

Doctor of Physical Therapy

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Admission Information for Fall 2010



*Department of Physical Therapy
Hazel Hall - Suite 2093
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, MD 21853*

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SCHOOL of HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Department of Physical Therapy

Dear Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

The trend in Physical Therapy Education is for transition of Master degree entry-level programs into programs leading to the entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). The change to the DPT will help ensure that students develop the knowledge and skills required to perform as an autonomous, independent practitioner of Physical Therapy in a rapidly changing healthcare system.

Enclosed is information outlining the DPT Education Program offered by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

All freshmen who are interested in obtaining a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree must pursue a Bachelors degree in another program while completing pre-requisites for application to the DPT Program. A student may seek a degree in the field of his or her choice but all prerequisites must be fulfilled.

Students transferring to UMES to complete a Bachelors Degree must follow the transfer guidelines of the University System of Maryland and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Students should consult their advisor at the current institution they are attending for transfer requirements.

A minimal overall 3.0 GPA and 3.0 prerequisite science and math GPA are required for application to the DPT Program.

Students wishing to pursue the Bachelors Degree in another program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore while completing prerequisites for application to the DPT Program may secure application materials by contacting the Admissions Office at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Students making direct application to the DPT Program may obtain application materials through the Physical Therapy Department, University of Maryland Eastern Shore or from our website: www.umes.edu/pt/.

If you have any further questions relating to the program, please feel free to contact us. UMES DPT Program updates may be obtained from our website.

Sincerely,

R. L. Blakely

Raymond L. Blakely, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Physical Therapy

www.umes.edu/pt/

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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Department of Physical Therapy, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) was established in 1981 under the directorship of Dr. Raymond L. Blakely. The first class was admitted in 1982. The first class of 13 students graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. The Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) degree was approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission in 1992. The initiation of the MPT Degree Program was consistent with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Strategic Plan to increase graduate offerings. The first class of MPT students entered the program in September 1993 and graduated in September 1996. In 2002, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree was approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and accreditation was granted by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The first DPT degree was awarded in September 2005.

THE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

The post-baccalaureate entry-level physical therapy program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore offers graduate work leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program constitutes the initial professional preparation for students desiring to become physical therapists. Graduates of the program will be prepared to carry out the expanding responsibilities as autonomous health care providers practicing prevention, examination, and intervention in acute care and rehabilitation settings, and in educational and research environments. The DPT Program will also prepare students to contribute to the field of physical therapy through research and other scholarly activities in addition to the utilization of these activities.

The DPT Program is designed to meet the Standards of Practice of the American Physical Therapy Association and the Accreditation Standards set forth by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Physical Therapy is to prepare knowledgeable and competent practitioners in the field of physical therapy by the utilization of current clinical and theoretical concepts, to expand the knowledge base of physical therapy through research, and to provide physical therapy services to the University and the State of Maryland. Graduates of the DPT Program will be prepared to carry out the expanding responsibilities as autonomous health care providers practicing in wellness and prevention, acute care, rehabilitation, and outpatient settings within the community as well as educational and research institutions.

ACCREDITATION

The DPT Program has been granted accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). For more information regarding accreditation, visit CAPTE at www.apta.org/CAPTE, contact CAPTE by email at accreditation@apta.org or at the following address: 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314-1488.

THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is a land-grant, historically black university founded in 1886 as the Delaware Conference Academy. Since its beginning, the institution has had several name changes and governing bodies. It was Maryland State College from 1948 until 1970, when it became one of the five campuses that formed the University of Maryland. The University of Maryland System gained six additional campuses in 1988. UMES is approved by the State of Maryland and fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The campus is located on 546 acres of land in the small town of Princess Anne on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The town dates back to 1733 and has many buildings and landmarks of historic interest. The area is quiet and ideally suited for a learning environment, yet it is only three hours by car from the abundant cultural and recreational facilities of Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD. The state's famous seaside resort, Ocean City, is only 45 minutes from the campus. The campus is 13 miles south of the city of Salisbury, which provides shopping and recreational facilities.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW (see pages 7-9 for course sequence)

Design

The Doctor of Physical Therapy curriculum is three years in length. It begins in the fall semester and ends in September. It is an integrated curriculum of academic and clinical education experiences.

