

Gannon University
Erie, PA

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Gannon University's Board of Trustees approved the Physical Therapy Program's curriculum and degree change from the Masters of Physical Therapy (MPT) to the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree in May of 2003. The Pennsylvania Department of Education approved the program the following year and the first class matriculated in fall of 2004.

The Mission of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Gannon University is to graduate knowledgeable, service-oriented, self-assured, adaptable, and reflective practitioners, who render independent judgments concerning patient/client needs that are supported by evidence through their virtue of critical and integrative thinking, commitment to lifelong learning, and ethical values. Graduates possess intellectual perception and psychomotor proficiency to meet the current and future needs of the profession and health care system through the provision of culturally sensitive patient/client-centered care for the diagnosis of, intervention for, and prevention of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities related to movement, function, and health.

The program consists of 8 semesters and 105 credit hours. It is an integrated, problem-oriented curriculum. Examination, evaluation, differential diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and outcomes are integrated into the clinical science course. Evidence-based practice (EBP) applications are incorporated into each systems-based patient/client case in the clinical sciences, management, and research courses. There are 40 weeks of Clinical Education with the addition of a didactic clinical synthesis seminar for application of EBP from the external fieldwork experiences. Research opportunities are available at Shriner's Hospital and the greater Erie area.

In addition, a 5-credit community health initiative sequence provides community-based learning experiences. These experiences will make available experiences for the student to acquire skills in health promotion and wellness, and to develop their professional role as educators, advocates, and consultants working with community organizations in the community. This particular component provides a distinction to our program when compared to other physical therapy education programs. Another feature of our program is the addition of elective credits that allow students to customize their education and permit them to take courses in other disciplines such as business, dietetics, geriatrics, education, psychology/counseling, medical Spanish, foreign language, sign language, exercise sciences, specialty electives that the physical therapy faculty may design, or student-developed/faculty-guided independent study.

<http://www.gannon.edu/RESOURCE/DEPT/physther>

1 st Semester - Fall		2 nd Semester - Spring		3 rd Semester –Summer	
Health Care System & Policy I	2	Examination, Evaluation, and Intervention for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Dysfunction	3	Health Care System & Policy II	2
Applied Anatomy	2			Foundations in Geriatrics	2
Foundations in Human Movement	6	Examination, Evaluation, and Intervention for Musculoskeletal Movement Dysfunction	12	Clinical Practicum I (10 Weeks)	5
Research Applications: Evidence-Based Practice I	2	Community Health Initiative II	1		
	3				
Basic Physical Therapy Practice and Interventions	1				
Community Health Initiative I					
4 th Semester - Fall		5 th Semester - Spring		6 th Semester –Summer	
Foundations in Pediatrics	4	Health Care System & Policy III	3	Clinical Practicum II (10 Weeks)	5
Examination, Evaluation, and Intervention for Neuromuscular Movement Dysfunction I	4	Examination, Evaluation, and Intervention for Neuromuscular Movement Dysfunction II	7	Clinical Synthesis II	1
Neuroscience	4	Research Applications: Evidence-Based Practice III & Guidance	2	Research Guidance	1
Clinical Synthesis I	1	Community Health Initiative III	1	Health Care System & Policy IV	1
Research Applications: Evidence-Based Practice II	1	Elective II	3	Community Health Initiative IV	1
Elective I	3				
7 th Semester – Fall		8 th Semester - Spring		<p>Note: All Clinical Practica are full time. When they occur in the same semester as other courses, the courses are completed in a compressed schedule that is complimentary to scheduled time for clinical affiliations.</p>	
Examination, Evaluation, and Intervention for Integumentary & Multi-System Movement Dysfunction	4	Clinical Practicum IV (12 weeks)	6		
Research Applications: Evidence-Based Practice V & Research Guidance	2	Clinical Synthesis III	1		
Health Care System & Policy V	2	Research Applications: Evidence-Based Practice VI & Research Guidance	2		
Clinical Practicum III (8 weeks)	4	Community Health Initiative V	1		