

BELLARMINE  
UNIVERSITY  
IN VERITATIS AMORE

# Doctor of Physical Therapy

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program prepares students for licensure and practice in the field of physical therapy. Candidates for licensure in all states must hold a post-baccalaureate degree in physical therapy from an accredited institution. Students are admitted to the professional program after completing a bachelor's degree in a major of choice and all program prerequisites.

Physical therapists are healthcare professionals who provide service to individuals of all ages with physical impairments, functional limitations, disabilities or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease or other causes.

Treatment by physical therapists includes exercise, joint and soft tissue mobilization and manipulation, cardiovascular endurance training, the therapeutic application of heat, cold and electricity, neuromuscular reeducation, and activities of daily living training.

Physical Therapists find careers in settings ranging from hospitals and rehabilitation centers to private practices, pediatric facilities, home health agencies, school systems, higher education and research institutions, fitness and wellness centers, and nursing homes.

Students are admitted to the professional program after completing a bachelors degree, all program prerequisites and a competitive application process. Highly qualified Bellarmine University undergraduate students may be admitted to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program after completing all prerequisite and general education courses (except IDC. 401) and a minimum of 90 semester hours.

Bellarmino undergraduate students receive the Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) degree after completing all university general education requirements, program prerequisites and the first year of the professional program. The university awards the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree upon completion of the professional curriculum. Admission to the program is selective and competitive. Students attending Bellarmine as undergraduates receive preferential consideration for admission to the DPT program.

**To apply, please do so through the American Physical Therapy Association's Physical Therapist Common Application System. This application is available at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org) and has a \$120 fee. The application priority application deadline is October 15 and the final application deadline is December 1.**

## DPT PREREQUISITES

Bellarmino course equivalencies in parentheses.

- Two semesters of anatomy and physiology with lab (300-level Biology courses may be substituted)
- One semester of general biology with lab (BIOL 130)
- One semester of advanced physiology such as vertebrate physiology, mammalian physiology, exercise physiology or pathophysiology (BIOL 300 or 314; EXSC 240)
- Two semesters of college chemistry with lab (CHEM 103 and 104)
- Two semesters of college physics with lab (PHYS 201 and 202 or PHYS 205 and 206)
- One semester of psychology (PSYC 103 or 104)
- One semester of statistics (MATH 205)

## FAQ

### What level of experience and education do the Doctor of Physical Therapy faculty members have?

Our faculty members are recognized experts in their respective areas and have a great deal of teaching experience. In fact, several of the faculty members have been teaching together in the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program for 25 years. Nearly all faculty are involved in clinical practice in addition to their teaching responsibilities, research and service. Five of our faculty members are board certified in orthopedics, sports, pediatrics, geriatrics, or clinical electrophysiology. In addition, of the 10 full-time faculty, seven hold PhD or EdD degrees, two hold advanced practice DPT degrees, and one is completing the DHSc degree.

### What is the on-campus learning experience like?

All DPT classes are taught on the first and second levels of the 2120 Building on Bellarmine's Highlands campus. The classrooms are designed for seamless transition from lecture to activity-based learning. The DPT faculty often team-teach courses providing you access to at least two faculty in lecture courses and four faculty in laboratory courses. While the pace of the program is intense, and you will be in class or laboratory most weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the faculty members foster a mentoring relationship with students in both the classroom and research labs. We are able to offer year-round access to cadaver and model material in our attached gross anatomy lab. Additionally, the DPT program operates the Service Learning Clinic on the second level of the same building, where students provide free evaluation and treatment to individuals with a wide range of musculoskeletal, neurological, and developmental conditions. Under faculty supervision, students direct all aspects of the clinic including developing all policies, providing patient care, and managing mock billing. The clinic is available to you for skills practice and as a study area outside of operating hours.