Year 1 – Foundational Sciences & Basic Physical Therapy Procedures

Year 2 – Physical Therapy Procedures

Year 3 – Physical Therapy Management

Clinical Education Experiences

Students are able to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in the classroom to actual patient care by participating in part-time clinical practicum's and full-time clinical affiliations. The clinical experiences, both part-time and full-time, are integrated into the classroom experiences. Clinical sites are numerous and varied including acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient centers, skilled nursing facilities, and schools. The Department currently has contractual arrangements with over 150 health care facilities in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, New Jersey and Colorado. The clinical experiences include:

- Part-time clinical experiences (Practicum) – During three semesters, Year 1 - Summer, Year 2 – Fall and Spring
- Full-time clinical experiences (Affiliation) – 30 weeks total; four affiliations are interspersed throughout the program: Affiliation I - Winter semester of the Year 2, Affiliation II - late Fall semester of the Year 3, Affiliations III and IV – Summer of Year 3.

Evidence-Based Curriculum

The curriculum is infused with current physical therapy evidence. Students become comfortable with reading and applying research evidence pertinent to the practice of physical therapy.

Independent Study Credits

The independent study offers a means for students to pursue both academic and clinical interests beyond the scope of course work in the program under the direction of a faculty advisor.

Research Projects

Students successfully complete a research project in small groups and under the advisement of the faculty.

FACILITIES

The Department of Physical Therapy is located on the second floor of Hazel Hall, a state-of-the-art building completed in December 2004. The facilities include the following teaching/research laboratories: Musculoskeletal, Cardiopulmonary, Body Composition, Gross Anatomy, Neuromanagement/Pediatric, and Motion Analysis.

OUTPATIENT CLINIC

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore Department of Physical Therapy operates a non-profit, outpatient physical therapy clinic on campus. The UMES Physical Therapy clinic provides services to the UMES student population. The clinic may also serve to provide hands-on experiences for physical therapy students under the direct supervision of faculty members. It is located on the first floor of Hazel Hall and is approximately 1500 square feet in size.

RESEARCH

The UMES Department of Physical Therapy has established an impressive record of research activity. Thanks to well-equipped laboratories and on-going collaborative relationships with local hospitals, physical therapy clinics, and other universities, both faculty and students of the department have presented their research findings at annual local, state, national, and international conferences including the conferences of the American Physical Therapy Association and the American College of Sports Medicine. These research findings have been published in peer-reviewed scientific and professional journals.

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

Community Health and Wellness Education Programs

Each spring, UMES Physical Therapy students apply their knowledge and skills in health promotion and education by presenting health education programs to several community groups. Our past presentations have included Safe Exercise, Healthy Heart, and Falls Prevention programs for local MAC and Stroke Survivors' Support groups; Safe Lifting and Ergonomics for employees of McCready Hospital, Atlantic General Hospital, and UMES; and Injury Prevention, and Health & Fitness programs for students at Crisfield and Washington High Schools.

Annual UMES Health and Wellness Festival

The Department of Physical Therapy participates in the Annual UMES Health and Wellness Festival each spring. UMES students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to attend this fun and informative event. Each year at least 60 health care agencies and university programs have provided health screening and interactive health education. Health promotion and prevention activities enjoyed by all participants. In past years, physical therapy students have performed health screenings for blood pressure, cardio-respiratory fitness, body composition, posture, strength, and flexibility.

Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center- ESAHEC

Students and faculty from the UMES Department of Physical Therapy participate in educational and community service programs sponsored by the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center. These programs enable health profession students to experience and understand the valuable and rewarding benefits of providing health care in rural environments. UMES PT students have enjoyed interdisciplinary educational conferences on rural health disparities, geriatrics, pharmacology, legal and ethical issues, and cultural diversity.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI OUTCOMES

- Passage rates on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) – the average passing rate for the past five years is **100%**
- Employment Rates – The average employment rate for the past four years is **100%**
- Certifications:
 - Approximately 4% of alumni are Certified Clinical Specialists by The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) in the areas of orthopedics, sports, and pediatrics.
 - Approximately 2% of the alumni have received other certifications in areas related to physical therapy.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Physical Therapy Admissions Committee selects students for admission. Students must meet the following criteria to gain admission to the DPT Program:

1. Bachelors degree from an institution of higher education accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States.
2. All applicants must successfully complete the following prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or higher.

	<u>Semester Hours</u>
Biology with Lab OR Zoology with Lab	4
Human Anatomy and Physiology with Lab (or its equivalent)	8
Physics with Lab	8
Chemistry with Lab	8
Cell Biology with Lab OR Microbiology with Lab OR Histology with Lab <i>Other upper level Biological Science Course may be considered</i>	4
Sociology and/or Psychology (General, Social Psychology, Abnormal or Child)	6
Math (Trigonometry or higher)	3-4
Statistics	3

3. An overall 3.0 grade point average in all course work attempted and 3.0 average in the science and math courses attempted that are a prerequisite to the program (including any courses taken during the spring and the summer preceding fall admission).
4. Graduate Record Examination – required. **School code is 5400 and department code is 0619.**
5. Demonstration of knowledge concerning the physical therapy profession by submitting:
 - a. an essay detailing the reasons the applicant desires to become a physical therapist.
 - b. documentation of first-hand observation and/or work experience related to the practice of physical therapy. These experiences must be substantiated in writing by a licensed physical therapist. It is preferred that the experiences be at two different types of clinical settings with a minimum of 25 hours in each.
6. Submission of three (3) letters of recommendation addressing both the applicant's moral character and potential as a physical therapist.

7. A personal interview with at least one member of the Physical Therapy Admissions Committee may be required.
8. Prerequisite science courses must be completed within 10 years of the expected matriculation year. For example, if the student expects to begin the program in 2010, then the science prerequisite courses must have been completed after 2000.

Due to certain factors (ie: number of available clinical sites), the number of qualified students who can be accepted into the DPT Program is limited. The Physical Therapy Admissions Committee will consider such criteria as overall GPA, mathematics and science GPA, GRE, prior experiences related to the practice of physical therapy and the personal interview in making its decision for admission.

ACCEPTANCE POLICY

Upon acceptance to the DPT Program, the student will be notified of acceptance and given two weeks to return the acceptance letter. A non-refundable acceptance fee of \$650.00 must accompany the acceptance letter. On admission, this acceptance fee will be credited toward tuition.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To obtain the appropriate application forms, prospective students can do one of the following:

1. Write to: University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Department of Physical Therapy
Hazel Hall – 2nd Floor- Room 2093
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2. E-mail: ptdept@umes.edu
3. Apply on-line or
download application
forms from: www.umes.edu/pt/
4. Request by telephone: 410-651-6301

Application packets will be available August 15th each year for the class entering the fall semester of the following year.

To apply, send a completed application and complete official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (including transcripts from UMES) to:

GRADUATE STUDIES OFFICE
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Early Childhood Development Center
Room 1137
Princess Anne, MD 21853

Each transcript should bear the signature of the registrar, the seal of the granting institution, and should include the years of attendance, courses taken, grades received, and the degree, diploma or certificate conferred. To facilitate the application process, an official copy of transcripts from other institutions and all other requested materials except recommendations must be attached to the application.

