PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

- Three-year professional program leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree
- DPT program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
- Part of a comprehensive Academic Health Science Center
- Well-established program; 32nd class graduated in 2004
- Experienced faculty with diverse clinical and research experience
- First-time pass rate on national licensure exam of 100% for 2001-2003 graduates
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Physical therapists are health care professionals who evaluate and treat people with health problems resulting from injury or disease. Physical therapists assess joint motion, muscle strength and endurance, function of heart and lungs, and performance of activities required in daily living, among other responsibilities. Treatment includes a broad range of therapeutic exercise techniques, cardiovascular endurance training, and training in activities of daily living.

Additional information about physical therapy, including listings of all accredited physical therapy and physical therapist assistant educational programs may be obtained by contacting the American Physical Therapy Association at the address listed below or via the World Wide Web.

**American Physical Therapy Association**
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 1-800-999-APTA

Web site: [http://www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)
Mission
The mission of the Division of Physical Therapy Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is to serve the state of Nebraska by:
♦ preparing entry-level practitioners through a broad scope education;
♦ providing professional service; and
♦ contributing to the body of health science knowledge through scholarly activity.

Organization
The Division of Physical Therapy Education is part of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), a comprehensive academic health sciences center located in Omaha, Nebraska. The Division is administratively housed in the School of Allied Health Professions of the College of Medicine. Students and faculty alike derive many benefits from being part of a major academic health sciences center. As a part of UNMC, students have access to excellent medical library facilities, exposure to faculty with a broad range of clinical and research interests, and the opportunity for interaction with students in many different health care professions.

Degrees offered
Upon successful completion of the physical therapy professional program at UNMC, students receive an entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

Students who enter the program without a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree may, upon successful completion of all courses in the first two years of the DPT program, become candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Medicine.

Accreditation
The Doctor of Physical Therapy curriculum has accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, and has been approved by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Graduates are eligible to sit for the national licensure examination in order to practice in Nebraska or in other states.
Format of the Professional Education Program
Students must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours of prerequisite course work prior to admission into the professional program. The UNMC DPT professional program in physical therapy is 3 years in length, during which students complete 125 credit hours of didactic and clinical course work. A formal thesis is not required, but opportunities for participation in clinical and basic science research are available for interested students. The program includes 34 weeks of full-time clinical experience, and currently maintains clinical education agreements with approximately 180 patient care facilities located throughout the United States.

Facilities
The Division’s offices, teaching laboratories, and research laboratories are located in the Student Life Center on the UNMC campus, directly adjacent to the state-of-the-art fitness facilities of the UNMC Center for Healthy Living. The Division’s Clinical Movement Science Laboratory and Physical Activity Research Laboratory provide capabilities for the study of kinematic, kinetic, electromyographic, and metabolic aspects of human movement.

Faculty and Staff
Students in the professional program benefit from instruction by well-qualified faculty who bring expertise and experience in a broad range of clinical and basic sciences. The Division of Physical Therapy Education currently has a core faculty of eleven, including five with PhDs and five with credentials as clinical specialists. Additional instruction is provided by numerous campus faculty in clinical and basic science departments and by numerous adjunct and clinical faculty. Three full-time staff members provide secretarial and administrative support for the Division.
ADMISSION TO THE DPT PROGRAM

Residency Considerations
Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply regardless of residency, though preference is given to applicants who are current residents of Nebraska. Questions regarding residency status should be directed to the Office of Academic Records (402/559-6468).

Grade Point Requirements
All applicants are required to present a minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.

Required courses must be taken for letter grades. Credits for courses in which grades below “C-” were received are not accepted in fulfillment of the program prerequisites. Grades below “C-”, while not accepted for transfer, are still calculated as part of the grade point average for determining admittance unless the same course is retaken at the same institution and the grade is replaced according to that institution’s guidelines.

Course Requirements
By July 15 preceding the intended fall semester date of enrollment, applicants must have successfully completed a minimum of 90 semester hours (135 quarter hours) of academic courses at an accredited college or university. Please note: A maximum of 66 semester hours (85 quarter hours) will be accepted in transfer from community colleges.