### What is the clinical learning experience like?

During the three year DPT program, you will have the opportunity to gain clinical experience at affiliates throughout the country in clinical education rotations. The program has clinical agreements with over 350 health care facilities and practices. During your first year in the program, you will travel to local clinical sites on various Fridays throughout the school year. During your second and third year, you will participate in five full-time rotations – two 4-week (clerkship) and three 8-week (internship) blocks culminating in over 1400 hours of clinical experience. All students have practice requirements in the on-campus (and developing off campus) Service Learning Clinic for physical therapy.

### What unique opportunities will I have as a Bellarmine DPT student?

All students participate in integrated service learning throughout the DPT curriculum. You will be actively engaged in exploring and solving community-based needs for physical therapy intervention and expertise. Many of these service learning projects with community partners have been presented at local and national professional meetings, and many have been published in top rehabilitation and service learning journals.

Bellarmino's DPT program boasts an active international studies program. Over the past seven years, almost one-third of all DPT graduates have traveled to Curtin University in Perth, Australia. Reciprocally, students from Curtin University travel to Bellarmine to study here as well. We have also had international service learning experiences in rural Jamaica and are developing additional international experiences for our DPT students.

### What is required for application to the program?

Students are admitted to the professional program after completing a bachelors degree, all program prerequisites and a competitive application process. Other requirements:

1. Minimum pre-requisite GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
2. Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale
3. Seven of the ten prerequisite courses completed prior to January 1 of the admission year
4. Satisfactory completion of all program prerequisites prior to entering the professional curriculum
5. Grade of "C" or better in all prerequisites courses
6. Submit official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score (within the last 5 years) to Bellarmine University (School Code 1056).
7. Twenty-five clock hours of documented work or volunteer experience in a physical therapy setting
8. Physical ability to perform physical therapist tasks
9. If your undergraduate degree is from an international institution, you were born outside the US, or English is your second language, you will be required to take the

TOEFLiBT (internet-based test) and receive a total score of 83 or higher and a 26 or higher on the speaking test. The Physical Therapy Department reserves the right to require TOEFLiBT testing from any candidate. Information about the TOEFLiBT can be found at <http://ets.org/toefl/>.

### What is the admission process like?

We admit 48 students per cohort. Up to half the class may come from highly qualified Bellarmine University applicants. Three main criteria are used in selecting the class: the pre-requisite GPA, the cumulative GPA and the interview. While we require the GRE for admission, the score is not considered in the admissions process at this time.

In a typical year, we receive approximately 475 applications. Approximately 40 of those are Bellarmine undergraduate applicants and the remainder are graduate applicants. The faculty conducts individual interviews of 120 qualified applicants to select 48 candidates and a number of alternates.

Members of the incoming 2010 class have an average cumulative GPA of 3.48 and an average prerequisite GPA of 3.52.

### What is the application deadline and how do I apply?

The priority application deadline is October 15 of the year prior to your intended start date. The final application deadline is December 1. Please apply via the Physical Therapy Centralized Application service at [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org). The cost is \$120.

### When does the program begin?

The DPT program always begins at the end of May. Students participate in a one-day orientation at the beginning of May.

### How can I finance my Bellarmine education?

Graduate students are eligible for up to \$20,500 in guaranteed Stafford Student Loans per academic year. Students may also explore the Grad PLUS Loan and alternative loans. Visit [www.bellarmino.edu/financialaid](http://www.bellarmino.edu/financialaid) for more information.

Also, many local employers provide student loan payments as a bonus (or incentive) to new graduates in exchange for work commitments.

### Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

You may contact Julie Armstrong-Binnix, Graduate Admission Officer at 800.274.4723 x8364, 502.272.8364 or [julieab@bellarmine.edu](mailto:julieab@bellarmine.edu). You may also contact the Office of Graduate Admission at 800.274.4723 x8258, 502.272.8258 or [gradadmissions@bellarmine.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@bellarmine.edu).