Recommendations may be returned with the application in a sealed envelope or sent to the Department of Physical Therapy by the application deadline. Although photocopies of credentials are acceptable for initial review, regular admission status cannot be granted, nor will any degree be awarded, until the UMES Graduate School has received official copies of all academic credentials certified by an administrative official of the school, college, or university.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

1. **Early admission:** Applicants who have only two prerequisite courses to complete after the end of August are eligible for early admission. Early admission decisions will be made for applications received between **September 1** and **December 1**. Once the **complete application** is received by the Department of Physical Therapy and the interview process has been completed, the student will receive notification of the admission decision within one month.
2. **Regular Admission:** Regular admission decisions will be made for applications received by **February 1**.
3. Rolling Admission applies to both early and regular admission.
4. If space is available, applications received after this date may be considered for admission.

ESTIMATED COST (Subject to Change)

1. *Approximate Tuition per credit hour*
\$ 243 per graduate credit hour (Maryland Resident)
\$ 441 per graduate credit hour (Non-Maryland Resident)
2. *Estimated Average Annual Tuition* (Summer & Winter Sessions Included)
\$ 11,664.00 (Maryland Resident)
\$ 21,168.00 (Non-Maryland Resident)
3. *Clinical Education Costs*
Clinical affiliations are located in the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware, Baltimore-Washington Metro area, as well as in other adjacent states. Students are financially responsible for their own housing, living expenses, and transportation. Efforts will be made to place students where they have housing, however, this is not always possible. Students are also responsible for transportation to local clinics for clinical practicums.
4. *Other Costs*
In addition to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore tuition and fees, physical therapy students also assume responsibilities for books, clinic jackets, clinic shoes, name tags, liability insurance, and transportation and subsistence for all clinical affiliations and practicums.

FINANCIAL AID

Please contact the Financial Aid Office at 410-651-6172 or visit their website at www.umes.edu/financialaid/.

Doctor of Physical Therapy Course Sequence[#]

1st

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Fall

PHYT 601	Advanced Human Anatomy Lecture	4 Credits
PHYT 607	Advanced Human Anatomy Lab	2 Credits
PHYT 605	Life Span Development and Embryology	3 Credits
PHYT 670	Introduction to Health Care Systems & Patient Care	2 Credits
PHYT 600	Advanced Human Physiology	3 Credits
		Total 14 Credits

Winter No Classes

Spring

PHYT 602	Neuroscience	4 Credits
PHYT 603	Exercise Physiology	3 Credits
PHYT 604	Analysis of Human Movement	4 Credits
PHYT 612	Clinical Medicine I – Pathophysiology	3 Credits
PHYT 681	Research Methods I	3 Credits
		Total 17 Credits

Summer

PHYT 622	Tests and Measures	3 Credits
PHYT 614	Clinical Medicine II - Neuropathology	2 Credits
PHYT 671	Interpersonal Communication & Psychosocial Aspects of Disability	3 Credits
PHYT 620	Introduction to Examination, Evaluation, & Differential Diagnosis	1 Credit
PHYT 621	Physical Therapy in the Acute Care Setting	3 Credits
PHYT 651	Clinical Practicum I	1 Credit
PHYT 789	Research Project	1 Credit
		Total 14 Credits

Curriculum subject to change

2nd**Y****E****A****R****Fall**

PHYT 615	Clinical Medicine III- Orthopaedics	3 Credits
PHYT 623	PT Procedures I – Physical Agents	2 Credits
PHYT 627	PT Procedures II- Soft Tissue Techniques	2 Credits
PHYT 630	PT Procedures III- Musculoskeletal	3 Credits
PHYT 624	Therapeutic Exercise I–Basics and Essential	3 Credits
PHYT 616	The Integumentary System & Wound Management	2 Credits
PHYT 789	Research Project	1 Credit
PHYT 652	Clinical Practicum II	1 Credit
PHYT 658	Clinical Judgment and Integration Seminar	1 Credit
	Total	18 Credits

