DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Department Chair
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nlandgraff@ysu.edu

Welcome
Welcome! Our entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program offers academically-talented students an opportunity to join a profession that contributes in countless ways to movement and health.

We are proud of the quality of our faculty and students. We have well-credentialed faculty—many hold doctorates and/or advanced specializations. Many of our courses are team-taught by faculty in a case-based approach that helps students keep clinical practice in mind. Practice labs typically have 2 or 3 full-time faculty supervising and instructing students. Also, students practice hands-on skills with faculty in our Pro Bono Clinic. In addition, the faculty work hard to meet each student’s individual needs. Students work well together, learning to make clinical decisions and to be part of an exciting profession.

We are interested in attracting students who are self-motivated learners, willing to be active participants in the teaching-learning process. We also welcome other physical therapists to collaborate with us on clinical research or education. The coming years will be some of our best. Join us!

Vision
The Physical Therapy Department at Youngstown State University will provide the entry-level doctorate in physical therapy degree (DPT), selected doctoral programs and opportunities for professional development. We will be recognized locally and statewide as a high quality program that prepares students to be autonomous professionals, leaders, good citizens and potential scholars. We will be recognized for excellent academic preparation of students, utilizing an integrated case-based approach to learning, and for outstanding community service and research.

Mission Statement
The YSU Physical Therapy Department provides unique academic experiences creating Physical Therapists and doctoral graduates committed to excellence, collaboration, diversity and service.

Program Description
The Doctor of Physical Therapy program is a professional program for the preparation of physical therapists. The program is an entry-level, postbaccalaureate program consistent with the accreditation requirements of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Admitted on a competitive basis, students enter the three-year program of professional coursework and clinical education affiliations.

Admission Requirements
Admission to the Physical Therapy program is competitive. Meeting eligibility standards does not guarantee admission. Admissions are selective. The admission deadline will be posted on the Department of Physical Therapy website (http://www.ysu.edu/academics/bitonte-college-health-and-human-services/physical-therapy-dpt).

Students should apply to the physical therapy program if the following eligibility requirements are met:

1. A minimum overall GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 grading scale.
2. A 3.0 GPA in prerequisite courses. A minimum of 6 courses completed prior to applying. All prerequisite courses must be completed with "C" or better. See the Department of Physical Therapy website (http://www.ysu.edu/academics/bitonte-college-health-and-human-services/physical-therapy-dpt) for specific prerequisite requirements.
3. Completion of a bachelor’s degree, and all prerequisite courses, prior to starting the program.
4. A recommended GRE score of at least 295 on Part I and 4.0 on Part II.
5. Documentation of 40 observation hours (paid or volunteer) under the direct supervision of a physical therapist(s) in a physical therapy setting. Two sites are recommended.
6. References: 3 total, a combination of physical therapists and faculty.

In certain circumstances, Youngstown State University students may be provisionally accepted into the D.P.T. program as undergraduates during the summer semester of their senior year. They are not, however, admitted as graduate students until their application for graduate program admission has been accepted and approved and they are admitted to the College of Graduate Studies. Under no circumstances will this admission take place prior to their receipt of the bachelor’s degree.

Accreditation Information
The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Youngstown State University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: http://www.capteonline.org.

Current accreditation was granted in 2014 for 10 years. The next accreditation visit will be in 2024.

National Physical Therapy Examination pass rate is 94%.

Degree Requirements
There are four areas of program requirements that must be satisfactorily completed to be granted the D.P.T. degree:

- professional coursework,
- professional conduct,
- clinical affiliations, and
- critical inquiry project.

Students not making satisfactory progress may be required to repeat that year of the program or be dismissed based on established standards.

There are three levels of coursework in the D.P.T. program.

