, covering 21 acres of the university campus. The division includes eight buildings totaling more than 900,000 square feet of space for classrooms, laboratories, offices, the Health Professions Division Library, an outpatient health center, and a pharmaceutical care center. The adjacent 1,500-vehicle parking garage overlooks the Miami Dolphins Training Camp.
If you wish to be a leader in the health professions, Nova Southeastern University can help you reach your potential.

The Health Professions Division is unique in that it has been developed as an interdisciplinary educational center from its inception. The division was founded on the concept that the interdisciplinary approach to education is beneficial to students of all professions, and by preparing students to work effectively with health care providers from different fields, barriers are broken and patient care is enhanced.

In less than two decades, NSU’s Health Professions Division has developed into a multidisciplinary academic health center of international stature. Composed of the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Dental Medicine, Optometry, Allied Health and Nursing, and Medical Sciences, the Health Professions Division has redoubled its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and community service, while expanding its mission in research and scholarship. Working together, our distinguished faculty members prepare students for an exciting career on tomorrow’s dynamic health care team.

Morton Terry, D.O., M.Sc., FACOI
Chancellor
physical therapy facts

- Physical therapists practice in a variety of settings such as hospitals, private physical therapy outpatient practices, community health centers, nursing homes, pediatric centers, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, schools, and research institutions as well as in academic settings including colleges and universities.

- Physical therapists also work as consultants to industry, insurance companies, athletic organizations, and many health-related federal and state organizations.

- Opportunities in physical therapy offer the integration of science, medicine, and holistic philosophies in providing interventions for enhanced function and well-being.

- More than 83,000 physical therapists practice in the United States today. Average annual income is $55,000, depending on geographic location and practice setting. Physical therapists in private practice, as well as other settings, may earn more than $100,000 annually.

- The NSU Physical Therapy faculty members are actively involved in peer-reviewed presentations and publications on state, national, and international levels.

The excitement of this
academically integrated,
state-of-the-art environment
is contagious. Both students
and faculty members are
energized and motivated to be
part of the front line effort to
elevate the level of health care
for everyone, everywhere.

nsu physical therapy
department mission
statement

The mission of the Nova Southeastern University Physical Therapy Program is to prepare and advance physical therapists as primary care providers who collaborate with other health care providers, in any setting, in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of movement related dysfunction. The physical therapy program fosters critical inquiry, research, leadership, lifelong learning, and service to the profession and the community.
The entry-level Physical Therapy Program was granted its initial full accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), of the American Physical Therapy Association in October of 1996. In April of 2002, the program received an additional ten-year accreditation.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, non-disqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

letter from the dean

The College of Allied Health endeavors to train allied health professionals in the art of improving the quality of life in the community. We train allied health professionals to become an integral part of the health care team and become community advocates.

The Physical Therapy Department of NSU continues its commitment to advancing the profession by covering the educational spectrum of physical therapy through the various degree programs offered. These programs include an entry-level doctor of physical therapy degree (D.P.T.), a transition doctoral degree, (D.P.T.), and a doctor of philosophy degree (Ph.D.). This educational commitment was recently confirmed in the spring of 2002 when the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), of the American Physical Therapy Association, reaccredited the entry-level doctoral degree program for a ten-year period.

During the coming months, we will examine not only what we are teaching now but also what we should be teaching to enable students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century and the changes within the health care marketplace.

Richard E. Davis, PA-C, Ed.D.
Dean, College of Allied Health and Nursing
The entry-level doctor of physical therapy (D.P.T.) program at Nova Southeastern University is offered as a full-time, entry-level program that is completed in 38 months. Students are admitted in the summer semester. The program includes 20 weeks of full-time clinical practice at the end of the didactic portion of the curriculum. While on campus, student-learning experiences occur in a combination of traditional instruction, case-based interactive learning, and clinical lab skills training. Faculty-supervised TIER I clinical education training begins in the winter term of year one. Students experience direct patient care in a variety of health care facilities that serve primarily underserved populations for one full day, every other week.

Graduates will be awarded a D.P.T. degree upon satisfactory completion of all graduation requirements. Students may elect to enter the Ph.D./P.T. degree program after completing the entry-level D.P.T. degree program.

