



DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)

A basketball player with a torn ACL. A grandparent with arthritis. A child with a birth defect. A bricklayer with a back injury. The road to recovery for these people goes through physical therapists, who work with them to restore function, improve mobility, stretch the bound of physical limitation and relieve their pain. Using electrical stimulation, ultrasound, therapeutic exercise, gait training, and adaptive devices like prosthetics and crutches, physical therapists work with other health care providers to devise the best treatment plan to improve an individual's function.

Why Physical Therapy at Marquette University

- **Academic Freedom.** Unlike many physical therapy programs that limit your choice of undergraduate majors, you will have a variety of majors from which to choose, including, but not limited to: Exercise Physiology, Biomedical Sciences, Spanish for the Health Professions, Psychology, Social Welfare and Justice or Communication Studies.
- **Direct admission as an incoming freshman:** Incoming freshman can apply for **direct admission** to the doctor of physical therapy program. Accepted students pursue their undergraduate major and complete the DPT prerequisites in their first three years at MU. Students that meet the DPT academic and observation hour prerequisites at the end of their junior year, begin the three-year DPT curriculum in their senior year at Marquette. As a direct admit student, you would complete both your undergraduate and doctor of physical therapy degrees in a total of 6 years.
- **Specialize.** Unlike many physical therapy programs, Marquette's program gives you the latitude to develop your interest in a variety of areas – such as sports, orthopedics, neurological rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary, wellness and pediatrics. You will have the opportunity explore these specialty areas through advanced electives, specialty clinical rotations and mentoring by leading experts.
- **Integrated Clinical Experience.** You'll enjoy 30 weeks of clinical experience during your final two years in the professional phase of the DPT program. With over 350 clinical sites nationwide, you will have the opportunity to experience physical therapy in a wide range of settings, from urban to rural and from East Coast to West Coast.
- **Competence and Compassion.** Marquette's program provides more than advanced technical training. The values-centered Marquette Core Curriculum will prepare you to make a difference in your patients' lives.
- **Distinguished Program.** Highly ranked by US News and World Report, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program has received national and state recognition for outstanding faculty and students as well as for its commitment to cultural diversity.

Exercise Physiology is the most popular major for physical therapy students, providing training in fitness, wellness, and disease prevention. This major, combined with physical therapy, provides expertise in human performance training or sports medicine that compliments a physical therapy education and enhances the marketability of our graduates.

How to apply for Direct Admission to the DPT program:

1. Select "Physical Therapy" when asked about special admission programs on your MU application or the Common App.
2. You will be prompted to submit an additional essay that answers the question: "Why are you interested in physical therapy as a profession and what experiences have led you to this interest?"