## THE CURRICULUM

### Year 1 Summer

- BIOL 513** Clinical Correlation in Anatomy (1)
- PT 516** Psychosocial Responses to Illness, Disability and Healthcare (3)
- PT 524** Basic Patient Management (3)
- PT 532** Applied Clinical Anatomy (3)
- PT 655** Orthopedics for Physical Therapists (2)
- PT 655** Elective

### Year 1 Fall

- PT 502** Research in Physical Therapy I (3)
- PT 535** Pharmacology (2)
- PT 540** Functional Anatomy (3)
- PT 560** Basic Patient Problems (5)
- PT 580** Gerontology (2)
- PT 591** Service Learning In Physical Therapy (2)

### Year 1 Spring

- PT 525** Human Performance and Health Promotion (5)
- PT 545** Neuroscience for Physical Therapy (4)
- PT 555** Orthopedics for Physical Therapists (3)
- PT 592** Service Learning In Physical Therapy II (2)
- PT 600** Physical Therapy Modalities (3)
- PT 625** Neurology for Physical Therapists (2)

### Graduate Semester 1

- PT 610** Clinical Measures and Treatment I (5)
- PT 611** Clinical Education I (5)
- BIOL 515** Dissection Laboratory in Human Anatomy (4)

### Graduate Semester 2

- HUM 543** Humanities (3)
- PT 605** Research in Physical Therapy II (3)
- PT 640** Pediatric Physical Therapy (3)
- PT 650** Clinical Measures and Treatment II (4)
- PT 670** Management in Physical Therapy (3)
- PT 680** Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy (4)
- PT 691** Service Learning In Physical Therapy III (2)

### Graduate Semester 3

- PT 612** Tissue Trauma and Healing (3)
- PT 622** Clinical Education II (5)
- PT 630** Management & Treatment of Adult Neurological Patient (3)
- PT 635** Pathophysiology of Complex Patient Problems (3)
- PT 645** Rehabilitation Techniques in Physical Therapy (4)
- PT 685** Professional and Legal Issues in Physical Therapy (2)
- PT 692** Service Learning In Physical Therapy IV (2)

### Graduate Semester 4

- PT 710/720/730 (10)**
- PT 710/720/730 (10)**

### Graduate Semester 5

- PT 710/720/730 (10)**

*The department is currently considering a plan to extend the length of the program from eight semesters to nine semesters.*

*All courses require permission from the program director.*

**PT 502 Research in Physical Therapy I (3)**

An introductory course in physical therapy research. Validity and reliability issues in clinical research, basic clinical tests and measures and research consumerism that articulate with the professional courses taught during the first year fall semester will be emphasized. Fall semester, offered yearly.

**BIOL 513 Clinical Correlation in Anatomy (1)**

This course is taught concurrently with PT 532. Applied Clinical Anatomy and is intended to provide the first semester PT student clinical examples relevant to gross anatomy. Students will be exposed to clinical perspectives and the application of gross anatomy know-ledge to physical therapy clinical practice. Summer semester, offered yearly.

**BIOL 515 Dissection Laboratory in Human Anatomy (4)**

This course provides a guided experience in the dissection of the musculo-skeletal and peripheral nervous system of a human cadaver to students in the Physical Therapy Program. (Prerequisite: Permission of the program director required.) Summer semester, offered yearly.

**PT 516 Psychosocial Responses to Illness, Disability and Healthcare (3)**

Examination of factors at the individual and society levels that affect the health care system and influence illness behavior. There will be opportunity to explore the factors that affect successful patient-provider interaction, touching on communication, cultural issues and values of the client and provider. The student will also study issues of the dying patient and professional burnout. Summer semester, offered yearly.

**PT 524 Basic Patient Management (3)**

An introduction to patient care procedures necessary for physical therapists, especially in inpatient settings. The course will emphasize patient and practitioner safety, including prevention of nonsocomial injuries and infections and the scientific and clinical application of exercise to a patient population. The role of exercise in physical therapy and the foundation of basic exercise principles will be presented. Introduction to and delivery of basic types of exercises, including passive, active-passive, active range of motion, stretching, and progressive resistive exercise will be presented. Introduction to the basic principles of documentation using the Problem Oriented Medical Record, SOAP format and the Guide to Physical Therapy Practice will be presented. Summer semester, offered yearly.