Winter

PHYT 660	Clinical Affiliation I* (6 weeks)	3 Credits
	Total	3 Credits

Spring

PHYT 631	Prosthetics and Orthotics	2 Credits
PHYT 626	PT Procedures IV- Electrophysiology	3 Credits
PHYT 625	Therapeutic Exercise II	2 Credits
PHYT 672	Patient and Community Health Education & Promotion	2 Credits
PHYT 632	Therapeutic Exercise III - Exercise Testing & Prescription for Special Populations	2 Credits
PHYT 675	Physical Therapy Administration	3 Credits
PHYT 789	Research Project	1 Credit
PHYT 653	Clinical Practicum III	1 Credit
PHYT 658	Clinical Judgment and Integration Seminar	1 Credit
	Total	17 Credits

Summer

PHYT 606	Pharmacology, Laboratory Values, and Medical Imaging for the Physical Therapist	2 Credits
PHYT 789	Research Project	1 Credit
	Total	3 Credits

*** Upon approval of Department of Physical Therapy Faculty**

3rd

Y

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Fall

PHYT 642	Patient Management – Neuromuscular I	2 Credits
PHYT 637	Patient Management - Pulmonary	2 Credits
PHYT 634	Patient Management – Musculoskeletal I	2 Credits
PHYT 640	Patient Management - Pediatrics I	2 Credits
PHYT 789	Research Project	1 Credit
PHYT 661	Clinical Affiliation II* (8 weeks)	4 Credits
PHYT 659	Advanced Clinical Judgment & Integration Seminar	1 Credit
	Total	14 Credits

Winter

PHYT 643	Patient Management - Neuromuscular II	1 Credit
PHYT 635	Patient Management - Musculoskeletal II	1 Credit
PHYT 641	Patient Management - Pediatrics II	1 Credit
	Total	3 Credits

Spring

PHYT 633	Patient Management - Cardiac	2 Credits
PHYT 645	Patient Management - Selected Topics	2 Credits
PHYT 644	Patient Management - Neuromuscular - III	3 Credits
PHYT 636	Patient Management - Musculoskeletal-III	3 Credits
PHYT 659	Advanced Clinical Judgment and Integration	1 Credit
PHYT 674	Professional Development & Practice Issues in PT	1 Credit
PHYT 789	Research Project	1 Credit
	Total	13 Credits

Summer

PHYT 662	Clinical Affiliation III* (8 weeks)	4 Credits
PHYT 663	Clinical Affiliation IV* (8 weeks)	4 Credits
	Total	8 Credits

Independent Study

PHYT 649	Independent Study*	6 Credits**
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Students must complete the required credits of Independent Study or electives during the three years of the program prior to the third summer.

***Upon approval of Department of Physical Therapy Faculty**

**** Proposed change to 3 credits**

RETENTION IN PROGRAM

1. Didactic Program Phase

1.1 The grading scale for the Physical Therapy Department is as follows:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 75-79
- D - 65-74
- F - 0-64

Students must have a 75% average in the didactic and the laboratory components of courses for successful completion.

1.2 A final grade of D in any course (lecture and/or lab) during the DPT Program will result in the student being placed on academic probation.

1.3 Students attaining probationary status twice during the DPT Program are subject to automatic academic dismissal from the program.

1.4 A final grade of D in any two courses during the DPT Program (lecture and/or lab) results in an automatic academic dismissal from the program.

1.5 A final grade of F in any course (lecture and/or lab) results in automatic dismissal from the program.

1.6 A student who receives a final grade of D in a course (lecture and/or lab) will be referred to the faculty who will make recommendations to the Department Chair as to how this grade may be removed and the time limit for removal. Failure to remove the grade in a specified time limit may result in dismissal from the program.

