



Widener University

Institute for Physical Therapy Education
2017 Graduate Catalog

Widener University Information

UNIVERSITY POLICY

It is the policy of Widener University not to discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, pregnancy status, age, race, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability, status as a veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or genetic information in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices, financial aid, or other school-administered programs or activities. This policy is enforced under various federal and state laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Further, in compliance with state and federal laws, Widener University will provide the following information upon request: (a) copies of documents pertinent to the university's accreditations, approvals, or licensing by external agencies or governmental bodies; (b) reports on crime statistics and information on safety policies and procedures; and (c) information regarding gender equity relative to intercollegiate athletic programs—Contact: Senior Vice President for University Advancement, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-4123. Comments or requests for information regarding services and resources for disabled students should be directed to: Director of Disability Services, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-1266; or Dean of Students, Widener University Delaware Law School, P.O. Box 7474, Wilmington, DE 19803; tel. 302-477-2173.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") prohibits discrimination based on sex and gender in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Such programs include recruitment, admissions, financial aid and scholarships, athletics, course offerings and access, hiring and retention, and benefits and leave. Title IX also protects students and employees from unlawful sexual harassment (including sexual violence) in university programs and activities. In compliance with Title IX, the university prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex in employment as well as in all programs and activities.

The university's Title IX coordinator monitors compliance with Title IX and its accompanying regulations. Individuals with questions or concerns about Title IX and/or those who wish to file a complaint of non-compliance may contact the Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators: The university's Title IX coordinator is Assistant Director for Employee Relations Grace Karmioli, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-1301; e-mail gckarmioli@widener.edu. The university has also appointed several deputy Title IX coordinators: For students on the Chester, PA, campus and Continuing Studies students: Assistant Dean for Student Development and Engagement Catherine Feminella, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-4390; e-mail cafeminella@widener.edu. For Athletics: Assistant Director of Athletics Larissa Gillespie, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; tel. 610-499-4434; e-mail lagillespie@widener.edu. For students and employees on the Wilmington, DE, campus: Associate Dean for Student Services Susan Goldberg, Widener University Delaware Law School, 4601 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803; tel. 302-477-2173; e-mail slgoldberg@widener.edu. For students and employees on the Harrisburg, PA, campus: Assistant Dean Keith Sealing, Widener University Commonwealth Law School, 3800 Vartan Way, Harrisburg, PA 17106; tel. 717-541-3952; e-mail ksealing@widener.edu.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the division of the federal government charged with enforcing compliance with Title IX. Information regarding OCR can be found at: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html. Questions about Title IX may be directed to OCR as well as to the university's Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators.

This publication contains information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements that were correct at the time of publication. In keeping with the educational mission of the university, the information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements contained herein are continually being reviewed, changed, and updated. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and must be used solely as an informational guide. Students are responsible for keeping informed of official policies and meeting all relevant requirements.

The university reserves the right and authority at any time to alter any or all of the statements contained herein, to modify the requirements for admission and graduation, to change or discontinue programs of study, to amend any regulation or policy affecting the student body, to increase tuition and fees, to deny admission, to revoke an offer of admission, and to dismiss from the university any student at any time, if it is deemed by the university to be in the best interest of the university, the university community, or the student to do so. The provisions of this publication are subject to change without notice, and nothing in this publication may be considered as setting forth terms of a contract between a student or a prospective student and Widener University.

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Widener University is a member of the Association for Continuing Higher Education and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Widener University's graduate programs are additionally accredited by the following: AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (School of Business Administration), American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (Center for Human Sexuality Studies), American Bar Association (School of Law), American Psychological Association (Doctor of Psychology; Clinical Psychology Internship), Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Management Education (MBA in Healthcare Management), Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (Doctor of Physical Therapy), Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (School of Nursing), Commission on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of Delaware (Delaware Law School), Council on Social Work Education (Center for Social Work Education), National Association for Education of Young Children (Child Development Center), National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Educators (Center for Education), Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (School of Nursing), Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court (Commonwealth Law School), Pennsylvania Department of Education (Center for Education), Pennsylvania Department of Welfare (Child Development Center), Pennsylvania Private School Board (Center for Education).

Widener University's graduate programs hold membership in the following: Academic Council of the American Physical Therapy Association (Institute for Physical Therapy Education), American Society for Engineering Education (School of Engineering), Association of Engineering Colleges of Pennsylvania (School of Engineering), Association of American Law Schools (Delaware Law School and Commonwealth Law School), Greater Philadelphia Engineering Deans Economic Development Council (School of Engineering), Engineering Deans Institute (School of Engineering), Engineering Research Council of the American Association of Engineering Societies (School of Engineering), Engineering Workforce Commission (School of Engineering), National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (Master of Public Administration), National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (Delaware Law School and Commonwealth Law School), National Council for Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology), National League for Nursing and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (School of Nursing).

Institute for Physical Therapy Education 2017 Graduate Catalog

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Main Campus, 610-499-4066

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REGISTRAR

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School of Human Service Professions Information

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Center for Education

- Master of Education (MEd)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)

Center for Human Sexuality Studies

- Master of Education (MEd)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Center for Social Work Education

- Master of Social Work (MSW)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology

- Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)

Institute for Physical Therapy Education

- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMS

The School of Human Service Professions aspires to prepare individuals to become innovative scholars-practitioners-citizens. The disciplines of the school use dynamic teaching, active scholarship, personal attention, and community involvement in order to foster leadership, ethical and professional decision-making, interdisciplinary dialogue, a competent responsiveness to the needs of a culturally diverse community, and a commitment to the value of lifelong learning.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades are recorded as follows:

A	4.0 points
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
F	0.0
I (Incomplete)	0.0
W (Withdrawal without prejudice)	0.0
P/NP (Pass/No Pass)*	0.0
AU (Audit—no credit)	0.0

**only for courses offered on a Pass/No Pass basis*

NOTE: Individual instructors may elect, at their discretion, not to use plus/minus grades.

The grade of I is given when a student has not completed course requirements because of excusable reasons. A student who receives a grade of incomplete must arrange to make up all deficiencies with the instructor issuing the grade. If the work is not made up within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the incomplete is received, the grade will be automatically converted to F, unless the course in question is a thesis research course or a dissertation research course. Upon completion of the requirements, the instructor will institute a change of grade. (Note: A student does not register again for a course in which the grade of incomplete has been received.) A student cannot be awarded a degree when there is an outstanding incomplete grade on the transcript, even if the incomplete is in a course not

required in the degree program.

If a course is repeated, both grades will be recorded on the transcript, but only the most recent grade will be used in calculating the grade point average (GPA). When a student is found to have violated Widener's academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the F grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation.

If a student fails to meet the degree requirements in a timely manner or if repeated failure has occurred, the center or school may terminate the graduate program for the student. Conduct inconsistent with the ethical and professional standards of the discipline, whether it occurs before or after matriculation, is also grounds for dismissal from the program. Such conduct includes academic fraud. A student dismissed for academic fraud may no longer enroll in the graduate programs of the university and may not apply for admission into another division of the university. Please see the section entitled "Standards for Academic Integrity."

COURSE OFFERINGS

Graduate studies brochures are published for the fall and spring semesters and summer sessions. These fully describe registration policies, course schedules, and tuition and fee obligations.

DROP/ADD POLICY

Graduate students may withdraw from a course up to four weeks prior to the last day of classes for the semester and receive the grade of W. Students begin the withdrawal process by notifying their program director's office of their intent to withdraw, either orally or in writing. The program director's office submits a drop/add form, which includes the student's last date of attendance at an academically related activity, to the Registrar's Office.