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## Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to formulate a differential diagnosis regarding a patient and judge if a patient is appropriate for physical therapy evaluation and treatment.
2. Students will be able to effectively plan, organize, implement and assess a plan of care for a patient/client of all complexities of movement system problems across all contexts of care.
3. Students will be able to provide effective patient and family education regarding the physical therapy intervention and the patient’s pathology.
4. Students will demonstrate ongoing commitment to professional conduct consistent with the APTA core values.
5. Students will effectively relate the scientific evidence to patient cases and physical therapy questions.
6. Students will apply knowledge of laws and ethics to patient management.
7. Students will be able to discuss the impact of the changing Healthcare environment on Physical Therapy practice and formulate appropriate responses.
8. Students will demonstrate effective verbal and written communication skills.

## Graduate Courses

### PHYT 8800  Pathology  4 s.h.
Disease processes and trauma in humans from a structural and functional level; relationship between pathology and clinical signs and symptoms, etiology, differential diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.

### PHYT 8901  Clinical Decision Making  1  6 s.h.
Decision-making process for clinical management of uncomplicated cases in practice patterns. Emphasis on posture and movement assessment, safety, body mechanics, and monitoring physiological status.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

### PHYT 8902  Functional Anatomy  3 s.h.
Study of kinetics, kinematic variables, and mechanical properties of tissue; motion analysis: posture, gait and functional activities; environmental contexts and constraints, and life span applications.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

### PHYT 8903  Language, Culture, and Health  2 s.h.
Examination of cultural theory, language, and application to clinical interactions. Cultural assumptions and patterns of health-related activity related to disability, socioeconomic status, age, gender, ethnicity/race, sexual orientation, and religion.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

### PHYT 8904  Integrated Clinical Education Experience  6 s.h.
Integrated first-time clinical education experience encompassing examination, evaluation, treatment, and documentation of patients in four distinct practice settings (Acute Care, Outpatient, Skilled Nursing, and Inpatient Rehabilitation). It is a full-time, 4-week experience based in a collaborative learning model in which a cohort of 3-4 DPT students will complete a 1-week rotation through each of the settings under the supervision and instruction of licensed physical therapists. CPR certification (American Heart Association), required for each of the settings.
Prereq.: All previous course work and permission of the DCE.

### PHYT 8905  Clinical Decision Making  2  6 s.h.
Decision making process for clinical management of both routine and less common cases in practice patterns. Emphasis on outcomes research, personnel supervision, individualized and culturally-sensitive intervention, and program design.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

### PHYT 8906  Critical Inquiry  1  3 s.h.
Develop skills needed to create and answer clinical questions including: use of technology to obtain information: evaluation and application of the information for decision making. Examine the application of current literature to clinical decision making. Emphasis on written research communication methods: scientific writing, documentation and literature reviews. Examine the use of qualitative, quantitative and non-experimental research in health care that are used to inform physical therapy practices. Introduction of group research projects as a means of clinical inquiry.

### PHYT 8907  Special Topics: Pediatrics  3 s.h.
Theories of human growth and development and application to typical and atypical motor development and illnesses or injuries of children. Clinical management of cases across the practice patterns with emphasis on family/caregiver participation, team approach, and setting-specific expectations.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

### PHYT 8909  Clinical Decision Making  3  6 s.h.
Evaluation of decision-making process for clinical management of complex and complicated cases. Emphasis on reimbursement, professional development, interprofessional activities, and program evaluation.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

### PHYT 8910  Critical Inquiry  2  2 s.h.
Analysis of literature based on historical and state of the art theories and methods. Evaluate research on selected physical therapy topics. Introduction to research ethics, IRB process and funding. Participation in faculty led, group research projects.

### PHYT 8911  Special Topics: Geriatrics  2 s.h.
Theories of life span development and human aging with application to systems development and dysfunction. Emphasis on prevention, well elderly, and illnesses/injuries common to the elderly. Clinical management of cases, considering functional goals; cognition; pharmacology; and reimbursement issues.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.
PHYT 8913  Management and Leadership in Physical Therapy  2 s.h.
Theories of resource planning, management strategies for utilizing resources
(human, information, fiscal, and space/equipment) for health care delivery, and
clinical management issues in various physical therapy settings.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8914  Clinical Education 2  4 s.h.
Second clinical experience in evaluating and treating a diverse caseload of
illness/injury prevention, posture and movement dysfunction, and specialty
practice. Includes supervision of support personnel, interprofessional
evaluation and treatment, and administrative tasks. Six week full-time
experience. Grading is S/U.
Prereq.: Admission to the DPT program.

