

Physical Therapy

Physical therapy is a health science - concerned with restoring, maintaining, and promoting optimal physical function. . .

Physical therapists diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities; restore, maintain, and promote optimal wellness, fitness, and quality of life as related to movement and health; and prevent the onset, symptoms, and progression of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders, conditions, or injuries.

As physical therapy involves more than the treatment of a physical condition, physical therapists must know how to communicate effectively with other people and understand the psychological and economic impacts of disease or injury. A broad background in both biological and social sciences is necessary.

The specialized professional services provided by physical therapists demand high moral and ethical standards, optimal mental and physical health, and an understanding of self and others. Prospective students are urged to visit a health care facility where a licensed physical therapist is employed to gain firsthand knowledge of the field.

UND offers the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy degree; a 6 1/2 year program

What you can do with a degree in Physical Therapy . . .

Most of our Physical Therapy graduates are employed in private clinics or hospitals. Some are employed in educational settings, such as public schools. Other related fields are primarily occupational therapy, athletic training, and speech pathology.

Unique characteristics of UND's Physical Therapy program. . .

The program has over 300 clinical sites in 23 different states where our students can complete their clinical experiences, giving them unique opportunities in a number of practice settings and geographical locations. All students have the opportunity to do a research project as part of the professional program. We have a very good reputation with employers because of the strong educational background our graduates bring with them.

Getting in. . .

48 students a year are accepted into the professional program. Students must complete at least 90 credits, which includes a number of specific prerequisite courses, and they must have 20 credits in one discipline (at least 8 at the 300 and 400 levels). Some students complete an undergraduate degree in a given discipline before application. Students must have spent some time in a PT clinic prior to applying to the program.

Program Options. . .

All UND Physical Therapy graduates take the same basic coursework, although there are opportunities for some elective coursework.

It's A Fact. . .

- The program's 300+ clinical sites offer clinical experiences in acute care, geriatrics, pediatrics, sports medicine, orthopedics, and neurological rehabilitation.
- There is a Physical Therapy fee in addition to regular tuition costs.
- There are 11 faculty in the department.
- 144 students are enrolled in the 3-year program (48/year).
- UND's first Physical Therapy students graduated in 1970.
- Median salary for a physical therapist is \$51,000.
- The PT Club is active on campus.
- Applications are accepted from students nationwide.
- The main determinant for admission to PT is the basic science grade point average.
- The program is fully accredited by Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
- UND-PT offers an entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. This degree requires a minimum of 90 credit hours of pre-physical therapy coursework or an undergraduate degree in a related field, plus three years and two summer sessions in the professional program.
- All physical therapy students must complete thirty-six weeks of full-time clinical experiences prior to graduation.

Information continued on opposite side. . .

Physical Therapy continued. . .

P.T. @ UND. . .

- Our department's faculty and staff have a reputation for providing quality education in a friendly environment. Student education is our first priority where students have easy access to faculty members for help and counsel. All of the laboratory courses are led by faculty members.
- The physical therapy education students receive at UND includes lectures and laboratory coursework along with significant clinical experience. Our goal is to prepare the student for entry-level clinical practice in all areas of physical therapy. Graduates from our program are offered jobs in a wide variety of physical therapy settings across the lifespan. We have an outstanding reputation for preparing physical therapists who can work in a wide variety of clinical environments and provide the patient with state of the art interventions.
- The Physical Therapy department faculty are all engaged in research related to physical therapy. Current areas of interest are electromyography, motion analysis, balance and gait, and neurorehabilitation. Faculty members regularly present their research findings at professional meetings both locally and nationally.

For more information. . .

*UND Physical Therapy
Medical School Room 1510
501 North Columbia Road Stop 9037
Grand Forks ND 58202-9037
701) 777-2831
www.medicine.nodak.edu/pt*