Students may add a course without special permission no later than one week after the semester has begun. If a student wishes to add a course after one week, written permission must be obtained from both the instructor and the program director's office.

AUDITING

Students will be permitted to audit courses in the graduate program with the approval of the instructor. No grade or credit is given for auditing a course and examinations need not be taken; however, the registration procedure and fee structure are the same as that for other students.

STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Widener University strongly supports the concepts of academic freedom and academic integrity and expects students and all other members of the Widener University community to be honest in all academic endeavors. Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic fraud are serious and unacceptable violations of university policy. Widener University expects all students to be familiar with university policies on academic honesty and will not accept a claim of ignorance—either of the policy itself or of what constitutes academic fraud—as a valid defense against such a charge.

This statement was adopted by the Faculty Council on February 24, 1998, upon recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee.

DEFINITION OF VIOLATIONS OF THE STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Violations of the Standards of Academic Integrity constitute academic fraud. Academic fraud consists of any actions that serve to undermine the integrity of the academic process, including:

- unauthorized inspection or duplication of test materials, cheating, attempting to cheat, or assisting others to cheat in a classroom test, take-home examination, final examination, or comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examination.
- post-test alteration of examination responses.
- plagiarism.
- electronic or computer fraud.

Additionally, each university program may have specific acts particular to a discipline that constitute academic fraud.

DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM

One of the most common violations of the Standards for Academic Integrity is plagiarism. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and commission of it will bring the same penalties. In many classes, faculty members will provide their definitions of plagiarism. In classes where a definition is not provided, students are invited to follow the standards articulated in the following statement.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

PLAGIARISM—passing off the work of others as your own—is a serious offense. In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources—whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized—must be given credit through specific in-text citations. All sources used in the preparation of an academic paper must also be listed with full bibliographic details at the end of the paper. It is especially important that paraphrase be both cited and put into your own words. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Informal Process

- A faculty member who obtains evidence of academic fraud should inform the student of this evidence, either orally or in writing. The faculty member may also provide the student with the opportunity to respond to the charges. If the matter is resolved informally between the faculty member and the student, the faculty member must communicate in writing to the dean of his/her school or college the nature of the charges made against the student and how the matter was resolved.
- If the faculty member cannot resolve the matter satisfactorily with the student, he or she may file a formal complaint against the student through the office of the dean of the faculty member's school or college.

Formal Process

- Upon receiving formal charges of academic fraud, the office of the dean of the school or college shall thereupon notify the student in writing of the complaint, the evidence upon which the complaint is based, the penalty to be imposed, and all rights of appeal.

- If a student wishes to contest the allegations of the complaint, he or she may do so according to the process stipulated in the by-laws of the school or college in which the alleged offense occurred. In such a case, the student will also be informed of the time and location of a hearing on the complaint and of all rights of appeal.
- Upon determination by the school/college committee that hears the initial appeal that sufficient evidence exists to support the allegations contained in the complaint, or in cases in which the student chooses not to contest the complaint, the prescribed penalty shall be imposed.
- The dean will notify the associate provost in writing of the name of the student who has been found to have engaged in academic fraud.
- Appeals beyond an individual school/college body may be made by the student to the university's Academic Review Board. Please see the following section for board duties. Appeal to the Academic Review Board must be initiated by the student through the Office of the Associate Provost.
- In the event a complaint is filed against a student alleging academic fraud and the student is not enrolled in the course in which academic fraud is alleged, action will be taken by the dean's office of the school/college where the student is matriculated.
- An "F" for academic fraud will supersede any other mark including a "W" for withdrawal. When a student is found to have engaged in academic fraud under Widener's academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the "F" grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation.
- A confidential, centralized listing of students disciplined for academic fraud will be maintained by the Office of the Provost. In the event of the filing of a complaint alleging a second offense, the student will be informed, in writing, by the Office of the Provost of such complaint. Names will be dropped from the list of first offenders upon graduation or at the end of seven years after the last attendance.
- The above articulated steps constitute due process when students are accused of academic fraud.

PENALTIES

- The minimum penalty for individuals found through the formal complaint process described above to have engaged in academic fraud will be failure in the course. For a second offense, the penalty will be failure in the course and expulsion from the university.
- For attempting to steal or stealing an examination for a course, students will be failed in the course and expelled from the university. For attempting to steal or stealing a comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examination in a program, students will be expelled from the university.
- Programs that require comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examinations may elect to impose the penalties of failure on the examination and expulsion from the university for individuals who cheat or attempt to cheat on the comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examination.
- Individuals found through the formal complaint process described above to have engaged in academic fraud in the completion of a dissertation or thesis may be expelled from the university.

These policies and procedures were approved by Faculty Council on April 28, 2008.

ACADEMIC REVIEW BOARD

The Academic Review Board consists of the provost, the associate provosts, the deans of each school/college, the vice-chairperson of the Faculty Council, and the chair of the Faculty Council Academic Affairs Committee. Duties of the board include: (1) hearing petitions for the waiver of academic regulations that transcend a single school/college (e.g., withdrawal from a course); (2) serving as the appeal body in cases where there is an alleged violation of procedure in school/college Academic Council hearings.

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURE

If a student has a grievance concerning a class in which he or she is enrolled, he/she will first try to resolve the problem with the instructor of the class. If a student has a grievance concerning an academic requirement of the program (e.g., comprehensive examination, final clinical oral examination, clinical placements), he/she will first try to resolve the problem with the director of the program. If it is impossible to resolve the matter at this initial level, the grievance must be placed in writing. Then the student may appeal to the next higher level. The student should inquire in the office of the dean responsible for the course or program in question for the proper appeal procedure if the student's grievance is not resolved to the student's satisfaction after initial appeal to the instructor or the program director.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND AWARDING OF DEGREES

Students are responsible for knowing and meeting curriculum requirements as shown in this catalog.

Those who expect to receive a graduate degree should make clear their intentions to their advisors. A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of either summer session will be awarded the degree in August of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online via CampusCruiser by March 1.** A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the fall semester will be awarded the degree in December of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online via CampusCruiser by July 1.** A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the spring semester will be awarded the degree in May of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online via CampusCruiser by November 1 of the previous year.** The university holds only one formal commencement in the spring to which August, December, and May graduates are invited.

A student who petitions for graduation and who, for whatever reason, is not awarded the degree, must re-petition.

STUDENT STATUS

Students pursuing a course of study in the physical therapy program must register for at least 12 semester hours each semester until all course work in the program has been completed. Students in the physical therapy program may register for more than 18 credits a semester only with approval from the director. Half-time enrollment is defined as a minimum of 6 credits per semester.

TRANSCRIPTS

Students in good financial standing may have copies of their transcripts forwarded to employers, agents, or institutions of higher education by contacting the Office of the Registrar.

FINANCIAL AID

Widener University offers a wide range of financial aid programs. Financial information is available on the university's website at www.widener.edu/admissions/graduate/financial_aid.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

At the start of each semester, students should check CampusCruiser for academic calendar and deadline information.