The courses listed below are prerequisites for the professional program in physical therapy at UNMC. Candidates must satisfactorily complete the college courses below and show proof of completion by July 15 of the intended year of enrollment except as noted (*) below: It is expected that the candidates will take sequential courses to complete these first three required areas.

1 YEAR ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY
Must be lecture/lab courses in human or vertebrate anatomy and physiology. May be fulfilled by completing one course in Anatomy and a second course in Physiology or by taking Anatomy/Physiology I and Anatomy/Physiology II.
* NOTE: one course must be completed by December 31 prior to year of enrollment.

1 YEAR CHEMISTRY
Must be lecture/lab courses. May be fulfilled by taking General Chemistry I and II or General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry or General Chemistry and Biochemistry.
* NOTE: one course must be completed by December 31 prior to year of enrollment.
1 YEAR PHYSICS
Must be lecture/lab courses (General Physics I and General Physics II).
Must include mechanics, heat, light, sound and electricity. Physical Science will not fulfill this requirement.
* NOTE: one course must be completed by December 31 prior to year of enrollment.

If an applicant will not complete a baccalaureate degree prior to matriculation, an additional requirement is a minimum of 3 upper level courses in a major area of study. These candidates must identify their major emphasis of study and satisfactorily complete a minimum of three upper-level courses towards that major by July 15 of the intended year of enrollment.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to take a balance of electives consistent with a liberal arts education, while pursuing depth of study as typically demonstrated by a discipline major. The preferred applicant will demonstrate an academic record that reflects a balance of course work in the humanities and the social and natural sciences.

Foreign Applicants and Foreign Transcripts
Foreign students who have not attended a college or university in the United States of America must sit for the TOEFL exam. Scores need to be submitted at the time students apply and a minimum score is required. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated and converted into English before submitting them to this program. There are a number of these evaluation services in the United States. One service available is:

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc
PO Box 92970
Milwaukee, WI 53202-0970
USA

Phone : 414/289-3400
Fax: 414/289-3411

Examination Requirement
All applicants are required to present scores for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) general test. Information about the GRE may be obtained from Educational Testing Service, PO Box 6000, Princeton, NJ 08541-6000. or at http://www.gre.org. Specify that copies of results should be forwarded under College Code R6896.

Exposure to Physical Therapy Practice
There are no formal requirements for volunteer, observation, or employment experiences in the field of physical therapy. However, as with all career choices, a broad exposure to the field is to the applicant's personal benefit, and as such is encouraged.
Admissions Tracks
There are three (3) admission tracks for the DPT program.

1. General Admissions Track
Most applicants will apply through this track, which is for applicants who have completed or are in the process of completing the prerequisites.

- Application for admission may be made on-line at http://net.unmc.edu/apply between August 1, 2005 and November 15, 2005. If you do not wish to apply on-line, a PDF version of the application may be downloaded from the site.
- Application deadline for entering in the Fall of 2006 is November 15, 2005. All materials must be received by that date.
- Unless applicants have previously attended one of the University of Nebraska campuses, they are required to pay an application fee ($45) each time they apply.

Admission Tracks #2 and #3 are for applicants in their final year of high school or high school graduates who have not yet entered college.

2. Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) Track
The Rural Health Opportunities Program is a cooperative venture between Chadron State College and the University of Nebraska Medical Center aimed at recruiting and educating students from rural Nebraska who plan to return to practice in the rural areas of the state. The program consists of three years of study at Chadron State College and three years spent in study at UNMC. Up to 4 positions within each class are reserved for RHOP students. The clinical education experiences prepare the student for practice in rural or smaller communities. Persons with a high school diploma or equivalent may apply. The deadline for RHOP applications is December 1. Further information and applications for the RHOP program may be obtained by writing or calling the Health Professions Office, School of Science and Math, Chadron State College, Chadron, NE 69337. Phone: (308) 432-6278. Information is also available online at: http://www.csc.edu/mathsci/healthprofessions/rhop.htm

3. NU PATHS Admissions Track
Nebraska University Pre-Admissions to the Health Sciences (NU-PATHS) is a collaborative program developed between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Kearney, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The NU-PATHS program assists selected students in their undergraduate pre-health curricula at one of the NU undergraduate campuses and guarantees admission to the selected UNMC program upon successful and timely completion of their undergraduate pre-professional program of study.
The purpose of NU-PATHS is to recruit and educate academically talented students who demonstrate, through life experiences and personal motivation, a desire to become health care professionals who are willing to serve persons in need of health care in medically underserved communities. It is anticipated that program graduates will practice in medically underserved urban communities.