Inquiries should be directed to

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Office of Admissions
Physical Therapy Department
3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328-2018
(954) 262-1101 or 800-356-0026, ext. 1101
# Curriculum Outline

## Year One

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMER SEMESTER</th>
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<td>Introduction to Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>Anatomy</td>
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<td>Physiology</td>
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**FALL SEMESTER**

- Foundational and Clinical Sciences:
  - Medical/Surgical: 6
- Physical Therapy Skills: Medical/Surgical: 4
- Professional Development I: 2
- Research I: 2

**WINTER SEMESTER**

- Foundational and Clinical Sciences:
  - Musculoskeletal I: 6
- Physical Therapy Skills:
  - Musculoskeletal I: 4
- Professional Development II (9 weeks): 2
- Research II (9 weeks): 2
- TIER IA Clinical Education: 1

## Year Two

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<td>Professional Development III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research III</td>
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**FALL SEMESTER**

- Advanced Differential Diagnosis: 4
- Professional Development V: 2
- Research VII: 2
- TIER II Clinical Internship: 4

**WINTER SEMESTER/SUMMER**

- Research VIII: 1
- TIER II Clinical Internship: 19
- Clinical Education Seminar/Wrap-up: 1

## Year Three

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<td>Neuromuscular III</td>
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<td>Physical Therapy Skills: Neuromuscular III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research VI</td>
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</table>

**FALL SEMESTER**

- Foundational and Clinical Sciences:
  - Neuromuscular II: 6
- Physical Therapy Skills:
  - Neuromuscular II: 4
- Professional Development IV: 2
- Research V: 2
- TIER IB Clinical Education: 1

**WINTER SEMESTER**

- Research VIII: 1
- TIER II Clinical Internship: 19
- Clinical Education Seminar/Wrap-up: 1
# Facts and Requirements

## Entry-Level Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
The entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy Program selects students based on cumulative grade point average (GPA), prior academic performance, work experience, references, interview, completed application, and recommendations.

### Program Objective
To prepare competent, flexible, entry-level physical therapists who can practice as professionals in the 21st century.

### Target Application
Individuals who are interested in a career in the dynamic profession of physical therapy.

### Delivery
Campus-based in Fort Lauderdale, the curriculum combines traditional teaching methods with case-based interactive teaching and learning, clinical lab skills training, and clinical education.

### Admission Requirements
- Completed application with application fees
- 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Official GRE scores
- Baccalaureate degree or 90 credits (30 upper division) from regionally accredited institutions
- All prerequisite courses
- Three recommendations on required forms (from nonrelatives), with at least one from a physical therapist
- Official transcripts from all graduate or undergraduate institutions attended
- Official copy of TOEFL scores (international students only)

### Graduation Requirements (minimal)
Successful completion of:
- Comprehensive examination
- Full-time clinical internship
- All academic requirements
- Participation in professional and community activities

### Time for Completion
38 months

### Tuition*
- 17,500 per year for Florida residents
- 19,950 per year for out-of-state residents

### Expenses*
Students should anticipate approximately $13,000 per 12-month academic year for living expenses.

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<tr>
<td>One</td>
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<td>Two</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>$3,500 (estimated)</td>
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</table>

*Tuition costs and expenses are approximate and are subject to change.

### Curriculum
The didactic component of the curriculum is full-time and campus-based. Tier II Clinical Education is full-time and completed in clinical facilities both local and distant to the main Fort Lauderdale campus. Students are involved in selection of their full-time clinical education sites.

### Recommendations
Working knowledge of medical terminology

### Contact
Physical Therapy Admissions • 800-356-0026, ext. 1101, or (954) 262-1101

Cheryl J. Hill, PT, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Physical Therapy Department
800-356-0026, ext. 1662 or 1664 • (954) 262-1662 or 1664 • hill@nova.edu
Candidates for admission must submit

1. a completed application form along with a $50 nonrefundable application fee

2. three letters of evaluation from individuals, other than relatives, such as academic instructors and professors, health professionals, work supervisors, or volunteer supervisors

   At least one completed evaluation form must be from a physical therapist.