ANNUAL NOTICE TO STUDENTS REGARDING EDUCATION RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An "eligible student" under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution.) These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the university receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The university official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the university official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the university to amend a record should write the university official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the university decides not to amend the record as requested, the university will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to provide written consent before the university discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The university discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to university officials with legitimate educational interests. A university official is a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including, without limitation, law

enforcement unit personnel, health staff, athletic coaches and trainers, and admissions counselors and recruiters); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A university official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the university who performs an institutional service or function for which the university would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the university with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, contractor, consultant, or collection agent, or a student volunteering to assist another university official in performing his or her tasks. A university official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the university.

Upon request, the university also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Such education records may include updated or corrected information, including, without limitation, disciplinary and health records.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the university to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

- The right to withhold public disclosure of any or all items of “directory information” by written notification to the Registrar’s Office of the university or the School of Law, as applicable, within two weeks after the commencement of the fall or spring semesters of any given academic year. Under current university policy, the term “directory information” includes, without limitation, a student’s name, home and campus address, telephone listing(s), electronic mail address, photographs, major field of study, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

CAMPUS SAFETY

CAMPUS SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

Widener is committed to the safety and security of all members of the Widener University community. The university’s annual Campus Safety and Fire Safety Reports are on the Widener website and contain information on campus security and personal safety, including crime prevention, university law enforcement authority, crime reporting policies, disciplinary procedures, and other campus security matters. The Campus Safety Reports contain statistics for the three previous calendar years on reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings and property owned and controlled by the university, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from campus.

The Fire Safety Report contains information on fire safety systems in on-campus student housing facilities, the number of fire drills held during the previous year, the university’s policies on portable electrical appliances, smoking, and open flames in student housing facilities, the university’s procedures for student housing evacuation in the case of a fire, policies regarding fire safety education and training programs provided to students and employees, a listing of persons or organizations to which fires should be reported, and plans for future improvements in fire safety. It also contains statistics for the three most recent calendar years concerning the number of fires and cause of each fire in each on-campus student housing facility, the number of persons who received fire-related injuries that resulted in treatment at a medical facility, the number of deaths related to a fire, and the value of property damage caused by a fire.

The annual Campus Safety and Fire Safety Reports are available online at www.widener.edu/campussafety. If you would like a printed copy of these reports, contact the Campus Safety Office at 610-499-4203 to have a copy mailed to you. The information in these reports is required by law and is provided by the Campus Safety Office.

Institute for Physical Therapy Education Information

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

PHILOSOPHY

The program espouses a philosophy in which practitioners are partners in furthering the health and wellness of our clients, their support network, our communities, and society. The contemporary practitioner uses the best available evidence, client values, and clinical expertise as they collaborate with other professionals to assist clients in realizing their potential, modifying their lifestyles, and renewing personal objectives. To prepare students to be contemporary practitioners, faculty remain active in clinical practice, scholarly inquiry, and professional engagement, serving as role models and mentors for students.

EDUCATIONAL METHODS AND PRINCIPLES

The program's educational methods are built on the principles of adult education and established around a belief in the learner as a self-directed adult ready to initiate and assume the responsibility for learning. Faculty members guide learning experiences and provide opportunities for a variety of experiential, interactive, and self-directed learning incorporating innovation and technology. Students and faculty develop sustainable relationships and programs with community partners providing a meaningful context for reciprocal learning and engagement.

PROGRAM VALUES

1. Faculty and program staff establish collegial relationships with students as a method to foster leadership potential and professional responsibility.
2. Students provide an integral part of the learning process, establishing patterns for lifelong acquisition and integration of new knowledge.
3. Faculty emphasize engaged teaching and excellence in clinical practice, both of which are enhanced by scholarly inquiry and professional service.
4. Faculty actively mentor students in ways that foster a commitment to their own professional development and provide positive role models in community and professional engagement.
5. Faculty and students espouse the profession's core values as a meaningful framework for interactions among and between students, faculty, clients, and our communities.
6. Together, faculty, program staff, and students are committed to making a positive difference in the health and wellness of the communities in which we work, live, and learn.

MISSION

The mission of the Institute for Physical Therapy Education of Widener University is to graduate clinically competent physical therapists that demonstrate exemplary character and assume the responsibilities of citizenship. Clinically competent graduates manifest the authentic knowledge and skills of the physical therapy profession engaging in evidence-based practice, life-long learning, and autonomous decision-making. The character traits of our graduates enable them to internalize values that support ethical behavior, compassion, and respect for cultural traditions. Graduates, as responsible citizens, collaborate to enhance health care delivery, to empower clients and families, and to contribute to the profession, community, and society.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The philosophy, goals, and objectives of the program are consistent with the articulated mission for graduate studies as reflected in the mission statement of the School of Human Service Professions. The goals and objectives of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program are also based on the mission of the institute and encompass the tenets of competency, character, and citizenship.

COMPETENCY

1. To provide opportunities to gain the knowledge and experiences necessary to be effective general practitioners.
 - *Objective 1.1:* Our graduates will apply scientific knowledge, heuristic values, critical analysis, and a systematic approach in order to provide excellent patient care.
2. To illustrate the importance of engagement in professional development.
 - *Objective 2.1:* Our graduates will make a career commitment to the profession, accepting responsibility for life-long professional development.

CHARACTER

3. To promote insight into the health care needs of individuals and the cultural perspectives represented.
 - *Objective 3.1:* Our graduates will address the cultural, social, psychological, and biological factors that contribute to determinants of health, illness, and disability in populations served by physical therapy.
4. To develop skills in evaluating professional environments to recognize the moral dimension of the health care milieu.
 - *Objective 4.1:* Our graduates will demonstrate compassion and concern for others and value life differences for all consumers of health care.

CITIZENSHIP

5. To encourage active participation in the multiple arenas of the health care delivery system, including patient care, public health, wellness and prevention, advocacy, and professional organizations.
 - *Objective 5.1:* Our graduates will participate in the changing social, economic, legal, and political events that impact health care and facilitate system innovation.
6. To instill awareness and enhance the ability to effectively advocate for clients and their families.
 - *Objective 6.1:* Our graduates will participate in activities that ensure access to effective quality patient care services.
 - *Objective 6.2:* Our graduates will involve patients and families in the decision-making process, empower clients with information, promote healthy lifestyles, and encourage a sense of responsibility for one's own health.
7. To foster an investment in the physical therapy profession, the community, and society.
 - *Objective 7.1:* Our graduates will interact with other professionals and community groups to achieve goals in health care.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum model is best described as a traditional curriculum organized by body systems and by elements of the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*. The curriculum sequence builds from general to specific, normal to abnormal function, and simple to

complex problem solving with clients across the lifespan. Each course introduces new material and also draws on concepts and knowledge from previous courses and student experiences. Selected material from earlier courses is often highlighted, reinforcing prior knowledge and providing content-layering. The implementation of this layering concept is further enhanced by the fact that faculty members teach in their area of content expertise within and across various curricular themes and threads. Content layering in the didactic curriculum is supported by engagement in clinical experiences and activities throughout the curriculum. The seven curricular themes include Foundation Sciences, Body Systems, Client Management, Lifespan, Evidence-based Inquiry, Professional Roles, and Clinical Experiences. Within each theme runs various content area threads. Those can be viewed in the “Curriculum Overview” section.

Supervised clinical experiences, the community health practicum, and the student-run pro bono clinic offer students an opportunity to devise an expanding base of solutions and plans based on realistic cases and clients. This integration of clinical observation and extensive classroom experiential learning and experiences in the student-run pro bono clinic strengthens students’ analysis and understanding of information.

