

**Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
School of Health Professions
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

Note: The “School of Health Professions” was previously called the “School of Allied Health Sciences.”

How do I apply for the DPT program at TTUHSC?

Applications are available in July each year. The application deadline is in the early part of October each year. There is no spring deadline. Specific annual deadlines can be found within the PTCAS system. Applications must be submitted online through PTCAS (<http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx>). **The GRE Code is: 7155.** Applications are considered on a rolling basis. It is in the applicant’s best interest to complete their application as early as possible.

All required materials [letters of recommendation, GRE scores (**GRE code: 7155**), immunization records, volunteer/observation verification, transcripts, etc] must be submitted before an application is considered complete. Completed applications are then reviewed by the DPT Admissions Committee, and competitive applicants are invited for an interview at one of our campuses (Amarillo, Lubbock, Odessa). Candidates are notified if they have been accepted, are on an alternate list, or have not been accepted.

Where is the TTUHSC DPT program?

TTUHSC is a multi-campus system. Currently, the TTUHSC DPT program is housed on the Amarillo, Lubbock, and Odessa campuses. All students admitted to the DPT program attend classes the first summer session in Lubbock. Students assigned to the Amarillo and Odessa campuses move to their assigned campuses prior to the first fall session.

Are there three separate programs?

No, the DPT program is one educational experience taught at three different locations. Lectures are provided over a live interactive multi-media system to all students enrolled in the class. Students at all three campuses have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with faculty and each other during class. (http://www.ttuhschool.edu/shp/dpt/dpt_prereq.aspx)

What are the prerequisites for the DPT program?

Required prerequisite courses for the DPT program can be found online at the DPT website. (http://www.ttuhschool.edu/shp/dpt/dpt_prereq.aspx)

Is a bachelor’s degree required for admission into the DPT program?

Yes, a Bachelor’s Degree is required for admission to the DPT program.

What GPA is required for admission to the DPT program?

Competitive cumulative and prerequisite GPA's are required for admission. "Competitive GPA" varies according to the strength of the applicant pool during the year of application. A minimum of 3.0 cumulative and prerequisite GPA's are required to be considered for admission. The average GPA for the class entering in 2015 was 3.6 (cumulative GPA) and 3.6 (prerequisite GPA).

What kind of clinical observation/experience is required for admission to the DPT program?

We require observation hours to ensure that candidates have a reasonable understanding of the profession of physical therapy and the day to day responsibilities and duties of a physical therapist. A minimum of 100 hours of volunteer or observation under the supervision of a physical therapist is required. It is to an applicant's advantage to observe in a variety of settings (acute care, outpatient, pediatrics, in-patient rehabilitation, etc.). An increased number of observation hours in a variety of settings may strengthen a student's application for admission to the DPT program.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation for me? Do I need to have the recommendation form filled out or ask someone to write a letter?

Letters of recommendation must be written in support of your application from people who are not related to you. It is best if the person knows you well and has observed you interact with people on a regular basis in a formal setting. Former employers or professors often serve as references. One of the recommendations should come from a clinician (physical therapist). It is important that the people who recommend you to the DPT admissions committee fill out the online recommendation form. This form provides objective data used in the admissions process. A narrative letter of recommendation is often helpful to clarify the objective rating. Questions about the online recommendation process should be directed to the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs for the School of Health Professions. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that recommendations are received by the admissions office by the required deadline.

Do I have to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)?

Yes. GRE scores are required for application or admission to the DPT program.

Does the location of the interview mean that I will be assigned to that campus?

No, invitations for interviews are distributed across the three campuses (i.e., some students will interview at the Amarillo campus, some at the Lubbock campus and some at the Odessa campus). During the interview the applicant will have the opportunity to confirm their campus preference and provide a justification for that preference. The location of an applicant's interview does not determine the campus assignment for the successful candidate.

Is the admissions process very competitive?

The admissions process is extremely competitive. Names of qualified applicants not admitted to the program may be placed on an alternate list. These alternate candidates may be offered admission should positions become available prior to the first day of class. The current ratio of total applicants to those accepted is roughly 6:1. The DPT program receives approximately 500 applications per year.

How many students are accepted each year?

The DPT program typically accepts 70-72 students each year.

What makes an applicant competitive? What do you look for in applicants in order for them to be accepted into the program?

The DPT Admissions Committee is committed to selecting the best qualified students each year. The primary focus of the admissions committee is to select students who will succeed academically and who have a strong understanding and commitment to the profession of physical therapy. Fulfillment of the basic admissions requirements does not guarantee admission. Competitive applications are reviewed in a holistic manner with consideration of many factors, including, but not limited to the following: grade point average (cumulative GPA and prerequisite science GPA), GRE scores, interview performance, completion of all prerequisite courses (prior to the start of the DPT program), physical therapy observation/experience, essay (grammar, career goals, understanding of the PT profession), overcoming hardships, and letters of recommendation. Students who (at the time of application) have more than 16 prerequisite science credit hours outstanding (in progress) will not be considered.

When do alternate candidates know if they will be admitted?