Applicants applying through the NU PATHS admissions track must demonstrate, through life experiences and personal motivation, a strong desire to work with the medically underserved members of society. It is anticipated that program graduates will practice in medically underserved urban communities. All high school applicants must have achieved a composite ACT score of at least 22 or a composite SAT score of at least 1010. All undergraduate applicants must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale. Preference for admission will be given to residents of the State of Nebraska. Applications will be accepted from students who are in the senior year of high school, or are current undergraduates at UNL, UNK or UNO. Applicant must be a citizen of the U.S. or have permanent residency status.

For further information about the NU-PATHS program on each undergraduate campus, see below.

**UNL NU-PATHS Program:** Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, 106 Canfield Administration Building, P.O. Box 880423, Lincoln, NE 68588-0423. (402)-472-3375. A more complete description of the program is also available online at http://busfin.unl.edu/stuafs/nupaths.html

**UNK NU-PATHS Program:** Health Professions Office, Attn: Peggy Abels, BHS 212, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE 68849-1139. (308)865-8620. Or e-mail abelsp@unk.edu. A more complete description of the program is also available online at http://www.unk.edu/acad/health_prog/

**UNO NU-PATHS Program:** Wade A. Robinson, PhD, EAB 202-F, Omaha, NE 68182. Or e-mail wrobinson@mail.unomaha.edu

**Selection Process for the General Admissions Track**

**Personal Interview:** A personal interview with the Admissions Committee is required to be considered for admission. Interviews will be offered to a limited number of qualified applicants before final acceptance is offered. Generally, the number of applicants selected for an interview is approximately three times the class size. The selection process for an interview is based on overall grade point average, writing skills, extracurricular activities, rationale for physical therapy as a career choice, references, and scores on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE general test.

**Class Size:** Enrollment in the physical therapy program is typically limited to a maximum number of 40 students per year. Special consideration for admission is
given to students who are under-represented in the health professions (African-American, Native American and Hispanic as defined by the federal government). Fulfillment of the basic application requirements does not guarantee admission into the professional program.

Please note: With rare exception due to medical causes, the Division does not offer deferments into the program.

Admission to the Physical Therapy Program and the privileges of the physical therapy student shall not be denied to any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, special disabled veteran status, or Vietnam era veteran status. UNMC complies with the Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 governing the privacy of student records.

**Timetable for the General Admissions Track for entrance in Fall 2006**

**August 1, 2005.** Applications for admissions via the general admission track are available on line at http://net.unmc.edu/apply. You may apply on-line or download a PDF version of the application.

**November 15, 2005 – Application deadline.** All required application materials must be received by this deadline in order for you to be considered as an applicant. Should your GRE scores, college transcripts, or references fail to arrive by November 15, you will be notified.

**December 2005.** The Admissions Committee completes the review of all applications and ranks the applicants based on all materials received. The top ranked applicants will be invited to participate in a personal interview. By early December, all applicants will be notified as to whether they are or are not being offered a personal interview.

**January 2006.** Personal interviews for selected applicants.

**Mid-January 2006.** Admissions Committee decisions are made and all applicants are notified of the results by mail.

**NOTE:** Alternates will not be informed of their ranking. Alternates will be notified as soon as possible about an open position for the class. If positions do not become available for alternates during a given year, they are welcome to reapply, but selection as an alternate does not guarantee acceptance in subsequent years. The admissions process is based upon selection of the most qualified applicants from within the current year’s applicant pool. Previous applications to the program neither hinder nor assist applicants who choose to reapply in subsequent years.

**July 15, 2006.** Candidates who are accepted for admission with contingencies must show proof (transcripts) of successful completion of the required course work by this date. The Division reserves the right to withdraw the offer for admission if these courses are not completed by the July 15 deadline.
Starting Date:
Classes begin in the fall semester, generally in mid- to late-August. First year students are required to attend orientation sessions prior to the start of classes.