Students will be exposed to these directed and carefully constructed experiences, which are linked to existing course work throughout the three years of the program. These clinical experiences occur throughout the curriculum in addition to the four existing clinical practice courses. Clinical practice courses provide part- and full-time experiences in clinical education and internship.

THE PROFESSION

The *Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education* (2004) provides a template to guide the practice and education of physical therapists. This template involves the inter-related components of the current/future health care environment, higher education, and the body of knowledge related to physical therapy. In addition, *The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice* (2014), a consensus document, attempts to provide a standard definition for physical therapy practice for all practitioners.

The definition of physical therapy provided by *The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice* (3rd edition, 2014) states: “Physical therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical and scientific base and widespread clinical applications in the restoration, maintenance, and promotion of optimal physical function.” The services provided by or under the supervision of a physical therapist include (1) diagnosis and management of movement dysfunction; (2) enhancement and restoration of physical function, wellness, and quality of life; and (3) prevention of onset and progression of impairments of body functions and structures, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.

PHYSICAL THERAPY ENTRY OPTIONS

The following information is intended to guide students who are planning to enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Widener University. A number of options are available for entry to the program. Each student must select the option that is most appropriate for him or her.

OPTION ONE

Undergraduate students from Widener University, as well as students from articulated institutions, may qualify to enter Widener’s graduate program in physical therapy following their third year of

study under the 3+3 or 4+3 track. To do this, Widener students must major in anthropology, biology, fine arts, psychology, or sociology and take a specially determined sequence of courses. Specific details of the 3+3 or 4+3 curriculum ladders are reviewed in detail in Widener University’s *Undergraduate Catalog*. A list of articulated colleges and their majors is available from the Institute for Physical Therapy Education upon request.

The 3+3 program enables undergraduate students majoring in anthropology, biology, fine arts, psychology, or sociology to complete prerequisite course work and apply for matriculation to Widener’s graduate physical therapy program during their junior year. *Because of the intense demands of these curriculum ladders, the 3+3 program is recommended only for students with a record of outstanding academic achievement at the high school level.*

Those students accepted into the graduate program through this option begin their physical therapy curriculum in the summer prior to their fourth year of study at the university. Students following these curriculum ladders must meet all requirements of their selected major as described in the *Undergraduate Catalog* in the sections pertaining to the science division, the social science division, and the humanities division of the College of Arts and Sciences. Students following these curriculum ladders must also satisfy the general education requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. Please see the relevant sections of the *Undergraduate Catalog* for details. Students who successfully complete the prescribed program of study are guaranteed a seat in Widener University’s graduate physical therapy program.

To remain in the 3+3 or 4+3 guaranteed program, the student must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 while pursuing one of the pre-physical therapy curriculum ladders. In addition, the student must complete all of the specific courses required for admission to the graduate physical therapy program with a minimum grade of B in each course. By the time of application to matriculate in the graduate DPT program (end of undergraduate fall junior year 3+3, end of undergraduate fall senior year 4+3), students must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher to gain entrance. Students who fail to meet these requirements can still apply for admission to the graduate physical therapy program; see the section on *alternate admission* to the graduate physical therapy program.

Also by the time of application to matriculate, he or she must complete all required volunteer work in physical therapy practice sites. The student must also submit by November 15 that year a complete set of supplemental materials required by the graduate physical therapy program, including one letter of recommendation from a physical therapist, the transcript analysis form, and confirmation/documentation of at least 40 observation hours in physical therapy. The letter of recommendation and documentation of observation hours must meet the existing standards for all applicants to the physical therapy program.

The courses that the 3+3 students take during the first year of the physical therapy program count toward requirements for the baccalaureate degree and toward requirements for the graduate physical therapy degree. The baccalaureate degree in anthropology, biology, fine arts, psychology, or sociology is conferred upon completion of the first year of graduate study. Students pursuing these pre-physical therapy curriculum ladders should consult with the advisors in the physical therapy program in the School of Human Service Professions, in addition to their science, social science, or humanities faculty advisor.

OPTION TWO

Applicants holding a bachelor's degree in any discipline from this or another university may apply to the program under the entry-level DPT track. Students entering under this option usually include recent graduates and students seeking a career change. Students are encouraged to contact the program early to assess the need for completion of prerequisite course work. Courses taken in preparation for entry may be completed at Widener University or at another university or college. Students holding the bachelor's degree from this or another university or college may apply to the program in the regular admissions cycle.

OPTION THREE

Students who have completed a course of study in a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program, earning an associate's degree from an accredited university or college, may enter the Center for Continuing Studies to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Allied Health. Advanced standing will be offered for the professional courses from the PTA school (up to 30 credits). Additional courses that fulfill the prerequisites for the physical therapy curriculum will also be counted in the student's advanced standing. Therefore, students may earn up to 60 credits in advanced standing prior to admission to Continuing Studies. Students who have completed the equivalent of five semesters of undergraduate course work in the Center for Continuing Studies are eligible to apply for admission to the physical therapy program if their plan for completion of prerequisites demonstrates an ability to complete all course work by the following May. Applicants are required to submit GRE scores as part of the application process and follow all application procedures.

Physical Therapist Assistant students accepted into the program will also be offered the opportunity to sit for challenge exams for specific course content. These areas of study are to be determined by the faculty. Processes regarding specific challenge exams will be made available by the faculty to the student upon request. In addition, the PTA student may elect to have certain laboratory experiences waived. The labs available for waiver opportunities will be determined by the faculty as needed.

Students who have studied in health-related programs other than PTA programs may use the Continuing Studies option for completion of prerequisites and to earn a bachelor's degree. Challenge exams may be open to these students based on faculty decision, but the waiver of laboratory experiences is closed.

ADMISSION GUIDELINES

Admission guidelines are established by the faculty in compliance with university standards for graduate programs. Admission to a graduate program of study will be restricted to students who demonstrate the capacity for graduate-level studies through performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and a satisfactory grade point average (GPA). Guaranteed students have the GRE requirement waived. A prerequisite GPA is recomputed for all applicants. The science portion of the recomputed GPA is expected to be at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). GRE scores at or near the 50th percentile for each component are expected for admission to the program. These are minimum requirements. Students offered acceptance into the program often exceed these minimums.

The following prerequisite courses are required for all domestic applicants:

Biology	3 semester hours
Anatomy*	3 semester hours (science dept. course; human anatomy preferred)
Physiology*	3 semester hours (science dept. course; human physiology preferred)
Chemistry	8 semester hours
Physics	6 semester hours (noncalculus based is acceptable; the course must include the physics of light, sound, heat, electricity)
Social Science	9 semester hours (6 semester hours of psychology and 3 semester hours of social science; sociology or anthropology preferred)
Statistics	3 semester hours (inferential & descriptive)

* *Anatomy and Physiology I and II are also accepted.*

Pre-PT students from Widener and other institutions with articulation agreements should consult their undergraduate catalog for prerequisites. In addition, students are expected to submit GRE scores and provide evidence of observation (paid or volunteer) in physical therapy. Three letters of recommendation are required. One of the letters must be from a physical therapist, and another must be from a professor. Submission of health requirements, clearances, and successful completion of Professional Rescuer CPR and First Aid will be required prior to the start of the fall semester of the first year. Prior to matriculation, those admitted to the program must attest to their ability, with or without reasonable accommodation, to perform all essential functions described in the institute's *Essential Functions Document*.

