

**Arkansas State University  
Department of Physical Therapy  
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program  
2009-2010 Application Packet**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) at Arkansas State University (ASU) in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Enclosed are the forms and instructions necessary to initiate the application process for our program. Please review the entire packet and read the instructions carefully before completing the forms.

The DPT program at ASU prepares the graduate to enter into the profession of physical therapy as a generalist practitioner with the necessary skills for lifelong professional development. The DPT degree is a 3 year program, including summers. In addition to classroom and laboratory experiences, each student engages in over weeks of full-time clinical education internships and participates in applied scholarly activities.

Admission to the DPT program is a competitive process. In order to produce graduates who will be competent to serve in the many roles required of a physical therapist, the faculty values a mature applicant, one who has demonstrated his/her academic and cognitive abilities as well as his/her personal and professional potential.

Applicants to the program should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Ability and skills necessary for use of the physical therapy process. (see pages 2-3)
- A 4-year bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or international university with equivalent requirements for the bachelor's degree. The degree can be in any field, but must include the prerequisite courses listed in this packet (see pages 7).
- Successful completion of the Prerequisite Coursework
- A record of academic accomplishment sufficient to meet the entrance requirements of the ASU Graduate School. **Admission to the physical therapy program cannot be finalized until the applicant has been admitted to the ASU Graduate School.**

**The application deadline for any given year is March 1. All application materials must be received on or before March 1 of each year. Any application materials received after this date will be classified as late and may not be processed for the class beginning in that year. Applicants must apply both to the Physical Therapy Department and to the ASU Graduate School. Applicants for whom the Graduate School has not received a completed application by March 1 will not be considered to have completed the application process. Therefore, those applications may not be processed for that year.**

International and out-of-state applicants should submit their Graduate School applications early enough to avoid this problem.

Pre-application advising is available for all students interested in the Graduate Program in Physical Therapy. Please contact the Programs in Physical Therapy office to speak with a faculty advisor.

**Contact information: Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Arkansas State University, PO Box 910, State University, AR 72467. Phone: 870-972-3591 Fax: 870-972-3652 Internet: <http://pt.astate.edu>.**

## **Abilities and Skills for the Physical Therapy Major**

All students enrolled in a physical therapy programs must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty for safe professional practice.

A student desiring to become a professional physical therapist (candidate) must have the abilities and skills necessary for use of the physical therapy process. These skills and abilities include observations; communication; motor ability; conceptualization; integration and quantification; and behavioral/social acceptability. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain of these areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable, in that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection.

The following abilities and skills are necessary to meet the requirements of the curriculum:

### Observations:

The candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and tactile sensation. It is enhanced by the functional sense of smell.

### Communication:

The candidate must be able to speak, hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but, reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

### Motor:

Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment maneuvers. A candidate must have sufficient motor skills to gain access to clients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate the equipment central to the treatment of patients receiving physical therapy. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Examples of required fine motor skills would include assessment of vital signs, application of dressings, sharp debridement of wounds, tissue palpation, manual testing, and mobilizations. Examples of required gross motor skills would include, but are not limited to, positioning clients in bed, gait training, transfer training, balance training, therapeutic exercise, and maneuvering in confined spaces. In addition, the candidate should be able to lift and carry a minimum of 35% of his or her own body weight. Also the candidate should be able to sit, bend, reach and/or walk and stand for most of the day.

### Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physical therapists, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

### Behavioral and Social Attributes:

A candidate must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his or her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interests, and motivation are all personal qualities necessary for physical therapy.

The Graduate Program in Physical Therapy affirms that all students enrolled in the Graduate Program must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty for safe professional practice.

The citations for these guidelines are as follows:

Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Bower, D., Line, L., & Denega, D. (1988). Evaluation instruments in nursing (pp. 71). New York: National League for Nursing

## Criminal Background Checks

Many physical therapy licensing boards conduct criminal background checks on applicants for licensure. If you have ever been charged with or convicted (including a nolo contendere plea or guilty plea) of a felony (or criminal offense) in any state or federal court (other than minor traffic violations), whether or not a sentence was imposed or suspended, it is possible that your ability to obtain licensure to practice physical therapy may be denied.

## **Arkansas State University Graduate Program in Physical Therapy Application Checklist**

The Admissions Committee of the ASU Programs in Physical Therapy suggests that students interested in making application to the Graduate Program in Physical Therapy follow the checklist below to help ensure that all necessary application steps are completed in an appropriate and timely manner. **The deadline for all materials to be received is March 1 of any given year.**

**Check those items submitted to The Graduate School, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 60, State University, AR 72467. Send ONLY the Graduate School Application to this address.**

- ❑ **ASU Graduate School Application for Admission and associated documents and fees.** The Graduate School application should be completed first. A student cannot be fully admitted to the Graduate Program in Physical Therapy until he/she has been admitted to the Graduate School. Graduate School application packets can be requested by mail at the above address, requested by phone at 1-877-278-4723 (toll-free) or downloaded from the Graduate School's web site at <http://graduateschool.astate.edu/>.

**Check those items submitted to the Graduate Program in Physical Therapy:**

- ❑ **Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Application for Admission (page 5 of this packet)**
- ❑ **Completed Prerequisite Coursework Worksheet (page 6 of this packet)**
- ❑ **Transcript from each college/university attended (copies are acceptable)**
- ❑ **Completed volunteer experience form (page 8 of this application)** (Recommended 2010; required effective 2011)
- ❑ **Completed Demographics Form (see page 9 of this packet)**

The items required by the DPT program, should all be mailed in one envelope to the Chair of Admissions, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 910, State University, AR 72467. Submitted materials become the property of the Department of Physical Therapy. **Do not send the Graduate School Application to the Department of Physical Therapy.**

We highly recommend that applicants make copies of all submitted materials for their personal records.

### **Admissions Process**

Applicants will be scored on the following items:

- Academic/Cognitive Measures
  - Cumulative GPA
  - Prerequisite Coursework GPA
- Non-Cognitive Measures
  - Interview
  - Nelson-Denny Reading Test

The top applicants will be selected for an interview and Nelson-Denny test using the cognitive criteria above. The final class will be chosen following the interview and reading test. An additional number of interviewed students will be placed on the alternate list.

## Arkansas State University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program 2010 Application for Admission

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**Name:** Last First Middle

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**Current Address:** Street

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City State Country Postal Code

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**Phone No:** Country/City Code/Area Code & Number **E-mail address**

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**ASU Student ID Number or Social Security Number**

Actualmente en la región que sirve ASU, se necesitan profesionales de la salud que hablen español. Por favor, indique aquí si usted tiene esta habilidad. Se da crédito adicional a los candidatos que puedan demostrar esta competencia. La facultad de idiomas extranjeros de ASU administra la prueba de habilidad en español. Por favor, póngase en contacto con el programa de Terapia Física para arreglar una cita para tomar el examen. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all colleges/universities attended, **including ASU**.

Name of Institution	Location (city, state, country)	Dates of Attendance	Major, Degree and Graduation Date

**I have read the Abilities and Skills for the Graduate Physical Therapy Major on pages 2 and 3 of the application packet and by my signature am indicating I possess the needed abilities and skills.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Arkansas State University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Prerequisite Coursework Worksheet

In the table below, please indicate the courses that you have taken or plan to take that meet the prerequisite coursework requirements for the DPT program. All rows should be filled out in all columns (except the last column if the student is enrolled in the class in Spring 2010 or will be enrolled in Summer 2010.) Every requirement must be met by the end of the Summer 2010 semester. **Please note that each requirement must be fulfilled by a separate course; one course may not be used to fulfill two requirements.** See page 7 of this packet for descriptions of preferred ASU System courses. These descriptions are used by the Admissions Committee to determine if an alternate course from another institution meets the requirements of the DPT Program. Applicants who are uncertain whether a course that they have taken meets one of our prerequisites should consult a faculty advisor by contacting the Physical Therapy office at 870-972-3591. Students admitted to the DPT Program will be required to submit proof of successful completion of all prerequisite coursework (defined as C or better) prior to being allowed to begin PT coursework. Failure to achieve a C, or better, in each of the prerequisites will result in the student being denied a spot in the PT Program.

Prerequisite Course	Course Number and Name	Institution	Semester/Year course taken	Credit Hours	Letter Grade
Anatomy or Kinesiology with lab (3 - 4 credits)*					
Physiology with lab (3-4 credits)*					
Physics (4 credits)					
Physics (4 credits)					
Statistics (3 credits)					
Medical Terminology (1-3 credits)					
Introduction to PT (2-3credits)					

\* These courses must be upper division courses. Students attending a university that does not offer upper division courses covering this content should contact the Chair of Admissions at [ptadmissions@astate.edu](mailto:ptadmissions@astate.edu) early to identify appropriate courses.

# Arkansas State University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

## Description of Prerequisite Courses

Revised 5/14/09

These descriptions of ASU courses are used by the Admissions Committee to determine if an alternate course from another institution meets the requirements of the Graduate Program in Physical Therapy. Applicants who are uncertain if a course that they have taken meets one of our prerequisites should consult a faculty advisor at [ptadmissions@astate.edu](mailto:ptadmissions@astate.edu) as early as possible in their educational program.

**NOTE: Students may be required to take prerequisites for these courses; questions about prerequisites should be addressed to the course instructor.**