1.7 Students must maintain a grade point average of B (3.0) or better over all graduate courses taken and must otherwise satisfy all additional departmental and UMES Graduate School Program requirements. It should be noted, however, that a graduate student has two semesters in which to bring their average back to 3.0 (B) after it falls below that level. Summer is an academic semester for programs with a required nine or more credit curriculum in the summer period (Amendment approved by UMES Graduate Council). The admission of all students, both degree and non-degree, is continued at the discretion of the major professor, the Department or Program Director and the Dean of Graduate Studies (see the UMES Graduate Catalog Termination of Admission).

1.8 Students engaging in any unethical practices as outlined by the policies of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Code of Conduct of the American Physical Therapy Association, and State or Federal laws may be dismissed from the program.

1.9 All courses must be completed in sequence.

1.10 Students are expected to be able to meet the essential technical standards of performance required by the Department of Physical Therapy.

2. Clinical Practicum and Affiliation Phase

2.1 Clinical Affiliation assignments are dependent upon Department of Physical Therapy Faculty recommendation, Department Chair approval, and availability of clinical sites.

2.2 No student may enter the final summer clinical affiliation during the 3rd year of the program with a final grade of D or Incomplete (I) in any course or an overall GPA below 3.0.

In the event of the above, the final affiliation will be delayed and clinical affiliation assignment will not be made until the “I” or “D” is removed or GPA is above 3.0, faculty approval has been granted, and clinical sites are available.

2.3 Each clinical affiliation or practicum must be passed. A student receiving a failing grade during a clinical affiliation or practicum will be automatically dismissed from the DPT Program.

2.4 Students not completing a clinical affiliation or practicum for personal reasons may be required to repeat an affiliation or practicum of the same length or make-up the time lost at the same affiliation or practicum.

2.5 A student may only repeat or make-up a clinical affiliation or practicum upon approval of the faculty of the Department of Physical Therapy, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and upon availability of clinical sites.

2.6 Students are expected to be able to meet the essential technical standards of performance required by the Department of Physical Therapy.

3. Readmission

3.1 Students who have been dismissed for academic reasons and students who have had to withdraw for personal reasons may seek readmission by submitting a letter of request to the department.

3.2 The request for readmission will be reviewed by the Department of Physical Therapy Faculty. A student may be readmitted only once to the DPT program.

REAPPLICATION TO PROGRAM

An applicant who has been unsuccessful in obtaining admission into the program may reactivate his or her file by written request to the Department of Physical Therapy by February 1.

The file of an unsuccessful applicant will remain in the department for one year following the original application. After that time, the applicant will be required to submit a new set of application forms.

UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

The provisions of this publication are not to be regarded as an irrevocable contract between the applicant and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Following University established procedures, changes do occur from time to time in the general regulations and policies, academic requirements, deadlines, tuition, fees and availability of programs. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore reserves the right to make such changes without prior notice. At the time of this publication, every reasonable effort was made to attain factual accuracy in the material presented. Additional information on policies, procedures, rules and regulations governing degree and non-degree programs may be found in the Graduate Catalog and by contacting the specific program or department or the Graduate Studies office.

Graduate students are subject to State, University System and Campus policies governing employees, students and visitors to the campus. By their acceptance of admission and matriculation at UMES, students indicate their willingness to comply with University policies. Refer to the section in the Graduate Catalog on “Institutional Policies Governing Students”, which identifies common policies which may be obtained.

UMES is an equal employment opportunity institution with respect to both education and employment. The university’s policies, programs and activities conform to pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination, regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex and handicap. For information, contact the Director, Human Resources Management Office, J. T. Williams Hall, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

TECHNICAL STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

The mission of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Department of Physical Therapy is to prepare knowledgeable and competent physical therapists who perform as autonomous independent practitioners. The granting of the DPT degree to a student signifies that the holder is an individual who has satisfied the training requirements for a Physical Therapist. It is the responsibility of the faculty to select applicants who are best qualified to complete the required training and most likely to become skilled, effective physical therapists. Applicants and students will be judged not only on their scholastic achievement and ability, but also on their intellectual, physical and emotional capacities to meet the essential requirements of the schools curriculum. The Admissions Committee is instructed to exercise judgment on behalf of the faculty to select the entering class, and to consider character, extracurricular achievement, and overall suitability for the physical therapy profession based upon information in the application, letters of recommendation, and personal interviews.