Notice to Applicants: As of July 1, 2011, the program will only accept applications via the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS), www.ptcas.org. This applies to all applicants with the exception of students in the 3+3 and 4+3 guaranteed programs. The soft deadline for completing applications via PTCAS is November 15 of each year, with a firm deadline of January 15 of each year. Applicants will receive notification of the receipt of application materials from PTCAS and will be kept apprised of the status of any outstanding materials. The review of applications takes place from November to April. Applicants will be notified when the decisions are made.

The program requires students to obtain criminal and child abuse clearances in each year of enrollment. A prior felony conviction may make a student ineligible for physical therapy licensure and, therefore, ineligible for admission to the program. Prospective students who have had felony or other convictions should consult the Pennsylvania State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners in Harrisburg (or other relevant licensure state boards) for licensure specifics.

International Students

International students should consult the International Student Services web page at www.widener.edu for international graduate student guidelines or contact the Office of International Student Services at Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; phone: 610-499-4499.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Taking more than 18 credits in any semester will need the approval of the associate dean and faculty.

YEAR ONE		Credits
Summer Sessions		6
PT 708	Anatomy	6
Fall Semester		17
BIOL 505	Histology	3
PT 703	The Health Care Market	4
PT 713	Lifespan I	2
PT 716	Global Health I	1
PT 725	Kinesiology	3
PT 730	Client Management I	3
PT 771	Community Health Practicum I	1
Spring Semester		15
PT 709	Neuromuscular System I	4
PT 724	Clinical Practice I*	0
PT 726	Multisystem Exam., Eval., & Dx	4
PT 727	Musculoskeletal System I	4
PT 750	Evidence-Based Inquiry I	2
PT 772	Community Health Practicum II	1
YEAR TWO		Credits
Summer Sessions		12
PT 728	Cognitive Neuroscience	2
PT 732	Musculoskeletal System II	4
PT 737	Visceral Systems	2
PT 770	Grand Rounds	2
PT 818	Health Promotion & Wellness	2
Fall Semester		15
PT 718	Global Health II	1
PT 729	Cardio., Pulmonary, & Integ. Systems	4
PT 733	Client Management II	3
PT 736	Musculoskeletal System III	4
PT 751	Evidence-Based Inquiry II	2
PT 773	Community Health Practicum III	1
Spring Semester		17
PT 752	Evidence-Based Inquiry III	2
PT 774	Community Health Practicum IV	1
PT 805	Client Management III	2
PT 813	Lifespan II	4
PT 820	Client Management IV	4
PT 837	Neuromuscular System II	4
YEAR THREE		Credits
Summer Sessions		6
PT 780	Clinical Practice II	6
Fall Semester		15
PT 715	Teaching & Learning	2
PT 775	Community Health Practicum V	1
PT 810	Administration & Leadership	4
PT 840	Lifestyle & Disability	2
PT 880	Client Management V	2
PT 881	Client Management VI	2
PT Elective	PT 887, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 895	2
Spring Semester		14
PT 800	Comprehensive Exam	1
PT 865	Clinical Practice III	6
PT 866	Clinical Practice IV	7
Total Credits		120

*PT 724 is a pass/fail course.

SPECIAL STATUS STUDENT

Occasionally, practicing licensed physical therapists are interested in completing courses offered by the graduate program but do not wish to pursue graduate degrees. The physical therapy program encourages physical therapists to increase or review their areas of knowledge and training. Therefore, students who are not matriculated in the DPT program are permitted to enroll in graduate courses at the 700 or 800 level. It is not necessary for a special status student to provide letters of recommendation or pay the required application fee for admission into the graduate division. Priority for enrollment for all courses goes to those students who are officially admitted into the graduate division. Students may enroll only with written permission of the associate dean.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy, the candidate must:

- Comply with all general requirements of Widener University relating to the governance of graduate programs.
- Complete all the degree requirements within a total of three calendar years from the date of matriculation, unless otherwise given permission by the Academic Standards Review Committee to extend the time.
- Complete at least 120 credits of approved graduate course work (including transfer credit and advanced standing credit).
- Successfully complete all clinical practice courses.
- Have a cumulative GPA of B (3.0) or better.
- Pass all laboratory exercises and examinations.
- Pass the comprehensive examination.

Please note that a waiver of any requirement for the degree must be approved in writing by the associate dean.

TRANSFER CREDIT

Students who are admitted to the DPT program may request to transfer a maximum of 12 semester hours of graduate course work completed in a related discipline for advanced standing in the program. Fifteen credits of equivalent work in another CAPTE accredited program may be transferable after review by the faculty and the associate dean. To be accepted for transfer credit, graduate courses must be recent (within two calendar years) and indicate a high degree of scholarship (grades of A or B). Students wishing to transfer credit must first apply in the usual cycle of admissions and must meet all other requirements for admission. An evaluation for transfer credit will not be done prior to the applicant being offered a position in the incoming class through the regular admissions process.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND STANDARDS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

In addition to those policies and standards noted previously, the following are required in Widener's physical therapy program:

- A maximum of three core courses may be waived without replacement for graduate courses of equivalent quality and content taken elsewhere. Additional courses may be waived with replacement by permission of the associate dean.
- Any student who earns a semester GPA below a 3.0 will automatically be put on academic probation. If a student has a second semester on probation at any time in the program, the student will be required to meet with the Academic Standards Review Committee. The committee will discuss performance issues and may dismiss the student from the

program. This decision is made after careful consideration of the student's overall performance in the program. If a student has any additional semester on probation in any subsequent semester, he or she will be required to again meet with the Academic Standards Review Committee, which will determine if the student can continue in the program.

- If a student fails a course, that course may be repeated only once with permission of the Academic Standards Review Committee. The student may also be prohibited from moving forward in the lock-step program until those courses in which the student received a failing grade are repeated successfully. Successful completion of any repeated course requires a grade of B or better. After the student successfully repeats a failed course, both grades are recorded on the transcript but only the most recent grade is used in calculating the GPA. However, when a student is convicted under Widener's academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the F grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation. To graduate, students must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 on a standard 4.0 system. No student will graduate from the physical therapy program with an incomplete grade.
- If a student fails to meet the degree requirements in a timely manner, the school may dismiss the student. Once a student has been dismissed, he/she may no longer enroll in graduate programs of the university and may not apply for admission into another division of the university.
- If a student repeatedly fails courses, the school may dismiss the student. A student will be dismissed from the program when his/her cumulative average is below 3.0 and when a grade of C is received in a second course in the same semester. The student may petition the Academic Standards Review Committee for readmission. The committee may require the student to repeat those and other courses. Successful completion of a repeated course will require the student to achieve a grade of no less than a B. Failure to achieve a grade of B will result in dismissal from the program.
- Conduct inconsistent with the ethical and professional standards of the discipline, whether it occurs before or after matriculation, is grounds for dismissal from the program.
- The code of responsible conduct for graduate students requires that each student maintain academic integrity and act according to this code in all academic matters. Students are asked to read and sign the policy on academic integrity upon entering the program. They are also expected to abide by the code of ethics and uphold the standards of practice for physical therapy as published by the American Physical Therapy Association. Clinical integrity should model academic integrity. Students should refer to standards for clinical behavior published in the program's clinical education manual. Scientific misconduct is defined in the document *Honor in Science* published by Sigma Xi Research Society.
- After acceptance and prior to enrollment in the program, all students will receive the "Essential Functions Document" to review and sign. This document outlines the essential functions of a physical therapy student in the program at Widener University. Students will attest to their ability to perform these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations. If the student needs accommodation, more information about reasonable accommodations can be obtained by contacting Disabilities Services.