PHYT 8916  Critical Inquiry in Physical Therapy  3 s.h.
Student groups will analyze datasets and write up manuscripts for the
methods, results and some discussion. Groups will peer review these written
reports. Student groups will then revise the report and design a clinically-
related project based on the findings of the project. Emphasis will be given
to formal research proposals, clinical applications, and resources for project
implementation.
Prereq.: Admission to the DPT program.

PHYT 8918  Professional Issues  2 s.h.
Discussion of professional topics related to entry-level practice, such as
leadership, interagency and interprofessional collaboration, future trends and
technologies, and opportunities for professional growth.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8919  Clinical Education 3  6 s.h.
Continuation of clinical experience in evaluating and treating a diverse
caseload illness/injury prevention, posture and movement dysfunction, and
specialty practice. Includes supervision of personnel, inter professional
practice, administrative tasks, and effective time management. Nine week, full-
time experience. Grading is S/U.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT.

PHYT 8920  Clinical Education 4  12 s.h.
Final clinical experience in evaluating and treating a diverse caseload of
illness/injury prevention, posture and movement dysfunction, and specialty
practice. Collaborative client-oriented practice, professional conduct, and
professional development. Fifteen weeks of full-time experience. Grading is S/ U. 12 s.h..
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8921  Evidence Based Practice in Health Sciences  1 s.h.
This course will help the student develop skills needed to formulate and
answer clinical questions including: use of technology to obtain information,
evaluation and application of the information for decision making needed to
answer questions. Examine the application of current literature to clinical
decision-making. Emphasis on written research communication methods:
scientific writing, documentation and literature reviews.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program, Admission to the PhD in Health Sciences.

PHYT 8922  Research  1-6 s.h.
Research under the supervision of a graduate faculty member. May be
repeated for a total of six semester hours.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program, and permission of instructor and
department chair.

PHYT 8923  Community Applications  3 s.h.
Community-based project that encompasses the aspects of advocacy,
collaboration, social responsibility, consultation and leadership, marketing/PR,
and fiscal management.
Prereq.: Admission to the DPT Program.

PHYT 8924  Histology  1 s.h.
The study of the histological basis of human tissue. Emphasis on the
relationship between microscopic structure of tissue types and organ function.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8925  Applied Neuroscience for Physical Therapists  4 s.h.
Introduction to the anatomy and physiology of the human central and
peripheral nervous systems. Interaction and relationships between the various
structures are described in order to understand movement, sensation and
higher cortical functions. Structure is related to function through clinical
case examples with an emphasis on the importance for physical therapy
assessment and intervention.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8926  Imaging and Lifespan Pathology for PT  2 s.h.
Imaging principles, methods and findings to illustrate the relationship to
treatment options and plans of care. Case-based examples illustrate the
implications for physical therapy practice and referral. Common pathology
highly relevant to physical therapy throughout the lifespan are discussed.
Introduction to common scenarios for differential diagnosis.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8929  Clinical Decision Making 3: Advanced Cases  3 s.h.
In-depth analysis of patient/client cases which includes pharmacology
influences and diversity aspects. Differential diagnosis skills will be
further developed in respect to each case. Evidence-based practice will be
emphasized.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8930  Clinical Decision Making 4: Advanced Cases  2 s.h.
In-depth analysis of patient/client cases which includes pharmacology
influences and diversity aspects. Differential diagnosis skills will be
further developed in respect to each case. Evidence-based practice will be
emphasized.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8932  Pharmacology for PTs  1 s.h.
The study of pharmacologic principles, classifications and common
pharmaceutical agents.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8933  Clinical Foundation Skills 1  3 s.h.
Theories of professionalism in Physical Therapy practice including
APTA/OPTA membership and benefits, fiscal responsibility, core values,
professionalism, and healthcare compliance will be discussed. Basic patient
assessment as it relates to anatomic principles will be taught and practiced
and their clinical relevance will be reinforced.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8934  Clinical Foundation Skills 2  2 s.h.
This course is a continuation of PHYT 8933. Theories of professionalism in
Physical Therapy practice including patient and professional advocacy,
communication skills, safety, and healthcare compliance will be discussed. Basic patient
assessment as it relates to anatomic principles will be taught and practiced and their clinical relevance will be reinforced.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT program.