Physical Therapist education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills and professional attitudes and behavior. The essential requirements presented in this document are pre-requisite for admission, academic advancement and graduation from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. All courses in the curriculum including ongoing self-directed learning are required in order to develop essential knowledge, attitudes and skills required to become a competent physical therapist.

Graduates of the Department of Physical Therapy must have the attitudes, knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. The UMES PT Department is committed to complying with various State and federal laws which prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities, including but not limited to Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) and, as required by law, will make necessary and reasonable accommodations, including modifications of activities and curriculum, for qualified applicants and students with disabilities. As described below, all persons including qualified persons with disabilities, who are admitted to the PT program, are expected to be able to meet these essential Technical Standards of Performance in order to advance academically in the program and to graduate with a degree from the Program.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore will consider for admission to the Physical Therapy Department any applicant who demonstrates the ability to perform or to learn to perform the skills listed in this document. Deficiencies in knowledge base, skills base, judgment, integrity, character, or professional attitude or demeanor, which may jeopardize patient care or otherwise make a student unfit to perform as a physical therapist, may be grounds for course or affiliation/practicum failure and possible dismissal.

Students entering the PT Program are required to possess the essential cognitive, physical and behavioral abilities to assimilate knowledge and develop skills and professional judgment. Through patient care experiences students develop appropriate decision-making skills in clinical practice with collaboration among other health professionals.

Aptitudes, Abilities and Skills

A candidate for the Physical Therapy Program must have or attain admission aptitude, abilities, skills within a reasonable time in five areas: observation; communication; sensory and motor coordination and function; intellectual conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities; and behavioral and social attributes:

1. Observation: A student must be able to observe demonstrations and learn from experiences in the basic and clinical sciences determined essential by the respective faculties. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and at close hand, noting non-verbal as well as verbal signals. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and other sensory modalities.

2. Communication: A student must be able to speak intelligibly, to hear adequately, and to observe closely patients in order to elicit and transmit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive non-verbal communications. A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. In addition, the student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written English with all members of the health care team. A student must possess reading skills at a level sufficient to accomplish curricular requirements and provide clinical care for patients. The student must be capable of completing appropriate medical records, documents and plans according to protocol in a complete and timely manner.

3. Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function: Students must have gross motor, fine motor and equilibrium functions required to carry out assessments (palpation, auscultation, percussion and other evaluative maneuvers) and to provide physical therapy intervention. A student should be able to execute motor movements required to provide therapeutic intervention (patient transfers, exercise and application of modalities) and emergency treatment to patients. Quick reactions are necessary not only for safety, but for one to respond therapeutically. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Candidates for the PT Program must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing. The student's evaluative skills will also be lessened without the functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell and taste. Additionally, a student must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain and temperature), sufficient proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis and vibratory) and sufficient motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described above. The student must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately integrate all information received by whatever senses are employed; and the student must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data.

Clinical training may require the ability to transport oneself to a variety of off-site settings in a timely manner. Rounds and patient care may require prolonged and/or rapid ambulation or movement. Reasonable accommodations will be determined on an individual basis and at the discretion of the Admissions Committee and/or the faculty.

4. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, a critical skill demanded of physical therapy, requires all of these intellectual abilities and often must be performed quickly, especially in emergency situations. A student must be able to identify significant findings from history, physical examination, and laboratory data, provide a reasoned explanation for physical therapy intervention, and retain and recall information in an efficient and timely manner. The ability to

incorporate new information from peers, teachers, and the medical literature in formulating evaluations and intervention plans is essential. Good judgment in patient assessment and therapeutic planning is essential; a student must be able to identify and communicate their knowledge to others when appropriate.