- Misconduct outside the program that results in a felony conviction may make a student ineligible for licensure as a physical therapist; hence, students who are convicted of a felony may be dismissed.

CLINICAL EDUCATION STANDARDS

- A student will be allowed to participate in clinical practice courses when all prerequisite course work has been successfully completed. A student whose prior semester GPA is less than a 3.0 in the physical therapy curriculum must meet with the Academic Standards Review Committee. The Academic Standards Review Committee will (1) determine if the student can participate in the clinical practice phase of the curriculum and (2) review the student's performance in the curriculum to determine if continuation in the program is possible. If a grade of I (Incomplete) has been issued for any prerequisite course(s), entry in clinical education experiences is at the discretion and mutual consensus of the associate dean and the director of clinical education (DCE). A plan for course completion and resolution of the Incomplete must be approved by the professor(s) of the course. The current grade in the course must also meet "Academic Policies and Standards in Physical Therapy," described above.
- At the midterm and final evaluation, the student will also rate his/her individual performance using a separate copy of the evaluation tool. This self-evaluation is also discussed during the formal feedback session as a way to enhance the student's ability to evaluate his or her own performance. Experience with self-evaluation is critical for students to assist them with their future development of professional goals.
- Once the final evaluation is completed and signed by the student and the CI, the CI or CCCE will submit the evaluation to the DCE.
- Students will also be asked to evaluate the clinical education experience using a "Site Evaluation" form. These evaluations will provide helpful information regarding the site, the clinical instructor to the DCE, and the clinical facility.
- Based upon the ratings and comments provided by the CI, and possibly the CCCE, the DCE will assign a final grade for each experience completed by an individual student. The grades will be recorded as Pass or No Pass.
- If a No Pass grade is received, the DCE will determine if a student is entitled to remediate by completing another clinical experience, or, if, through the assistance of the respective clinical faculty, further time at that particular facility will meet the needs of the student. If the student is required to complete an additional clinical experience, the DCE will determine when and where the student will repeat the clinical experience.
- If a student has a total of two No Pass grades in any of the clinical practice courses, including repeated attempts, that student will be dismissed from the program.
- If a student is unable to successfully complete a scheduled clinical practice course, progression in the curriculum will be allowed so long as the student is no more than one professional practice course behind the class. The reasons for such a situation may be, but are not limited to, an Incomplete or No Pass grade in a clinical practice course or personal reasons.

MATRICULATION

A matriculated student is one who meets all entrance requirements and is pursuing an approved program that leads to a graduate degree.

ATTENDANCE

Students enrolled in graduate courses are considered to be mature students. For this reason, there is no general policy for attendance in graduate courses. However, with certain courses, it is appropriate for the instructor to make regular class attendance mandatory. Such policies will be announced during the first class meeting and included in the course syllabus.

GRADING IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Graduate students in the physical therapy program are expected to maintain satisfactory progress toward their graduate degree. The graduate record for a student begins with the first course in which he/she enrolls and includes all subsequent courses.

Grading Scale:

94 and above	A
90 - 93	A-
87 - 89	B+
83 - 86	B
80 - 82	B-
77 - 79	C+
75 - 76	C
74 and below	F

Note: For specific information on grades, see “Grading System” in the “School of Human Professions Information” section.

Pass/No Pass—Almost all graduate courses in physical therapy will give standard letter grades. The special nature of some courses will require that they be graded on a Pass/No Pass basis.

Students who elect to withdraw from a required physical therapy course may not continue with the program unless permission is granted following review by the Academic Standards Review Committee.

GRADUATION

Students can officially graduate at the end of the fall, spring, and summer terms. Only one graduation ceremony is held each year. Commencement is in May following the spring semester. Students planning to graduate must file a petition. (For more information, see sections titled “Goals and Objectives” and “Degree Requirements.”)

ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association accredits physical therapy education programs in the United States. The program received its initial accreditation in May 1996, when it offered the Master of Science in Physical Therapy. In May 2000, the program was granted accreditation to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Contact information for CAPTE and accreditation status of the program can be optioned on the program’s website at www.widener.edu/ipte, click on “Accreditations and Outcomes.”

Courses

Taking more than 18 credits in any semester will need the approval of the associate dean.

BIOL 505 HISTOLOGY

This course includes a comprehensive study of the microscopic and submicroscopic structure of mammalian tissues. Emphasis is placed on the function of cellular structures and recent research findings in the area of cellular biology. 3 semester hours

PT 703 THE HEALTH CARE MARKET

This course starts with an overview of the health care market, including the financing, delivery, and organization of medical care services. Topics include health care costs and cost containment, regulation, quality of care, health insurance—both public and private, and health care politics. The course then transitions to the roles of a physical therapist in the broader health care system, as well as the interdisciplinary nature of clinical practice. The professional, legal, and ethical responsibilities inherent in the relationships with clients, colleagues, families, and communities will be discussed. 4 semester hours

PT 708 ANATOMY

This course covers the study of human anatomical structures as they relate to movement, physiological demands of activity, and exercise. Specimens, models, and videos aid a regional approach to the study of structures. The course consists of both lectures and laboratory experiences with pro-section and cadaver dissection. 6 semester hours

PT 709 NEUROMUSCULAR SYSTEM I

This course focuses on the normal and abnormal physiology of the neuromuscular system including concepts of neuroscience in the practice of physical therapy. It defines the relationship between structure, function, and control of the human nervous system in normal and pathological states. This course builds a foundation for courses later in the curriculum that will address the examination, evaluation, and intervention of patients with neurological conditions. 4 semester hours

PT 713 LIFESPAN I

This course provides a foundation for physical therapy practice with individuals throughout adulthood. It covers the typical aging process from early adulthood through older adulthood. Topics related to the psychosocial, motor, and cognitive impact of aging are addressed. Particular emphasis is placed on the relationship between the aging process and realistic goal-setting for physical therapy intervention of clients throughout adulthood. 2 semester hours

PT 715 TEACHING AND LEARNING

This course introduces formal educational and learning theory and their applications to the classroom and the client care settings. Students will have the opportunity to learn the process of evaluating learner needs, develop a plan to address those needs, and learn to evaluate the outcomes of the teaching session. Woven throughout this course are opportunities for students to develop self-assessment and conduct peer assessment. This course possesses a service-learning component with which students complete and administer a community health teaching module within the community. The course culminates with a practical examination so students can apply new skills and demonstrate competence in the course content of teaching and learning. 2 semester hours

PT 716 GLOBAL HEALTH I

This course exposes students to the physical therapist's professional role in community health. The contents cover health disparities and social determinants of health, health literacy, and issues of health care access. Issues and history specific to the City of Chester are addressed. A required reading provides a framework for class discussion and reflection. 1 semester hour

PT 718 GLOBAL HEALTH II

This course explores the many facets of cultural considerations for the physical therapist. The content covers communication, health beliefs/practices, use of a translator, and conducting a cultural assessment. Emphasis is placed on practical considerations for the physical therapist. A required reading provides a framework for class discussion and reflection, and a required cultural interview helps students with self-assessment as well as practical application. 1 semester hour

PT 724 CLINICAL PRACTICE I

This course, with its emphasis on clinical practice, initiates an understanding of the full role of the physical therapist based on focused and directed clinical experiences. Topics include the development of professional behaviors, self-assessment/reflective practice, clinical reasoning and decision-making in physical therapy, and the development of expertise in physical therapy. Students spend 30 hours observing in various local clinics. This is a pass/fail course. 0 semester hours