3. official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)—less than five years old—submitted to the EPS

4. a physical therapy experience form

5. official college transcripts from all undergraduate or graduate institutions attended sent directly from those institutions

6. copies of all professional certifications, registrations, licenses, or other relevant credentials

INTERVIEWS

Upon receipt of the completed application and required credentials, the committee on admissions will select applicants to be interviewed. Those selected will be notified by phone or in writing of the time of the interview. The committee on admissions may require a phone or personal interview. An invitation to appear for an interview should not be construed by the applicant as evidence of acceptance.

Applications may be submitted at any time; however, except for special circumstances, applicants who have submitted all application credentials (all transcripts, evaluation forms, physical therapy experience forms, etc.) prior to February 15 will be considered first for admission into the summer class of the same year.

All application and admission documentation should be sent to

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Enrollment Processing Services (EPS)
College of Allied Health and Nursing
Physical Therapy Department Admissions
3301 College Avenue
P.O. Box 299000
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329-9905
Anticipated tuition for 2004-2005 (subject to change by the board of trustees without notice) is $17,500 for Florida residents and $19,950 for out-of-state students. A student activities fee of $125 each year is required of all students.

Eligible students must request in-state tuition on the application. For tuition purposes, students' Florida residency status (in-state or out-of-state) will be determined at initial matriculation and will remain the same throughout the entire enrollment of the student at NSU. Accordingly, tuition will not be adjusted as a result of any change in residency status after initial enrollment registration.

1. Acceptance Fee—$100. This fee is required to reserve the accepted applicant's place in the entering first-year class. This advance payment will be deducted from the tuition payment due on registration day, but is nonrefundable in the event of a withdrawal. It is payable within two weeks of an applicant's acceptance.

2. Deposit—$400. This is due March 1, under the same terms as the acceptance fee.

3. Preregistration Fee—$500. This is due April 15, under the same terms as the acceptance fee.

4. University Technology Fee is not to exceed $100 when implemented.

The first semester's tuition and fees, less the $1,000 previously paid, are due on or before the appropriate registration day. Tuition for each subsequent semester is due on or before the appropriate registration day. Students will not be admitted until their financial obligations have been met. The financial ability of applicants to complete their training is important because of the limited number of positions available in each class. Applicants should have specific plans for financing two years of professional education. This should include tuition, living expenses, books, equipment, and miscellaneous expenses.

It is required that each student carry adequate personal medical and hospital insurance. Students may avail themselves of the hospitalization insurance plan obtainable through the university.
financial aid

The primary financial responsibility for a student's education rests with the student and his or her family, but economic circumstances for some families may make it necessary for the student to obtain assistance from other sources.

The purpose of the Student Financial Assistance Program at Nova Southeastern University is to help as many qualified students as possible to complete their health professions education. Various loans, scholarships, and grants are available to qualified students to help ease the high cost of a health professions education. These financial assistance programs are described in a separate university publication: The NSU Guide to Student Financial Assistance. For a copy or other information, contact

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Office of Student Financial Assistance
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
(954) 262-3380

Opportunity for a limited number of part-time work assignments is available. However, the demands of a program of professional study limit the number of hours a student can work.

student housing

Located in close proximity to the Health Professions Division, Nova Southeastern University's on-campus residence halls offer one-bedroom (single) and two-bedroom (double) apartments and married housing. Numerous apartments, condominiums, and other rental facilities are also located near campus. Information concerning housing may be obtained from the

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Office of Residential Life and Housing
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
(954) 262-7052
The Physical Therapy Department at Nova Southeastern University is proud to offer two accredited postgraduate programs for practicing physical therapists—the Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Therapy (Ph.D./P.T.) Program and the Transition Doctor of Physical Therapy (T-D.P.T.) Program. These two distinct programs are designed to meet the diverse needs of physical therapists who are seeking to advance their education and skills from an accredited institution. The Ph.D./P.T. program began in 1999 and the T-D.P.T. program in June of 2002.

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHYSICAL THERAPY (Ph.D./P.T.)

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**
To prepare leaders in the profession of physical therapy that can serve as change agents in the profession, address health issues through the lifespan, negotiate/advocate services for clients, educate clients and students, consult with organizations, and contribute to the profession through research.

