

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER RECEIVES APPROVAL FOR DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

LUBBOCK – Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center’s School of Allied Health Sciences was granted authority by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to award a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The DPT, which is the fourth doctoral program approved for the School of Allied Health Sciences, will begin accepting students for the next academic year, with classes beginning in June of 2008.

The DPT program will replace the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) program, which will be gradually phased out. Students currently enrolled in the MPT program will be offered an opportunity to take extra course work which will qualify them to graduate with a doctorate instead of a master’s degree in Physical Therapy.

Kerry K. Gilbert, P.T., Sc.D., program director for the current TTUHSC MPT Program and future DPT Program in the School of Allied Health Sciences, says this program will benefit students and the community by providing TTUHSC graduates with enhanced ability to serve the people of West Texas who tend to live in rural and medically underserved communities.

“Physical therapists practice in a variety of clinical settings that require ever-expanding knowledge, skill, and levels of clinical responsibility,” Gilbert said. “The DPT program will add significant curriculum content in areas such as diagnostics, imaging, pharmacology, physiology, biomechanics, business practices and health promotion; and will provide graduates with enhanced practice skills in areas of musculoskeletal, neurological, pediatric, cardiopulmonary and geriatric physical therapy.”

For more information about this program, contact the TTUHSC Allied Health Sciences Admissions office, at (806) 743-3220.

Citations

Gilbert KK, Brismee JM, Collins D, James CR, Shah RV, Sawyer SF, Sizer PS. Lumbosacral nerve root displacement and strain: Part 1- A novel measurement technique during straight leg raise in unembalmed cadavers. *SPINE*; 2007; 32(14): 1513-1520. (**Young Investigator Award Winner-2006**)

Gilbert KK, Brismee JM, Collins D, James CR, Shah RV, Sawyer SF, Sizer PS. Lumbosacral nerve root displacement and strain: Part 2- A comparison of two straight leg raise conditions in unembalmed cadavers. *SPINE*; 2007; 32(14): 1521-1525. (**Young Investigator Award Winner-2006**)