Master of Science in Physical Therapy
Physical Therapy Program
School of Health Sciences
Oakland University

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Special points of interest:
A certificate may be earned with the MSPT degree:
- Orthopedics
- Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Rehabilitation
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Teaching and Learning for Rehabilitation Professionals

DEGREE
Master of Science in Physical Therapy

ACADEMIC UNIT
School of Health Sciences

ACCREDITATION
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

DESCRIPTION
This degree is designed to provide practicing physical therapists with advanced knowledge in theoretical and clinical aspects of the profession. The clinical curriculum addresses orthopedic, pediatric and adult neurological aspects of physical therapy while the theoretical curriculum focuses on biomechanics and motor learning. Optional clinical experiences, in a residency format, are gained through cooperating internship sites for some specialty areas. Graduates of the program are prepared for autonomous specialty practice within their area of study.

Students can elect to complete specific subsets of courses leading to a graduate certificate in orthopedic manual physical therapy, graduate certificate in pediatric rehabilitation, graduate certificate in orthopedic physical therapy, graduate certificate in neurological rehabilitation, or a graduate certificate in teaching and learning.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Applicants should hold a bachelor’s degree or entry-level master’s degree in physical therapy from a regionally accredited institution with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above. Two years of clinical experience is strongly recommended.

Applicants with an undergraduate GPA of less than 3.00 with the appropriate academic background and strong letters of recommendation may be considered for conditional admission.

Students who qualify for this status must complete a minimum of 8 credits of graduate coursework achieving a grade point of 3.00 or above in each course before conditional status is removed.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
The application materials and steps to be completed are:

1. Application for Admission to Graduate Study and non-refundable application fee.
2. Curriculum vitae and personal statement describing career experiences and goals.
3. Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate level academic work.
4. Two Recommendation for Graduate Admission forms.
5. Official scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
6. Official scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) from applicants who are graduates of programs taught in a language other than English.
7. International students must meet the application requirements for International Students described by Graduate Admissions.
8. Proof of licensure or eligibility for license in the State of Michigan. Licensure is required to participate in clinical and/or residency program courses.

ADMISSION TERMS AND DEADLINES
Students are admitted in the fall semester only. Applications will be accepted until August 1 for the following fall semester.
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. Completion of a minimum of 36 credits with a GPA of 3.00 or better. Credit toward the degree will not be given for courses with grades under 2.5.
2. Completion of the core courses: PT502, 550, 590, 631, 677, PT 536 or PT 611 and PT570 or EXS 525.
3. Completion of thirteen or more credits of electives as approved by the student’s faculty adviser. Elective options include: PT500, 503, 507, 509, 510, 520, 523, 525, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 598, 601, 602, 603, 611, 695 and other adviser-approved courses.
4. Completion of the research projects or comprehensive examination. The research option requires the completion of a minimum of 4 credits in PT 690. The comprehensive examination option requires the completion of a minimum of 4 credits in PT 650.

RESEARCH OR COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OPTION
Candidates for the Master of Science degree must choose either to carry out an independent research project or to conduct in-depth study in a number of approved areas, followed by a comprehensive examination covering these areas.

Students who choose the research option select an adviser who serves as the committee chair and two committee members agreed upon by the student and chair. A research proposal is presented orally and in writing to the committee for approval. The findings will be presented and defended by the candidate at a meeting open to the university community, including their research committee. The final paper must be submitted in designated format.

The comprehensive examination option is designed to provide those students who do not wish to conduct thesis research an opportunity for in-depth study in several areas. Under this option, students with their adviser’s approval, select a minimum of three topics. Extensive reading lists for each topic are compiled from recommendations submitted by three or more faculty members who have expertise in the areas. A written examination, consisting of selected questions for each topic area, is given in order to determine if the candidate has the in-depth knowledge expected of a master’s degree candidate. The written exam can be arranged to be given in three parts, covering each of the topics studied. This is followed by the oral examination covering all three topics.

MSPT RESEARCH REPORT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
One copy of the approved MSPT research report must be delivered to Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning by the date listed in the Schedule of Classes for the term in which the student expects to graduate. The research report must be graded prior to submission. Submission requirements are provided on the Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning Web page.

TIME LIMITS
If more than six years have passed since the student has been admitted to the MSPT program, and all requirements (including an approved research report) have not been completed, the student must petition the program coordinator and Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning for an extension. Students who are deemed inactive may be dropped from the program, although they may petition for reinstatement.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
Upon acceptance into the program, students are assigned a faculty adviser who will assist the student in developing a plan of study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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