**TARGET APPLICATION**
Physical therapists interested in obtaining skills needed for academic/research careers or for careers in the consultation/management of P.T. services.

**DELIVERY**
Distance-based program—five-month semesters, students come to our Fort Lauderdale campus midway through each semester for one to two days per course. Semesters begin in January and July.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**
- graduation from a CAPTE accredited P.T. program (B.S. or M.S.)
- internationally trained therapists must have academic credentials and TOEFL scores reviewed by an appropriate agency
- official GRE scores if applicants hold only a bachelor's degree in physical therapy

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (minimal)**
- 60 credit hours beyond the M.S.
- 75 credit hours beyond the B.S.
- complete and defend your dissertation

**TIME FOR COMPLETION**
- full-time: 2.5–3 years
- part-time: must be completed in 7 years

**COST**
$465/credit hour

**CURRICULUM**
Choice of elective courses in education, administration, computer technology in education, clinical practice, and public health. Students have flexibility in designing curriculum suited to individual needs. Twenty credit hours related to the student's dissertation.

**CONTACT**
Leah Nof, PT, Ph.D., program director
800-356-0026, ext. 1276
nof@nova.edu

### TRANSITION DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (T-D.P.T.)

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**
To advance the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of existing physical therapists to those commensurate with the entry-level clinical doctorate in physical therapy. The T-D.P.T. program prepares therapists to engage in evidence-based practice; address health, wellness, and prevention issues; and adopt the roles of the clinical doctor in physical therapy.

**TARGET APPLICATION**
Physical therapists who are interested in enhancing their skills in patient/client management including examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis and plan of care, interventions, and outcome assessment.

**DELIVERY**
Distance-based program—five-month semesters, students come to our Fort Lauderdale campus midway through each semester for one to two days per course. Semesters begin in February and September.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**
- graduation from a CAPTE-accredited P.T. program (B.S. or M.S.)
- internationally trained therapists must have academic credentials and TOEFL scores reviewed by an appropriate agency
- official GRE scores if entry-level physical therapy cumulative GPA is below 75 percent

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (minimal)**
- NSU graduates: 24 credits
- graduates with M.S. in P.T.: 36 credits
- graduates with B.S. in P.T.: 54 credits

**TIME FOR COMPLETION**
- full-time: 1–2.5 years
- part-time: must be completed in 6 years

**COST**
$400/credit hour

**CURRICULUM**
Focuses on professional roles of the D.P.T., clinical reasoning, differential diagnosis, evidence-based practice, and patient/client management. Students can select area of focus for patient/client management class.

**CONTACT**
Mary Blackinton, PT, M.S., Ed.D., program director
800-356-0026, ext. 1278
maryb@nova.edu
application procedures

1. A completed application form along with a non-refundable application fee of $50

2. Official transcripts from all undergraduate, professional, and graduate institutions attended, sent directly to the EPS from the other institutions

3. Three letters of evaluation from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's performance as a physical therapist and/or the applicant's potential for doctoral studies

4. Official GRE scores or other standardized test scores when appropriate; TOEFL scores, if appropriate

After an evaluation of credentials, qualified applicants may be contacted for a telephone interview.

Applicants who have completed international coursework are required to have coursework evaluated for U.S. equivalence. Please refer to page 20.

tuition fees

Anticipated tuition for 2004-2005 (subject to change by the board of trustees without notice) is

a. Doctor of philosophy program—$465 per credit hour
b. T-D.P.T. program—$400 per credit hour

1. Student activities fee—$125. Required each year.

2. Preregistration Fee—$1,000. This is due 30 days prior to registration. This payment will be applied toward the first tuition payment, but is nonrefundable in the event that the applicant withdraws.

3. University Technology Fee is not to exceed $100 when implemented.

The first term's tuition and fees, less the $1,000 previously paid, are due on or before registration day. Tuition for each subsequent semester is due on or before the appropriate registration day. Students will not be admitted until their financial obligations have been met.