PT 725 KINESIOLOGY

This course covers analysis of human posture and movement in normal and abnormal states. The course includes palpation of anatomical structures and study of the principles of biomechanics, including arthro-kinematics, osteokinematics, and kinetics. 3 semester hours

PT 726 MULTISYSTEM EXAMINATION, EVALUATION, DIAGNOSIS

This course covers the administration of test and measures to collect data pertaining to body system states, general health status, and functional capacity of clients for screening or the determination of a physical therapy diagnosis, planning of treatment interventions, evaluating outcomes of care, and referral to other practitioners. 4 semester hours

PT 727 MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM I

This course focuses on the normal and abnormal physiology of the musculoskeletal system in the practice of physical therapy. A review of selected musculoskeletal conditions address the incidence/prevalence, etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, diagnostic imaging procedures, medical/surgical/pharmacologic management, as well as prognosis and potential for recovery for selected conditions. This course is used to build a foundation for courses later in the curriculum that will address the examination, evaluation, and intervention of patients with musculoskeletal conditions. 4 semester hours

PT 728 COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

This course provides a basis for understanding the role of cognitive neuroscience in the practice of physical therapy. Topics that will be discussed in the context of normal and abnormal function include attention, memory, language, executive function, and motor learning in typical and patient populations. 2 semester hours

PT 729 CARDIOVASCULAR, PULMONARY, AND INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEMS

This course focuses on the normal and abnormal physiology of the cardiovascular and pulmonary and integumentary systems in

the practice of physical therapy. A review of selected conditions of the cardiovascular, pulmonary, and integumentary systems address the incidence/prevalence, etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, diagnostic imaging procedures, medical/surgical/pharmacologic management, as well as prognosis and potential for recovery for selected conditions. This course is used to build a foundation for courses later in the curriculum that will address the examination, evaluation, and intervention of patients with cardiovascular, pulmonary, and integumentary conditions. 4 semester hours

PT 730 CLIENT MANAGEMENT I

This course consists of basic interventions administered by a physical therapist in a clinical setting. The course includes basic gait training, physical modalities, transfers, safety procedures, massage, and documentation, including electronic documentation. Lecture and laboratory components prepare students for direct patient care. 3 semester hours

PT 732 MUSCULOSKELETAL II

This course includes a regional approach to the musculoskeletal examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and prognosis of the upper and lower extremities. Throughout the course, an emphasis is placed upon the process of clinical decision making for the client with a dysfunction in the musculoskeletal condition. Students utilize examination findings to establish a differential diagnosis that informs intervention. The intervention component includes the theory and practical application of therapeutic exercise and manual interventions, including range of motion, proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation, mobilization, stretching, and progressive resistance activities, as well as adjunctive interventions. 4 semester hours

PT 733 CLIENT MANAGEMENT II

The course explores the process of examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention used in providing physical therapy to clients that are typically seen in rehabilitation settings, which includes spinal cord injury, amputation, cerebral vascular accident, traumatic brain injury, and joint replacement. Principles of evidence-based practice, the relationship between impairments and function, and the importance of family/client education are emphasized throughout the course. 3 semester hours

PT 736 MUSCULOSKELETAL III

This course includes a regional approach to the musculoskeletal examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and prognosis of the spine. Students utilize examination findings to establish a differential diagnosis that informs intervention. Throughout the course an emphasis is placed upon the process of clinical decision making for the client with an orthopedic dysfunction, disease, or injury and students review selected musculoskeletal diagnoses. The intervention component includes the theory and practical application of therapeutic exercise and manual interventions. The principles of range of motion, proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation, mobilization, stretching, and progressive resistance activities are included, in addition to a review of adjunctive interventions. Rationale and methods for intervention planning are emphasized as they relate to the solution of client problems. 4 semester hours

PT 737 VISCERAL SYSTEMS

This course focuses on the normal and abnormal physiology of various organ systems related to the practice of physical therapy. A review of selected health conditions address the incidence/prevalence, etiology, clinical signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis, diagnostic imaging procedures, medical/surgical/

pharmacologic management, as well as prognosis and potential for recovery for selected conditions. This course builds a foundation for medical screening by the physical therapist. 2 semester hours

PT 750 EVIDENCE-BASED INQUIRY I

This course explores concepts of qualitative and quantitative research as a broad frame in formulating and answering relevant clinical research questions and fostering an understanding of principles of evidence-based clinical practice. Students are encouraged to compose questions in the context of contemporary health care and physical therapy practice that address etiology, diagnosis and screening, intervention, prognosis, economic impact, or harm. The course focus is also on examining issues in health care related to health status, body function and structure, activity, and participation. 2 semester hours

PT 751 EVIDENCE-BASED INQUIRY II

The course focuses on the application of principles of clinical research to physical therapy practice. A primary objective is for students to acquire the knowledge, understanding, and skill necessary to critically read and research the literature in physical therapy. In addition, students analyze, interpret, and present data from standardized data sets and classroom initiated projects. Students are expected to become proficient in the interpretation of published research by demonstrating knowledge of the application of statistics and different methods of research. The course also focuses on critically examining the psychometric properties of tests and measures of health status, body function and structure, activity, and participation. 2 semester hours

PT 752 EVIDENCE-BASED INQUIRY III

This course is an introduction to qualitative research with an emphasis on the role that qualitative research fills in the evidence-based practice of physical therapy. The course covers the assumptions of the qualitative paradigm, includes a comparison to the quantitative paradigm, and considers how both approaches might be used together. Students have many opportunities to study the qualitative literature related to physical therapy to enhance their understandings of the concepts and expose them to practical applications. The course includes a fieldwork experience and culminates in a project in which student groups present an article critique. 2 semester hours

PT 770 GRAND ROUNDS

This course provides an additional opportunity for students serving in the Chester Community Physical Therapy Clinic to participate in and receive mentoring regarding the services provided via the clinic. Students work in groups with a clinician mentor to collaborate on aspects of the patient/client management model for active cases in order to optimize outcomes. 2 semester hours

PT 771 COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTICUM I

This practicum is a service-learning course designed to address the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) code of ethics call to address the health needs of society and to also address the core value of social responsibility. The Widener University IPTE Community Health Practicum introduces physical therapist students to concepts related to the role of physical therapists in prevention and the promotion of health, wellness, and fitness. Physical therapist students have the opportunity to gain an understanding and appreciation of the relationship between health and wellness, physical therapist professionals, and the culture and needs of local social groups. Students participate in ongoing programming at three sites (Freedom Baptist

Church After School Physical Activity Program, Widener Child Development Center Physical Activity Program, Stinson Towers Physical Activity Program.) Students also participate in one bike helmet giveaway/brain safety fair. Throughout the entire Community Health Practicum sequence, students engage in at least 30 hours of direct service-learning within the community. 1 semester hour

PT 772 COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTICUM II

This practicum is a continuation of PT 771. 1 semester hour

PT 773 COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTICUM III

This practicum is a continuation of PT 772. 1 semester hour

PT 774 COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTICUM IV

This practicum is a continuation of PT 773. 1 semester hour

PT 775 COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTICUM V

This practicum is a continuation of PT 774. 1 semester hour

PT 780 CLINICAL PRACTICE II

This course entails full-time assignment to a clinical setting for 10 weeks of practice with a clinical instructor. A variety of settings are selected for internships, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private practice settings, rehabilitation hospitals, home care agencies, and industrial health programs. Seminars are scheduled on campus prior to and following clinical affiliations. 6 semester hours