**PT 525 Human Performance & Health Promotion (5)**

This course will prepare the student to perform a health risk assessment, fitness and exercise evaluation, and body composition analysis and interpret the results to develop an exercise prescription for the well individual. Factors that affect exercise performance and the body's adaptation to strength and endurance training will be covered. Basic nutrition needs for health, athletic performance, and rehabilitation will be addressed. Alternative nutritional delivery methods such as IVs and feeding tubes will be explored as well as the nutritional needs of patients with burns, cancer, or skeletal fractures and osteoporosis. Spring semester, offered yearly.

**PT 532 Applied Clinical Anatomy (3)**

This course will integrate physical therapy clinical practice concepts with basic musculoskeletal and neuromuscular anatomy and basic histology. Kinesiological concepts of movement will be introduced. Summer semester, offered yearly.

**PT 535 Pharmacology (2)**

Students will be introduced to principles of pharmacology, including pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and classifications of drugs used in the treatment of disease. Physical therapy implications of pharmacological treatment will be addressed, including recognition of adverse drug effects in patients commonly treated by physical therapists. Fall semester, offered yearly.

**PT 540 Functional Anatomy (3)**

Basic clinic applications of static situations, connective tissue biomechanics, and vertebral and extremity muscle kinesiology. Clinical applications of joint mechanics, normal and pathological human locomotion, arthrology, and other movement patterns will be discussed. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 545 Neuroscience for Physical Therapy (4)**

This course is designed to prepare the physical therapy student to apply basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology to patient populations. From this understanding, theories of motor control and movement science will be addressed. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 555 Orthopedics for Physical Therapists (3)**

The role of the physical therapist in the management of common orthopedic problems will be presented. Etiology, pathology, evaluation, diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment of the patient will be presented. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 560 Basic Patient Problems (5)**

A study of the methods by which one can identify, quantify and assess basic patient problems such as joint mobility, flexibility, muscle strength, posture, functional mobility, sensation and soft tissue integrity. The course will also provide instruction and experiences in the proper methods of documentation of patient evaluation and assessment. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 580 Gerontology (2)**

An overview of social, psychological, emotional, physiological changes that occur with aging and their cultural and socioeconomic influence on the aged adult population, with special emphasis on physical therapy management and intervention. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 591 Service Learning In Physical Therapy I (2)**

The first of a series of service learning practicum courses where students provide service to individuals and select groups from the Bellarmine University and surrounding communities. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 592 Service Learning In Physical Therapy II (2)**

The second of a series of service learning practicum courses where students provide service to individuals and select groups from the Bellarmine University and surrounding communities. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 600 Physical Therapy Modalities (3)**

This course provides instruction to the first year students in the Physical Therapy Program about the physiological effects, mechanical operation, and appropriate application of massage; superficial heat and cold; ultrasound; diathermy; hydrotherapy; ultraviolet radiation; traction; intermittent compression; topical hyperbaric oxygen; electrical stimulation; and biofeedback. The course will also describe the role of the physical therapist assistant in the delivery of the above modalities. Laboratory included. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 605 Research in Physical Therapy II (3)**

This is the second course in physical therapy research. Students will be instructed in the effective development of illustrations, graphics, tables, slides, and videotapes to enhance written and oral professional presentations. Integration of current research with the second year fall semester courses will be emphasized. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 610 Clinical Measures and Treatment I (5)**

A study of the clinical evaluation and treatment skills necessary to effectively manage the patient with extremity musculoskeletal dysfunction. Offered yearly in the summer.

**PT 611 Clinical Education I (5)**

The first full time clinical experience consisting of four weeks (160 hours) in a clinical facility scheduled at the end of the summer semester for second year students. Students are provided opportunities to develop professional behaviors and analytical problem solving skills as well as therapeutic skills in examination, evaluation and therapeutic intervention. Settings may be inpatient or outpatient. Summer semester; offered yearly and as necessary.