Tuition and Other Expenses
Tuition and fee charges are subject to change, as determined by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Tuition includes matriculation, registration and library fees. All questions regarding residency status should be directed to the Office of Academic Records, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 984230 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-4230 (402/559-6468). Estimated costs for tuition and fees are listed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester hours</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE Resident Tuition</td>
<td>7,760.00</td>
<td>7,760.00</td>
<td>6,053.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Tuition</td>
<td>19,154.25</td>
<td>19,154.25</td>
<td>14,940.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Fees</td>
<td>511.00</td>
<td>220.00</td>
<td>120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Fees</td>
<td>1,026.50</td>
<td>1,026.50</td>
<td>953.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fees</td>
<td>315.00</td>
<td>210.00</td>
<td>253.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Book Costs</td>
<td>900.00</td>
<td>975.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional variable costs include travel to professional meetings and clinical affiliations as well as room and board costs. Information about housing both on and off campus may be found at http://www.unmc.edu/student/studentservices/housing.htm
Financial Assistance
The University of Nebraska Medical Center has financial aid programs to assist students with unmet financial need. The Medical Center is prepared to supplement family contributions from its aid sources when students qualify for the assistance and to assist students in obtaining assistance from outside sources. Financial resources are limited. It is very important for prospective students to make sure all financial planning arrangements for tuition and living expenses are complete prior to entering the program. Information regarding financial assistance is available at: http://www.unmc.edu/student/studentservices/financialaid/index.htm or by writing or calling: Office of Financial Aid, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 984265 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-4265 (402/559-4199).

Health Information
Students are not permitted to enroll at UNMC until a medical history and evidence of vaccinations or immunities are provided to the Student Health Services Clinic. Students are required to provide physician certification of the following: A previous vaccination for rubella or evidence of an immune titer, tetanus inoculation within the last 10 years, Rubeola (measles), vaccination for mumps and polio or documentation of having the disease previously, history of or evidence of immune titer to varicella (chicken pox). Students are strongly encouraged to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine prior to matriculation or to start the vaccination process upon matriculation.

All full-time students within the program are required to have health and accident insurance through a student health insurance program contracted by UNMC unless evidence of comparable coverage is provided.

Academic and Professional Standards
Students must receive a passing grade of “C-” or better or “Pass” in all courses and maintain an overall quality grade point average of 2.33 (on a 4.0 scale) or above. Grades of less than “C-” are considered as failing within the physical therapy program. Physical therapy education requires the student to demonstrate skills of observation, communication, sensory, intellectual-conceptual, integrative and qualitative abilities, and professionalism. As such, students must successfully meet all of the program’s performance standards by passing all laboratory practical examinations and clinical education experiences, in addition to successful completion of didactic work. The standing of a student in any course is determined by the instructor of the course by examinations, laboratory and clinical performance, class participation, written assignments, personal observation, and other methods of evaluation.
**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students enrolled in the DPT program are expected to meet the Performance Standards set forth by the UNMC Division of Physical Therapy Education (document available on request) in order to be eligible for graduation. Sections 502 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) give students with disabilities certain rights with regard to student and staff services and the curriculum. For information on the process for requesting accommodation for disability, please contact: Services for Students with Disabilities, Counseling and Student Development Center, Student Life Center room 3013, phone (402) 559-5962, or visit http://www.unmc.edu/stucouns/Docs/disabilitiestext.htm.

**Additional Special Requirements**

**Basic Life Support Certification.** Students enrolled in the program are required to maintain certification throughout the program.

Attendance at School and Professional Meetings. Student attendance is required at the program’s All-School Meetings. As a graduation requirement, attendance is required at a select number of professional meetings. Students are responsible for their own registration, housing, travel and transportation arrangements for these professional meetings, generally held outside of the Omaha-Lincoln area.

**Professional Liability Coverage.** All students enrolled within the program are covered under a comprehensive general liability and professional liability policy approved by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska. In addition, students may be required to purchase individual “student professional liability coverage” each year while enrolled in the program. Students will receive further information about Professional Liability Coverage after enrollment in the program.

**Placement Assistance**

Students and graduates have access to all recruitment information that is received by the Division from employers of health care professionals.