5. Behavioral and Social Attributes: The student must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients. The student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively when stressed. The student must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. A student is expected to accept appropriate suggestions and criticism and if necessary, respond by modification of behavior. Empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admission and educational processes.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore will consider for admission to the Physical Therapy Department any applicant who demonstrates the ability to perform, or to learn to perform within a reasonable time, the skills identified in this document.

Applicants with Disabilities

State and federal law require the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to provide reasonable accommodations for applicants with disabilities. The University will make necessary and reasonable accommodations as appropriate for qualified individuals but will not compromise academic and clinical requirements and standards that are essential to instruction in the PT Program and the award of a degree from the Department of Physical Therapy.

An applicant is not disqualified from consideration due to a disability. Applicants are **not required** to disclose the nature of disabilities to the Admissions Committee. Applicants with questions about the Department's Technical Standards for admission, academic advancement and graduation in relation to their disabilities are encouraged to discuss the issue of accommodation with the Admissions Committee prior to the interview process. If appropriate, and upon the request of an applicant or student, academic adjustments and/or reasonable accommodations may be provided. For applicants, the Admissions Committee will work with the appropriate faculty to determine whether requested accommodations are feasible and reasonable.

Some applicants with technological compensation or other reasonable accommodations can attain some of the aptitudes, abilities and skills described in the Technical Standards. However, applicants using technology supports or other accommodations must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of trained intermediaries to carry out functions described in the Technical Standards will not generally be permitted by the Department of Physical Therapy. Intermediaries, no matter how well trained, are applying their own powers of selection and observation, which could affect the student's judgment and performance. Therefore, the Physical Therapy Department will not generally permit third parties to be used to assist a student in the clinical training or in accomplishing curriculum requirements in the five skill areas identified in the Technical Standards. Other requested accommodations will be given due consideration, and reasonable accommodations will be made where consistent with curriculum objectives and legal requirements applicable to the Department and University.

Requests for Accommodations

An applicant who has not been offered admission to the Department of Physical Therapy may disclose a disability and request accommodation during the admission process. **DISCLOSURE BEFORE BEING OFFERED ADMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED.** However, an applicant may want to determine the Department's response to a specific accommodation request early in the admissions process. An applicant who chooses voluntarily to disclose a disability should write the Admissions Committee and the Office of Admissions to disclose the disability and discuss accommodation requests. Disclosure of the disability and request for accommodation will be kept confidential and shared with those persons responsible for evaluating the disability and whether a reasonable accommodation may be made for the disability.

After admission, students (including admittees who have not yet accepted a place in a class of the Department of Physical Therapy, admittees who have accepted a place, and matriculating students) should disclose disabilities and request accommodation by writing, calling or visiting the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) or the Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy. The University will follow policy and procedures for accommodation.

The following deadlines and goals must be observed:

Any student who is not yet a matriculant must make requests for accommodation of disabilities within one week after accepting admission to the program. Any matriculating student who becomes aware of a disability requiring accommodation or a need for accommodation of a previously known disability, must request the accommodation as soon as the need for accommodation has been identified. Information about a student's disability and request for accommodation will be held in confidence and disclosed to those persons responsible for evaluating the disability and determining whether requested accommodations can be made. A student can expect a response from the Vice President of Academic Affairs within 21 days of submitting all required documentation as required. The time may be extended if the School requests additional information, which cannot reasonably be gathered within the period.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**Phone: 410-651-6301
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**E-mail: ptdept@umes.edu
Website: [http:// www.umes.edu/pt/](http://www.umes.edu/pt/)**

APPLICATION REQUEST

I am interested in your Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree Program.

Please forward application materials to:

NAME _____
(Please print or type)

ADDRESS _____
(Please print or type)

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAIL ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS TO:

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
HAZEL HALL – 2ND FLOOR, SUITE 2093
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853

You may also fax your request, send an e-mail, or complete the application on-line.