PHYT 8935  Epidemiology in Health Sciences  3 s.h.
he course will discuss various research designs and appropriate statistics
 germane to epidemiology. Common measures of effect will be discussed with
appropriate interpretation of these effects. The student will be expected to
implement their knowledge of the subject by designing or redesigning a study
specific to epidemiological principles within their area of interest.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT or PhD in Health Sciences program.

PHYT 8938  Special Topics in Physical Therapy  1-5 s.h.
Special interest physical therapy topics selected by the faculty which reflect
current trends and issues in physical therapy practice. May be repeated as
desired.
Prereq.: Admission to the DPT program.
PHYT 8940  Interdisciplinary Health Care Delivery  3 s.h.
Foundational knowledge and skills necessary for legal and ethical practice of
pertinent healthcare disciplines (Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy,
Dietetics, etc.). Emphasis is on legal principles and concepts; contract,
business, and educational law; licensure and state practice acts. Emphasis
is placed on ethical theory and ethical decision making approaches; and
professional code of ethics. Global study of the delivery of healthcare in a
broad spectrum view is provided. Emphasis is on the societal, economic, legal/
ethical and cultural factors that influence healthcare. Multidisciplinary views
of healthcare are considered.
Prereq.: Admission to Physical Therapy Program.

PHYT 8941  Psychosocial & Cultural Aspects of Healthcare  3 s.h.
Investigation into the psychosocial and cultural issues related to a variety of
common clinical pathologies. The dynamic impact of the interaction between
the patient/client and persons involved in their healthcare, professionals and
caregivers will be considered. Topics of interest include mental, physical,
behavioral, and cultural issues across the lifespan. Cultural theory and its
applications to clinical interactions will be examined and integrated. Topics
include cultural assumptions and patterns of health-related activity related to:
disability, socioeconomic status, age, gender, ethnicity/race, sexual orientation,
and religion.
Prereq.: Admission to Physical Therapy program.

PHYT 8944  Clinical Decision Making 4-Part 1  3 s.h.
Topics that integrate practice patterns (musculoskeletal, neuromuscular,
cardiopulmonary, and integumentary) such as multiple trauma, burns,
amputations, and critical care. Also includes complex cases within routine
diagnoses, due to severity, chronicity or comorbidity. Emphasis on outcomes
studies.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT.

PHYT 8945  Clinical Decision Making 4-Part 2  3 s.h.
Topics that integrate practice patterns (musculoskeletal, neuromuscular,
cardiopulmonary, and integumentary) such as multiple trauma, burns,
amputations, and critical care. Also includes complex cases within routine
diagnoses, due to severity, chronicity or comorbidity. Emphasis on outcomes
studies.
Prereq.: Admission to DPT.

Graduate Faculty
James A. Benedict, PT, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Healthcare policy; CVA interventions and outcomes; SCI interventions

Cara A. Carramusa, Ed.D., PT, M.S., Assistant Professor
Geriatrics/older adults; wellness; falls/fall prevention and outcomes; clinical
education

Weiqing Ge, D.P.T., Ph.D., Professor
Spinal characteristics; muscle stiffness; responses of paraspinal muscle
spindles to forces in animal models

David William Griswold, D.P.T., Ph.D., Associate Professor
Vestibular rehabilitation; neurophysiological effects of manual therapy

Nancy Crum Landgraff, PT, Ph.D., Professor, Chair
Stroke; stroke outcomes; process and assessment of professional education

Kenneth Learman, PT, Ph.D., Professor
Physical therapy interventions for the spine

Cathy Bieber Parrott, PT, M.S., Assistant Professor
Orthopedic-related disability measurement; program assessment.

Omar Ross, D.P.T., Assistant Professor

Jane Wetzel, PT, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Interventions for persons with cardiopulmonary dysfunction