It is required that each student carry adequate personal medical and hospital insurance. Students may avail themselves of the hospitalization plan obtainable through the university.
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Therapy (Ph.D./P.T.) Degree Program is a distance education program. It requires an additional 60 hours beyond the master's degree or beyond an advanced master's degree in which the undergraduate or master's degree was in physical therapy. The program requires 75 hours (pending review of the applicant's transcript) beyond the undergraduate physical therapy degree. Requirements include satisfactory completion of all courses, seminars, independent study, and research. Coursework is divided into required core courses and elective courses.

We seek students who have qualities such as assertiveness, initiative, leadership, self-understanding, openness, and strong communication skills. Students must also be motivated and self-directed critical thinkers.

This distance education program requires students to be on campus twice per year for up to seven days each time (for full-time students). Faculty members and students are expected to communicate by computer, fax, or telephone when not in the classroom. Students will be able to complete course requirements with minimal on-campus time. Specialty and elective courses are in topics of education, administration, computer technology in education, clinical practice, and public health.

Students have up to seven years to complete the degree requirements. They may take 12 semester hours each term to complete the degree programs in 6.5-7 terms (2.5-3 years). Students must earn a B grade in each course to continue in the doctoral program and to graduate.

COURSE OF STUDY

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<th>SEMESTER HOURS</th>
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<td>Required core courses</td>
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<td>Specialty and elective courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>20</td>
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*The one semester hour orientation course is charged at 1/2 credit price.

Note: Fifteen additional semester hours may be required from students who enter the Ph.D. program with an undergraduate degree.
distance learning

ADVANCED DOCTORAL DEGREE

A strong need for a doctoral program to encourage the professional growth of physical therapists has been identified. As our health care delivery systems change and our knowledge base broadens, it becomes important for licensed physical therapists to continue their formal studies to assume roles as consultants, educators, researchers, advanced clinicians, and health care leaders.

Nova Southeastern University's Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Therapy Degree Program addresses these needs in a curriculum that will prepare its students to become leaders of the profession. The distance education format enables students to continue their practice as physical therapists while earning their degree.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to

• serve as change agents in organizations
• negotiate and advocate for patients, self, and others for the provision of health care services
• address health care issues of patients through the life cycle
• educate patients, students, peers, and other health care providers in order to accomplish treatment goals and the goals of the program
• consult with organizations for the development of health care services
• contribute to physical therapy practice through clinical research
## Course Outline

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

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<td>Ethical and Legal Issues in Health Care I</td>
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<td>Teaching and Learning in Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>Patient Education</td>
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<td>PHT 7510</td>
<td>Designing for the Web</td>
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<td>PHT 7700</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Competency I</td>
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<td>PHT* 7800</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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* Required Core Courses

** Courses at 6000-level are offered to (and may be required from) students who enter the program with an undergraduate degree in physical therapy.

Ph.D. students can choose elective courses from the T-D.P.T. program upon approval by the Ph.D. program director.

Detailed course descriptions are available on the Internet at [www.nova.edu/ph](http://www.nova.edu/ph).

## Admission Requirements

1. Applicants must be graduates of schools accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Graduates of physical therapy schools in other countries are also eligible with review of academic credentials by an appropriate agency and review of TOEFL scores.

2. Selection of students for the Ph.D. program is based on prior academic performance, clinical experience, and references.

3. Applicants must hold either an advanced or entry-level master's degree in physical therapy, a bachelor's degree in physical therapy along with a master's degree in any other discipline, or a bachelor's degree in physical therapy.
   
   a. Qualified applicants with a master's degree are required to complete a course of study with a minimum of 60 semester hours.
   
   b. Qualified applicants with only a bachelor's degree in physical therapy are required to complete a course of study with a minimum of 75 semester hours.

4. Completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or an equivalent standardized test for applicants holding only a bachelor's degree in physical therapy and the TOEFL, when appropriate, is required.
## CURRICULUM

### TRANSITION DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
<th>NSU GRAD</th>
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<td>- Pediatric Practice PHT 7845</td>
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<td>- Geriatric Practice PHT 7855</td>
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<td>- Administration/Management PHT 7875</td>
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<td>Computer Applications in Health Care PHT 7035</td>
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<td>Professional and Scientific Writing PHT 7045</td>
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<td>Clinical Internship PHT 7905</td>
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</table>

* Students in the T-D.P.T. program can choose elective courses from the doctor of philosophy program upon approval by the T-D.P.T. program director.
admission requirements

TRANSITION DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

1. Students must have graduated from an entry-level physical therapy (P.T.) program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Graduates from physical therapy schools in other countries are also eligible after review of academic credentials by an appropriate agency and a review of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores (see page 20).