Alternate candidates are notified of available positions as soon as we are aware of an opening. We do not notify applicants as to their position on the alternate list.

What if I am an out-of-state student?

Equal consideration is given to in-state, out-of-state, and international students. We have had students from across the country and around the world enrolled in the DPT program. Non-resident students pay non-resident tuition.

When do classes start?

New student orientation is the Tuesday after Memorial Day each year. Orientation is in Lubbock. Classes begin the following day. If accepted, you will receive information about orientation. New students enter the DPT program only during the summer term.

Why do all students attend class the first summer session in Lubbock?

Gross anatomy is offered in the first summer session. This course includes a gross dissection cadaver lab which is only available in Lubbock.

What other information is needed before beginning classes?

The following information must be provided prior to a student's matriculation in the DPT program: Oath of Residency, TTUHSC/SOAHHS Application Signature Page, official transcripts indicating completion of all prerequisites, completion of all contingent requirements, a completed Essential Functions form, and proof of completion of required Immunizations.

What immunizations are required?

In order to protect you and your patients, immunizations are required for enrollment and participation in clinical experiences. A list of the required immunizations can be requested from the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs at: health.professions@ttuhsc.edu

When do I get practical experience with patients?

Students complete a minimum of five clinical experiences (36 weeks total) throughout the DPT curriculum. Clinical Experience 1 is four weeks in duration and occurs in the summer semester (second year) and focuses on foundational skills. Clinical Internships 2-5 are each eight weeks in duration and occur in the third year focusing on foundational (inpatient), musculoskeletal, neurologic, and/or cardiopulmonary, pediatric skills.

Where are the clinical experience sites located?

Clinical experience sites are located throughout the mainland United States, but are focused primarily in Texas and surrounding states. Students should anticipate additional financial costs during the clinical experiences for housing and travel. Additional costs associated with clinical experiences are solely the student's responsibility.

Can I work while completing the program?

Working part-time may be possible, but is very difficult. The DPT program is a full-time, rigorous, doctoral degree program and working part-time is a decision that should be made after careful consideration of your academic standing and your specific situation and abilities.

How much does the program cost per semester?

The average in-state tuition and fees are approximately \$4348 per semester (Fall/Spring). The average out-of-state tuition and fees are approximately \$10,198 per semester (Fall/Spring). Summer tuition and fees are typically less. More complete information about tuition and fees can be found in the School of Health Professions Catalog. (<http://www.ttuhsc.edu/shp/catalog.aspx>)

Are there scholarships available?

The DPT program has scholarship dollars available to incoming and current students. These scholarships are based on academic performance as well as

financial need. The regional campuses may have endowments or funds that provide additional scholarship monies. Information on these scholarships is available from the SHP Office of Admissions and Student Affairs.

(<http://www.ttuhs.edu/shp/admissions/>).

Additional Financial Aid information is available from the TTUHSC Office of Financial Aid (<http://www.ttuhs.edu/financialaid/>).

How is the curriculum designed?

The DPT curriculum is a mix of applied sciences, behavioral sciences, clinical sciences, and clinical experiences. Applied sciences build the foundation for the clinical and behavioral sciences. Clinical experience courses allow students to apply the skills they learn in class to a patient setting. Please refer to the Curriculum section of the DPT website

(http://www.ttuhs.edu/shp/dpt/dpt_curriculum.aspx) or to the School of Health Professions Catalog (<http://www.ttuhs.edu/shp/catalog.aspx>) available online for a semester-by-semester breakdown of courses.

What is the difference between the ScD program and the DPT program?

The ScD is a post-professional program. It is designed for licensed physical therapists (clinicians) who desire additional, post entry-level, education. The DPT program is an entry-level professional program for individuals wishing to become licensed as physical therapists.

How marketable are DPT graduates?

To our knowledge, 100% of graduates are employed within 6 months of passing the licensure examination.

What is the licensure pass rate for graduates of the DPT program on the licensure examination?

The total pass rate (2011-2014) is 99.8%.

Where can I find additional information?

The School of Health Professions Office of Admissions can provide you with printed brochures, applications, and more. Please see the contact information below. Additionally, most information is available on the Physical Therapy portion of the School of Health Professions Website (<http://www.ttuhs.edu/shp/>).

School of Health Professions (SHP) Office of Admissions/Student Affairs

TTUHSC School of Health Professions

3601 4th St.; STOP 6294

Lubbock, TX 79430

<http://www.ttuhs.edu/shp/>

(806) 743-3220

health.professions@ttuhs.edu

Financial Aid

TTUHSC

3601 4th St.; STOP 8310

Lubbock, TX 79430

<http://www.ttuhscc.edu/financialaid>

(806) 743-3025

karen.burnett@ttuhsc.edu**American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)**

1111 North Fairfax Street

Alexandria, VA 22314-1488

(800) 999-2782

<http://www.apta.org>**Texas Physical Therapy Association (TPTA)**

900 Congress Avenue

Suite 410

Austin, TX 78701

(512) 477-1818

<http://www.tpta.org>**Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS)**

1111 North Fairfax Street

Alexandria, VA 22314-1488

(800) 999-2782

<http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx>