

**Arkansas State University  
Department of Physical Therapy  
Transition Doctor of Physical Therapy  
2013 Application Packet**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy (tDPT) degree at Arkansas State University (ASU). 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 tDPT provides a program of study that bridges the educational gap between bachelor's and master's degree entry-level practitioners in physical therapy and current doctorate entry-level graduates. The tDPT program is designed specifically for practicing physical therapy professionals who earned their entry level professional degree at the bachelor or master degree level. The ASU tDPT program's primary purpose will be to serve our PT alumni interested in attaining the tDPT. However, bachelors and masters level physical therapists from other programs may also apply for admission. The tDPT is planned to be offered as a short term opportunity aimed at serving physical therapists in the Delta region. The tDPT degree is a three year program, including two summers. The program is completely online, allowing practicing clinicians the flexibility to enroll.

The tDPT curriculum includes courses and content that were new or expanded in the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) curricula beyond what was covered at the master's level. Topics emphasized in the tDPT include those recognized by physical therapy educators and by current practice standards as representative of doctorate level practice in physical therapy. Topics include: evidence based practice, medical screening, differential diagnosis, physical therapist as educator, consulting roles, psychosocial aspects of health and health care, imaging, pharmacology, patient centered care and the role of PT in wellness and fitness. Elective hours will also be offered that cover advanced clinical competency in focused practice areas consistent with board certified specialties in physical therapy (American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties). Graduate students will earn 28 credits in the tDPT curriculum.

The tDPT curriculum will run concurrently with the DPT curriculum for a minimum of two cycles beginning Fall 2012. Graduate students in the tDPT program will enroll in the DPT courses selected for the tDPT program each semester in a separate online section from the DPT students.

Graduates with Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy (BSPT) degree must take additional courses at the graduate level. Graduate credit hours may be awarded for clinical experience by submitting a portfolio and applying for course equivalency credit.

Applicants to the program should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Earned BSPT or MPT degree from an institution accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
- Currently licensed and practicing as a physical therapist (Physical therapy license must not include licensure revocations or other disciplinary sanctions).
- 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 May 1. All application materials must be received on or before May 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 May 1 will not be considered to have completed the application process. Therefore, those applications may not be processed for that year.**

**Contact information: 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>.**

Each cohort will be limited to 20 students. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students that are not selected in the annual cohort will be given preference for admission the following year.

## tDPT Curricula – Degree Plan

### Fall Year 1

PT 7512 Professional Issues 1 (2 credit hours)

PT 7612 Methods of Instruction & Consultation (2 credit hours)

### Spring Year 1

PT 7413 Pathology & Differential Diagnosis (3 credit hours)

### Summer Year 1

PT 7123 Intro to Research and Evidence Based Practice (3 credit hours)

### Fall Year 2

PT 8573 Elective: Special Topics (3 credit hours)

### Spring Year 2

PT 8352 Health & Wellness (2 credit hours)

PT 7252 Psychosocial Issues (2 credit hours)

### Summer Year 2

PT 7323 Imaging & Pharmacology (3 credit hours)

### Fall Year 3

PT 8872 Clinical Decision Making (2 credit hours)

PT 8573 Elective: Special Topics (3 credit hours)

### Spring Year 3

PT 818V Independent Study & Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)

Total Credit Hours: 28

## **Arkansas State University Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Description of Course Equivalency**

The tDPT consists of 28 semester credits for students with an earned MPT degree. Additional semester credits are required for students who earned the BSPT degree. The degree plan for BSPT graduates is individualized based on professional experiences and qualifications using a portfolio concept as the method of evaluation. A total of 15 credits may be received in this fashion. The tDPT courses are offered through distance education (online).

The Admissions Committee will consider equivalency credit for graduates holding a bachelor's degree in physical therapy seeking a transitional doctor of physical therapy degree. The Admissions Committee review portfolio submissions and evaluate equivalency credits on an individual basis. The Department Chair will make final decisions based on recommendations from the Admissions Committee. 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).

### **Bachelor of Physical Therapy to tDPT:**

Applicants must have a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours and 28 tDPT graduate hours completed before receiving the tDPT degree. Graduate credit hours may be awarded for clinical experience by submitting a portfolio and applying for course equivalency credit. The maximum number of credit hours awarded through the portfolio is 15 graduate credits. The Admissions Committee will determine the number of credit hours that may be applied to the 30 graduate credit hours after reviewing the portfolio. Each applicant will submit a plan of study to the Admissions Committee for completing the 30 graduate credit hours. All course equivalencies and study plans will be approved by the Department Chair. The following criteria will determine course equivalency:

1. Clinical certification (Up to 8 credit hours) is demonstrated through an APTA or a related professional organization specialty certification. Every 10 contact hours to maintain certification will be equivalent to 1 graduate credit hour.
2. Credentialed Clinical Instructor (Up to 8 credit hours) is demonstrated through APTA certification. Each year of Clinical Instructor experience is equivalent to 1 graduate credit hour.
3. Administration (Up to 8 credit hours) is evaluated through team leadership, director position, CEO or equivalent administrative title. Each year of full time administration experience is equivalent to 1 graduate credit hour.
4. CEU (Up to 8 credit hours) is demonstrated through clinical expertise in an area of specialized training different from clinical certification. Every 10 hours of classroom time is equivalent to 1 graduate credit hour.

**Arkansas State University  
Department of Physical Therapy  
Application Checklist**

The Admissions Committee of the ASU Department of Physical Therapy suggests that students interested in making application for the transitional doctor of physical therapy (tDPT) complete 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 May 1 of any given year.**

**Check those items submitted to The Graduate School, Arkansas State University, P.O. Box 1570, 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 physical therapy program until he/she has been admitted to the Graduate School. Students that completed a Master of Physical Therapy **MUST** complete a new application to the Graduate School. Graduate School application packets can be requested by mail at the above address, requested by phone at 1-870-972-2031 or downloaded from the Graduate School's web site at [https://asups2.astate.edu:4443/prod/bwskalogs.P\\_DisplLoginNon](https://asups2.astate.edu:4443/prod/bwskalogs.P_DisplLoginNon) . If you are a new user, you will need to create a user account. Please allow 6-weeks for acceptance.

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

- ❑ **Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Application for Admission (page 6 of this packet)**
- ❑ **Completed Portfolio (BSPT only) (page 7 of this packet) with supporting evidence**
- ❑ **Transcript from each college/university attended (copies are acceptable)**
- ❑ **Letter from state board verifying current physical therapy licensure**
- ❑ **Curriculum Vitae**

The items required by the tDPT 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.



**Arkansas State University  
Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program  
BSPT Portfolio Guidelines**

To receive graduate equivalency credit for clinical experience, graduates at the bachelors level must complete the portfolio. In addition, provide supporting evidence (e.g., copies of certificates, CEU's) for each requested graduate equivalency credit to be awarded.

**Clinical Certifications (up to 8 hours)- List clinical certifications through APTA or a related professional organization. Provide evidence of 10 contact hours of continuing education to maintain certification. (10 contact hours = 1 graduate credit)**

**APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor (up to 8 hours). Provide evidence of each supervised student by listing the name of the student, name of University, site location and dates you served as a clinical instructor. (each student supervised as a credentialed CI = 1 graduate credit hour).**

**Administrator Experience (up to 8 hours)- List location, dates and administrative position held. Provide evidence from your current/previous employer. (1 year of full time administration experience = 1 graduate credit hour).**

**Continuing Education Units (up to 8 hours)- List continuing education courses in an area of specialized training that is different from clinical certification. Provide evidence of continuing education courses. (10 contact hours = 1 graduate credit hour)**