2. A cumulative grade point average of 75 percent or higher from the entry-level physical therapy coursework is required. If the cumulative GPA is lower than 75 percent, applicants must achieve a minimum score of 500 on both the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The GRE is only required for students whose cumulative GPA is below 75 percent.

3. Students who are within two months (60 days) of graduation from an entry-level P.T. program are also eligible for admission. These individuals must provide proof of graduation by the 61st day of their first T-D.P.T. semester or they will have to withdraw from classes until the subsequent semester.

Program Outcomes
The Transition D.P.T. program will prepare physical therapists to
- provide services to patients/clients who have impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from disease, injury, congenital, or other causes
- interact and practice in collaboration with a variety of professionals
- promote health, wellness, and fitness in the provision of primary, secondary, and tertiary preventive care services
- consult, educate, administrate, and engage in critical inquiry
- direct and supervise physical therapy service, including support personnel
- integrate the five elements of patient management, including examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention in order to maximize patient outcomes
- function as lifelong learners by engaging in reflective practice, critical inquiry, evidence-based practice, continuing education, and self-directed learning activities
- assume leadership roles within the profession of physical therapy through active participation, membership, research, teaching, and collaboration

Program Delivery and Curriculum Overview
The transition D.P.T. is delivered using an online format so that practicing physical therapists can advance their education without interrupting their clinical practice or home life. We use WebCT, CD-ROMs, and advanced technology to deliver an innovative curriculum to students anywhere in the world. To supplement the online curriculum, students spend two days on our Fort Lauderdale campus for each four-credit course they take each semester. This provides opportunities once each semester for students to clarify issues, present completed projects to faculty and peers, and/or to practice hands-on skills that are inherent to the physical therapy profession.

The required coursework and total number of semester hours required to graduate vary depending on the previous educational background of each physical therapist. Applicants with a baccalaureate degree must complete 54 semester hours, which includes 36 semester hours of core coursework and 18 elective semester hours. Applicants who are graduates of the entry-level M.P.T. program at Nova Southeastern University must complete 24 semester hours of core coursework. Applicants with a master's degree from another university must complete 36 semester hours of core coursework. Applicants who are graduates of the entry-level M.P.T. program at Nova Southeastern University must complete 24 semester hours of core coursework. Applicants with a master's degree from another university must complete 36 semester hours of core coursework. Applicants can elect to enroll on a part-time basis (3-8 semester hours per five-month semester) or full-time basis (9-12 semester hours per five-month semester), and must achieve at least an 80 percent grade point average (GPA) in each course in order to graduate with the doctor of physical therapy degree.
Coursework taken at an international institution must be evaluated for U.S. institution equivalence. International coursework must be evaluated by one of the services listed below. You should contact one of the following:

World Education Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 745
Old Chelsea Station
New York, New York 10113-0745
(212) 966-6311

Josef Silny & Associates, Inc.
International Education Consultants
P.O. Box 248233
Coral Gables, Florida 33124
(305) 273-1616
www.jsilny.com

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.
P.O. Box 514070
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203-3470
(414) 289-3400
www.ece.org

It is the applicant’s responsibility to have this coursework evaluated, and an official evaluation must be sent to the EPS.

Students are provisionally admitted to a degree-seeking program based on a review of unofficial transcripts or other specific program admission requirements. However, this admission includes a condition that final and official transcripts, documents, and requirements must be received within 90 calendar days from matriculation. If these final and official transcripts, documents, and/or requirements are not received by that time, the student will not be allowed to continue class attendance. Financial aid will not be disbursed to a provisional/conditional student until he or she has been fully admitted as a regular student (all admissions requirements have been approved by the college/program admissions office). Students who have an unpaid balance 30 days from the start of the term will be assessed a $50 fee.