**Curriculum Overview**

The professional program is three years in length. Learning opportunities include lecture-laboratory courses, seminars, independent study opportunities, laboratory practical examinations and supervised clinical practice. The curriculum provides opportunities to develop abilities in teaching, supervision, administration, and research in physical therapy. Although a thesis is not required, opportunities exist for interested students to actively participate in research in a number of areas. The
Division reserves the right to modify the curriculum as necessary to comply with accreditation standards and to reflect advancements in the health sciences.

The clinical education component of the curriculum provides students the opportunity to directly apply the physical therapy theories and techniques acquired during the classroom instruction, as well as the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes best learned in the clinical environment. The intent of clinical education is to provide the student with a broad exposure to physical therapy practice in a variety of settings and geographic locations. The clinical education component is under the direction of the Director of Clinical Education.

Currently, the clinical education component of the curriculum consists of 34 weeks over the course of the three year professional program. Clinical education requirements vary with different admissions tracks, but attempts will be made to have all students participate in at least one clinical experience in a rural community. Clinical experiences are scheduled in advance and are subject to change at the discretion of the clinical education site or the office of the Director of Clinical Education.

Some clinical education sites may require an assigned student to undergo a criminal background check and/or drug screening prior to participation in a clinical education experience.

NOTE: Travel and living expenses for clinical education should be anticipated. No student will be allowed to complete all clinical education experiences in the Omaha/Lincoln area.
Curriculum
First Year - PT 1 (late August - July)

CBA 571  Structure of Human Body (9 cr; co-listed with Anatomy)
NURS 325  Pathophysiologic Basis for Alterations in Health (4 cr)
PHYS 606  Physiology (6 cr; co-listed with Physiology)
PHYT 502  Foundations of Physical Therapy Practice (3 cr)
PHYT 505  Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy I (8 cr)
PHYT 510  Physical Agents (3 cr)
PHYT 511  Integumentary Physical Therapy (2 cr)
PHYT 512  Neuromuscular Physical Therapy I (3 cr)
PHYT 522  Professional Practice Expectations I (2 cr)
PHYT 550  Clinical Education I (4 weeks) (4 cr)
PHYT 640  Critical Inquiry I (3 cr)

Second Year - PT 2 (late August - mid June)

PHAR 570  Pharmacology for Health Professionals (2 cr; co-listed with Pharmacology)
PHYT 605  Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy II (4 cr)
PHYT 606  Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy III (4 cr)
PHYT 610  Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy (4 cr)
PHYT 612  Pediatric Physical Therapy (4 cr)
PHYT 614  Therapeutic Exercise for Special Populations (4 cr)
PHYT 616  Neuromuscular Physical Therapy II (4 cr)
PHYT 617  Neuromuscular Physical Therapy III (3 cr)
PHYT 622  Practice Management Skills in Physical Therapy (1 cr)
PHYT 624  Orthotics and Prosthetics (3 cr)
PHYT 630  Prevention and Wellness (3 cr)
PHYT 650  Clinical Education II (6 cr)
PHYT 740  Critical Inquiry II (3 cr)

Third Year -- PT 3 (late August - mid May)

PHYT 720  Differential Diagnosis (2 cr)
PHYT 722  Professional Practice Expectations II (2 cr)
PHYT 726  Instructional Development in Health Professions (2 cr)
PHYT 727  Differential Screening for Physical Therapists (2 cr)
PHYT 750  Clinical Education III (8 weeks) (8 cr)
PHYT 751  Clinical Education IV (8 weeks) (8 cr)
PHYT 752  Clinical Education V (8 weeks) (8 cr)
SAHP 530  Scanning the Health Care Environment (1 cr)

* Curriculum subject to change without notice.
HOW TO CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the application or review process, please feel free to contact our administrative staff. Rita Parks-Agnew, BS or Gail Hackendahl will be happy to assist you if you contact them at:

(402) 559-4259 or (800) 626-8431

or by e-mail at ptedu@unmc.edu

Division of Physical Therapy Education
University of Nebraska College of Medicine
984420 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska 68198-4420

The latest information regarding the Division of Physical Therapy Education may be found on the Division’s home page at:

http://www.unmc.edu/PhysicalTherapy