PT 800 COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

This course is composed of the preparation and administration of a comprehensive exam, a culminating experience that reflects mastery of the didactic component of the entry-level physical therapy curriculum. The examination is 3.5 hours in duration and is comprised of three sets of 50 multiple choice questions. 1 semester hour

PT 805 CLIENT MANAGEMENT III

This course focuses on the administration of therapeutic ultrasound and electrophysiologic modalities administered by a physical therapist in a clinical setting. Lecture and laboratory components prepare students for direct patient care. 2 semester hours

PT 810 ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

This course is designed to expose students to the issues associated with administration and leadership in physical therapy practice. The administration portion focuses on practice management including human resources, financial issues, and legal/ethic practice. Leadership materials are framed in the construct of federal, state, and local regulation and the advancement of the profession. A variety of lecture, class activities, student-led discussions, and student projects are used to explore various topics. 4 semester hours

PT 813 LIFESPAN II

This course provides a foundation for physical therapy practice with individuals, infancy through adolescence. The course begins with a survey of normal growth and development in the areas of motor, cognitive, communication, and psychosocial development. Particular emphasis is placed on differentiating the typical from the atypical as a foundation for examination and evaluation of pediatric clients. Elements of standardized and developmental tests and measures as well strategies for physical therapy interventions for movement dysfunction in the pediatric population are explored. Students gain hands-on experiences through guided laboratory sessions and visits to pediatric clinical settings. 4 semester hours

PT 818 HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS

This course marks the transition toward a leadership role at the students' assigned community health practicum site. Students learn how to conduct a needs assessment; create program mission, goals, and objectives; design and implement a health promotion program; and plan and conduct an evaluation of this program. The students engage in formal writing and creation of a poster. 2 semester hours

PT 820 CLIENT MANAGEMENT IV

This course focuses on developing and refining examination and intervention skills in patients with acute pathologies. The course includes a didactic and lab component intended to develop the students' abilities in performing skills such as strength, ROM assessment, balance, coordination, proprioception, auscultation of the heart and lungs, chest wall excursion, and breathing pattern. In addition, students gain exposure to interventional skills, including not only functional mobility, but also airway clearance and chest wall mobility techniques. Cases encountered in this class encompass the musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, integumentary, and cardiopulmonary systems. 4 semester hours

PT 837 NEUROMUSCULAR SYSTEM II

The course explores the process of examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention used in providing physical therapy to clients with neurological dysfunction. The course is focused on common neuromuscular conditions including stroke, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's disease, and spinal cord injury. Principles of evidence-based practice, the relationship between impairments and function, and the importance of family/client education are emphasized throughout the course. 4 semester hours

PT 840 LIFESTYLE AND DISABILITY

This course covers the impact of disability and health conditions on individuals, families, and society. Student group presentations explore the political and societal history of persons with disabilities, including a historical perspective of the media and assistive technology. Other student presentations explore the individual experience and challenges of a person with a disability. A required reading exposes students to family considerations, and two guest presenters share their personal accounts. The overall goal of the course is to challenge students to consider the contextual, environmental, and personal factors impacting a person with a disability. 2 semester hours

PT 865 CLINICAL PRACTICE III

This course entails a full-time assignment to a clinical setting for 10 weeks of practice with a clinical instructor. A variety of settings are selected for internships, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private practice settings, rehabilitation hospitals, home care agencies, and industrial health programs. Seminars will be scheduled on campus prior to and following clinical internships. 6 semester hours

PT 866 CLINICAL PRACTICE IV

This course entails a full-time assignment to a clinical setting for 12 weeks of practice with a clinical instructor. A variety of settings are selected for internships, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, private practice settings, rehabilitation hospitals, home care agencies, and industrial health programs. Seminars will be scheduled on campus prior to and following clinical internships. 7 semester hours

PT 880 CLIENT MANAGEMENT V

This course serves to provide students with entry-level knowledge and skill for implementing advanced examination and intervention strategies. Students are exposed to a variety of areas of musculoskeletal physical therapy speciality practice through lecture and lab experiences that feature complex patient cases. The class incorporates a variety of active learning opportunities, including lecture, lab, and individual/group problem solving. 2 semester hours

PT 881 CLIENT MANAGEMENT VI

The course is designed to explore special topics and issues with regard to the process of examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention used in providing physical therapy to clients with various diagnoses. Principles of evidence-based practice, the relationship between impairments and function, and the importance of family/client education are emphasized throughout the course. 2 semester hours

PT 887-893 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV

Elective courses of study. Topics are selected based on student and faculty interest.

PT 887 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: SPORTS

This elective course explores physical therapy intervention that is specific to the athletic environment. Preseason screening, athletic injuries, conditioning, environmental and ergogenic agents, bracing/taping/wrapping, plyometrics, and isokinetic testing are examined. 2 semester hours

PT 889 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: INDEPENDENT STUDY

This elective course stresses independent study in physical therapy. Students work out a plan for independent study in a particular area in conjunction with a faculty member or adjunct clinical expert. 2 semester hours

PT 890 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: GERIATRICS

This elective course provides students who are interested in the field of geriatric physical therapy with an opportunity to explore current issues related to evidence-based practice. This course is comprised of two hours of lecture, laboratory, guided inquiry, and possible site visits. 2 semester hours

PT 891 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: PEDIATRICS

This elective course provides students who are interested in the field of pediatric physical therapy with an opportunity to explore issues related to current practice. Students are exposed to the many settings that pediatric therapists function in through visits to an early intervention center, the school environment, a NICU, outpatient clinic, and long-term care setting (as available). This course is comprised of two hours of lecture, laboratory, and guided inquiry. 2 semester hours

PT 892 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: REHABILITATION

This course focuses on providing opportunities for an advanced exploration of selected topical areas in rehabilitation practice. The course critically appraises the theoretical foundations that are pertinent to current clinical practice in each of the topical areas surveyed. Incorporated throughout the course are multiple opportunities for structured and guided interactions with selected patient populations to promote integration of didactic experiences with clinical practice. Course topics vary each year and are selected by the students participating in the course in consultation with primary course instructors. The course is comprised of a total of six

hours of lecture, independent student, and guided clinical observation per week (eight-week term). 2 semester hours

PT 893 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV: MANUAL THERAPY
This orthopaedic manual therapy elective provides students with an eclectic, entry-level knowledge of manual therapy strategies currently in use for the management of patients with musculoskeletal impairment. These strategies range from soft tissue mobilization techniques to direct and indirect joint mobilization techniques for the spine and extremities. Lab activities, which comprise the majority of the course, focus on developing entry-level proficiency in a variety of techniques that may be immediately translated into direct clinical practice. Lecture focuses on providing the theoretical framework and scientific evidence to substantiate the use of each methodology covered. An emphasis is placed on the integration of manual techniques into a comprehensive examination and intervention plan. 2 semester hours

**PT 895 ADVANCED PRACTICE IV:
CARDIOPULMONARY**
This course provides students with background on advanced topics related to the cardiopulmonary system. Students learn about advanced exercise testing, including Bruce protocol stress tests; gain advanced knowledge of pacemakers and defibrillators; and interact with cardiopulmonary professionals around topics such as working pediatric patients with assist devices, advanced heart failure, and heart transplant. The course includes independent study opportunities, observation opportunities, journal reviews, and in-class discussions. This course is conducted in a small group format. 2 semester hours

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