**PT 612 Tissue Trauma and Healing (3)**

This course deals with the healing response to wounds and factors affecting the healing of wounds. The role of the physical therapist in management of wound and burn patients in the acute, subacute, and chronic phases of rehabilitation will be addressed. Students will develop skills related to assessment of tissue trauma and therapeutic intervention to facilitate healing. Format includes lecture, discussion, laboratory, audiovisuals, and patient interaction. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 622 Clinical Education II (5)**

The second full time clinical experience consisting of four weeks (160 hours) in a clinical setting scheduled at the beginning of the spring semester for second year students. Development of skills related to cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal and/or pediatrics will be emphasized. Settings may be inpatient or outpatient. Spring semester; offered yearly and as necessary.

**PT 625 Neurology for Physical Therapists (2)**

Neurological conditions and pathologies will be presented with an emphasis on the general medical approaches for the etiology, diagnosis, pathology, prognosis and the general medical treatment of the neurological patient. Pathology, medications, diagnostic tests and the neurological exam will be covered in depth to enhance the physical therapist's understanding of the neurological patient. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 630 Management and Treatment of Adult Neurological Patient (3)**

Basic clinical application in attempting to design and understand treatment programs for the neurophysiologically damaged adult patient. Concepts in motor control, motor relearning and treatment philosophies will be discussed and opportunities to apply them to real and simulated patients in order to create an effective rehabilitation program will be available. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 635 Pathophysiology of Complex Patient Problems (3)**

Students in this course will analyze the physical therapy management of complex patients with multiple medical problems. The pathophysiology of medical problems related to nutritional disorders, infectious disease, gastro-intestinal disorders, hepatic disorders, endocrine dysfunction, metabolic dysfunction, renal dysfunction, genitourinary dysfunction, connective tissue disease, hematological disorders, oncology, and immunodeficiency will be discussed in depth. Age and gender related factors will be integrated into the course. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 640 Pediatric Physical Therapy (3)**

This course will be an overview of normal motor and cognitive development in the first five years of life; the common motor and cognitive delays treated by physical therapists in children under 5 years old; assessment of developmental delays in children and treatment planning for delays. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 645 Rehabilitation Techniques in Physical Therapy (4)**

The rehabilitation management of patients with selected disabilities (spinal cord injury, arthritic patient, amputee) and the application of the specialized knowledge of the physical therapist to the long term rehabilitation setting. Information on orthotics, prosthetics, and wheel chair prescription will be presented. Offered yearly in the spring.

**PT 650 Clinical Measures and Treatment II (4)**

A study of the clinical evaluation and treatment skills necessary to effectively manage the patient with vertebral column and trunk musculoskeletal dysfunction. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 655 Teaching and Learning in Physical Therapy Practice (2)**

Basic principles of teaching and learning will be applied to physical therapy practice. A variety of instructional strategies will be utilized to prepare students to teach patients, family members, peers, other health professionals requiring on the job training, and other students. Sensitivity to age, gender, literacy, disability, and cultural differences will be addressed. Offered yearly in the summer.

**PT 665 Special Topics in Physical Therapy (1-6)**

Elective course, offered each semester. The student will be introduced to a special topic through directed study and/or research in physical therapy. Program and/or university faculty will provide individualized instruction with expertise in a particular area of research or knowledge related to physical therapy. (Prerequisite: Student enrolled in physical therapy program.)

**PT 666 Special Clinical Enrichment (1-6)**

Elective course offered as necessary for students requiring additional time in clinical education placement. Clinical experience will be determined by the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education in conjunction with the program director to best meet the students' individual needs. Offered as needed.