- **# Anatomy (one of the following courses; minimum 3 credit hours):**
  - **HP 3003 General Gross Anatomy (recommended):** The regional topographic study of human gross anatomy using lecture, laboratory, discussion, and prosected cadavers. Emphasis is placed on surface anatomy, musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems. Clinical correlations are highlighted. Lecture 2 hours per week. Laboratory 2 hours per week.
  - **ES 4763 Kinesiology:** Mechanics of human motion and its application to physical activity.
  - **BIO 3302/3312 Comparative Anatomy:** Chordate morphology, phylogeny, ontogeny, organology and homology.
- **# Physiology (one the following courses or course sequences; minimum 3 credit hours):**
  - **BIO 3223/3221/3233/3231 Human Structure & Function I & II.** The structure and function of the human organism: cellular function, skeletal, muscular and nervous system. The structure and function of the human organism: special senses and endocrine, respiratory, cardiovascular, digestive, urinary, reproductive and integumentary systems.
  - **BIO 3323 Animal Physiology:** Chemical, physical and biological functions of systems, including the study of metabolism and inter relationships of organ systems to the entire organism.
  - **BIO 3203 Pathophysiology:** Physiology of pathological disturbances and inborn errors. Mechanism of disturbance, body compensating efforts, and adaptive responses of man.
  - **BIO 4133 Cell Biology:** Organization and activities of cells, with emphasis on the ultrastructure and function of cellular organelles.
  - **ES 3553 Basic Physiology of Activity:** A basic study of the organs and systems of the body, with particular emphasis on the effects of physical activity of the functioning of the systems.
- **Physics (8 credit hours – all of the following)**
  - **PHYS 2054 General Physics I with Laboratory.** The essential of mechanics, heat, materials and simple harmonic motion in a unified lecture/laboratory format utilizing multimedia computers at each student station.
  - **PHYS 2064 General Physics II with Laboratory.** Continuation of General Physics I, the essentials of electricity, magnetism, wave motion, light and modern physics in a unified lecture/laboratory format utilizing multimedia computers at each student station.
- **Statistics (3 – 4 credits – one of the following)**
  - **ES 3743 Research and Statistical Methods in Exercise Science (3 credits)** – Fundamental aspects of the clinical research process involving human subjects. The course will include an overview of the research process, procedures, sampling data and analysis.
  - **PSY 3103/3101 Quantitative Methods for Behavioral Sciences with laboratory (4 credits)** – Introduction to basic statistical techniques and methodology applicable to research problems in the behavioral sciences.
  - **SOC 3383/3381 Social Statistics with laboratory (4 credits)** – Pertinent concepts, techniques, methods, and approaches used in sociological investigation.
- **\* HP 2013 Medical Terminology (1-3 credits – one course)** - Basic language related to medical science and the health professions: word analysis, construction, spelling, and definitions.
- **\* PT 2003 Introduction to Physical Therapy (3 credits)** - Introduces students to the multifaceted role of physical therapy personnel. Topics include the evolution of medicine and physical therapy, the health care system in the USA, objectives and applications of physical therapy, methodologies used in physical therapy education, the concept of the health care team, and ethics.

# An upper level, two-semester anatomy and physiology (structure and function) sequence may also be used to fulfill the requirements for students completing prerequisites at universities other than ASU.

\* THESE COURSES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE EACH SEMESTER AND MAY BE TAKEN AFTER ACCEPTANCE TO THE PROGRAM BY STUDENTS COMPLETING PREREQUISITES AT UNIVERSITIES OTHER THAN ASU.



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Arkansas State University  
PO Box 910 State University, AR 72467  
Phone: (870) 972-3591 Fax: (870) 972-3652  
E-mail: ptadmissions@astate.edu

**To the Student:** In addition to taking Introduction to Physical Therapy, we recommend that students observe a minimum of 4 hours each in two different physical therapy settings. One setting should be an acute care hospital or nursing home; the second setting should be in a different type of setting: out-patient clinic, rehabilitation center, pediatric setting, etc. Print two copies of this form. Complete the first part of each one and give it to your observation supervisor for his or her signature. Include both forms in your application.

**NOTE:** Observation hours will be required beginning in 2011.

**To the Physical Therapist:** \_\_\_\_\_ is applying to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Arkansas State University. Please verify this student's observation of physical therapy services in your facility.

Type of facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of observation/volunteer/paid hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your assistance in helping this applicant learn more about physical therapy.

Sincerely,

ASU Physical Therapy Admissions Committee

## Arkansas State University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Demographics Form

For institutional reporting and accreditation purposes only, we ask that you complete this form and return it with your application. Submission of this form with your application is optional. The information requested below has no effect on your application and is used only for the purposes of program and institutional assessment. Your submission of this form will help to increase the accuracy of our program assessment and help us to continue to provide a quality physical therapy education to all interested students. This page will be separated from your application and application reviewers will not see your individual responses. Please **do not** put your name on this form.

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for the Graduate PT class that begins in \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate year).

- **Are you currently a student at ASU?**    Yes    No
  
- **Gender:**    Male                      Female
  
- **Racial/Ethnic Information:**
  - White/non-Hispanic
  - Black/non-Hispanic
  - Hispanic
  - American Indian
  - Asian/Pacific Islander
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Please write in the city (\_\_\_\_\_), county (\_\_\_\_\_) and state (\_\_\_\_\_) of your home.
  
- If you live **outside the U.S.A.**, please indicate your city (\_\_\_\_\_) and country (\_\_\_\_\_).
  
- If your country of origin **is not** the U.S.A., please indicate country (\_\_\_\_\_).
  
- How did you first find out about the Graduate PT Program at ASU?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
- What was the main factor(s) that helped you decide to apply to the Graduate PT Program at ASU?  
\_\_\_\_\_.