**PT 670 Management in Physical Therapy (3)**

This course is designed to introduce the student to management and supervision issues common to physical therapy clinics and practices from all segments of the health care industry. The intent of the course is to increase the student's awareness and knowledge of management issues from the perspective of both the staff therapists and the manager or supervisor of a physical therapy practice. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 680 Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy (4)**

This course will prepare the student to perform specialized evaluation procedures, including vital signs, auscultation, and cardiovascular and pulmonary assessments, as appropriate for program planning in physical therapy. This course will prepare the student to treat the pediatric, adult, and geriatric patient with cardiovascular and/or pulmonary dysfunction in all settings ranging from acute care, to rehab, to home health, to long term care. Course will also cover physical therapy management of the diabetic patient as it relates to exercise. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 685 Professional and Legal Issues in Physical Therapy (2)**

This course provides definitions of professional and legal theories and practice applications pertinent to practitioners. A variety of topics including professional decision making, reimbursement, patient rights, confidentiality, continuing education, whistleblowing, and other health and physical therapy related issues will be discussed. The students will also have to arrange for and report on an experience in health care in which professional and legal issues are exerting a critical influence. Offered yearly in the fall.

**PT 691 Service Learning In Physical Therapy III (2)**

The third of a series of service learning practicum courses where students provide service to individuals and select groups from the Bellarmine University and surrounding communities. Offered yearly in the fall, spring and summer.

**PT 692 Service Learning In Physical Therapy IV (2)**

The fourth of a series of service learning practicum courses where students provide service to individuals and select groups from the Bellarmine University and surrounding communities. Offered yearly in the fall, spring and summer.

**PT 710 Acute Care Internship (8)**

One of a series of three internships scheduled following the completion of didactic course work. PT 710 is an eight-week, full-time internship (320 hours) in acute care physical therapy practice. Students will be assigned to facilities providing acute care physical therapy to patients requiring medical and/or surgical intervention in an inpatient setting, such as hospitals and subacute units. Summer, fall and spring semesters, offered yearly.

**PT 720 Rehabilitation Internship (8)**

One of a series of three internships scheduled following the completion of didactic course work. PT 720 is an eight-week, full-time internship (320 hours) in physical therapy practice within a multidisciplinary rehabilitation setting. Clinical experiences will include one or more of the following: rehabilitation following spinal cord injury, cerebral vascular accident, brain injury, amputation, burns, or multiple trauma. Settings may include rehabilitation hospitals, hospitals with rehabilitation units, extended care facilities or subacute units with appropriate patient populations. Summer, fall and spring semesters, offered yearly.

**PT 730 Community Based Internship (8)**

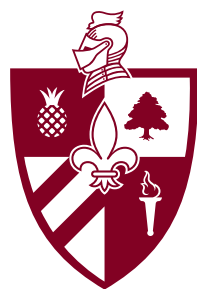
One of a series of three internships scheduled following the completion of didactic course work. PT 730 is an eight-week, full-time internship (320 hours) in an outpatient, community-based physical therapy practice. Students may select an area of interest, such as pediatrics, geriatrics, orthopedics, ergonomics, or sports medicine. Appropriate experiences include physical therapy practice in free-standing outpatient clinics, private practice, schools, pediatric clinics, home health, industry, wellness centers, hospices, extended care facilities, adult daycare, and community reentry programs. Summer, fall and spring semesters, offered yearly.

**PT 740 Capstone Project (6)**

This course provides the student the opportunity to demonstrate creative and unique competencies in physical therapy. The student will develop and answer an original question or provide community service related to physical therapy practice or theory. The student may select from the following three areas of capstone experiences: a community service partnership project; a clinical-based case report; or an empirical research project. Completed projects will be in a publishable format. Summer semester. Offered yearly.

**PT 750 Seminar (2)**

The focus of this course is to discuss and analyze the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the physical therapist as a primary health care practitioner. Issues related to accountability, scope of practice, professional duty, providing and receiving referrals from other health care professionals, and the history of DPT development and how it has paralleled professional education in other fields (Medicine, Law, Pharmacy, Chiropractic, Optometry, Podiatry, etc.) will be discussed. Clinical and societal responsibility and advocacy for the primary health care practitioner will also be discussed. Fall semester. Offered yearly.



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