Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT)

PROGRAM MISSION
The mission of the Alvernia University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT) is to provide an educational experience that seeks to prepare the next generation of autonomous physical therapist clinicians, researchers and educators by challenging students to think critically, act professionally and serve altruistically. The DPT Program seeks to prepare graduates to assume a leadership role in today’s healthcare environment as Doctors of Physical Therapy who are committed to the application and perpetuation of evidence-based knowledge. Represented within the mission of the program is the vision of the American Physical Therapy Association and the core values of Alvernia University.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
The Alvernia University Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program is currently in the pre-candidacy stage with achievement of candidacy expected in early 2014. The DPT is a clinical post-graduate doctoral degree that is 3 years in length and deemed to be the preferred credential for optimally preparing graduates to make significant contributions to the profession. Beginning in the Fall of 2014, the DPT will be offered in a 4+3 year curricular format. Prospective students with an earned bachelor’s degree from Alvernia or another four-year accredited institution are welcome to apply. A 3+3 year option will also be available in the Fall of 2015. This option would allow Alvernia students who are admitted as undergraduate freshman into one of 3 majors (Healthcare Science, Biology or Psychology) to begin the professional phase of the curriculum in their senior year. Upon maintaining the required GPA and completion of all requirements, these students are guaranteed admission into the program and can expect to complete their undergraduate training and doctoral degree within 6 years.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
The following pre-requisite courses must be completed with a final grade of “C” or better:
- Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II - 4 credits each with lab
- Biology - 3-4 credits
- Chemistry I and II - 4 credits each with lab
- Physics I and II - 4 credits each with lab
- Social Sciences - 6-9 credits (psychology, sociology/anthropology, humanities)
- Statistics - 3 credits
- English Composition/Writing - 3 credits

Additional admission requirements include:
- An official transcript from each 4-year accredited university attended revealing a:
  - Cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4+3) or 3.25 (3+3) or better
  - Science GPA of 3.0 (4+3 and 3+3) or better
- A minimum of 100 hours of observation in a minimum of 1 outpatient and 1 inpatient physical therapy setting (4+3 and 3+3)
- Three letters of reference from a: licensed PT, professor, other non-family member (4+3); licensed PT, Alvernia professor, other non-family member (3+3)
- GRE taken within the last 5 years with a score of 150 on Verbal and 300 on Verbal + Quantitative combined (4+3 only) (Alvernia Code 2431) (www.ets.org)
- One questionnaire with 2 written essay questions (4+3 and 3+3)
- International Applicants must submit official TOEFL results for all students for whom English is a second language (www.ets.org). Transcripts from a university outside of the United States must be evaluated by an independent service. (www.wes.org)

Graduation from a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Alvernia University is seeking accreditation of a new physical therapist education program from CAPTE. The program will submit an Application for Candidacy, which is the formal application required in the pre-accreditation stage. Submission of this document does not assure that the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status is required prior to implementation of the professional phase of the program; therefore, no students may be enrolled in professional courses until Candidate for Accreditation status has been achieved. Further, though achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status signifies satisfactory progress toward accreditation, it does not assure that the program will be granted accreditation.
ABOUT THE DPT PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Christopher H. Wise, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, MTC, ATC, received his PT degree from Arcadia University and his doctoral degree from Widener University. Dr. Wise is a certified athletic trainer (ATC), certified manual therapist (MTC), has received his board certification as a clinical specialist in orthopaedics (OCS) and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (FAAOMPT). He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. at Nova Southeastern University.

Prior to coming to Alvernia, Dr. Wise was Clinical Associate Professor in the Institute for Physical Therapy Education at Widener University and former Program Director for the PTA Program at Alvernia. Along with his wife, who is a PTA, he is owner of WISE Physical Therapy LLC, an orthopaedic outpatient private practice in Kutztown, Pa.

Dr. Wise's clinical and research interests lie in the areas of orthopaedic manual physical therapy of the spine and lower extremity biomechanics. Dr. Wise has presented the results of his research nationally, and his poster on the use of thrust on a patient with long thoracic nerve palsy received third prize at the 2011 AAOMPT annual conference. He has published on classification of shoulder impairment syndromes and has collaborated in the publication of two monographs for the Orthopaedic Section of the APTA on manual PT for the cervical spine and post-surgical management of the thoracic spine. He has developed a model for teaching Grade V spinal mobilization and has presented the results of his research.

In 2009, Dr. Wise co-authored a text entitled, “Mobilization Notes: A Rehabilitation Specialist’s Pocket Guide” (F.A. Davis), and a second text entitled “Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy: From Art to Evidence” (F.A. Davis) is pending publication in 2014. He has also co-authored and developed an iPod application entitled, “iOrtho+,” which is currently available on the iTunes and Android markets. Dr. Wise has been involved in teaching continuing education courses on manual physical therapy for over 15 years.

ABOUT THE CHAIR OF ALLIED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Dolores Bertoti, PT, MS, DPT, is a 1975 graduate of Temple University with a BS, later earning an advanced Master's degree in Physical Therapy at the same university in 1984 and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2013. Dr. Bertoti was certified as a pediatric clinical specialist by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties as a Pediatric Clinical Specialist during 1993-2003 and served as an appointed member of the Specialization Academy of Content Experts for this Board for three years.

Dr. Bertoti has been a physical therapist for 38 years, authoring over 20 publications and making countless national and international presentations in the areas of applied neurorehabilitation, motor control, pediatric clinical practice, electrotherapy, clinical research and university teaching and learning. Most recently, her papers on university teaching and learning were awarded best paper by her peers at the International Education Conference in Rome in 2012 and in Maui in 2013. Her 2004 text and workbook “Functional Neurorehabilitation through the Life Span” offers an insightful and practical approach to understanding and intervening effectively with persons with neurological impairment at any age. In 2012, FA Davis published Bertoti and Houglum's "Brunnstrom's Clinical Kinesiology", the gold edition of this cornerstone text in Kinesiology. The text has been widely accepted and now is also being published in New Delhi, India, by Jaypee Medical Publisher, Ltd.

Active in inquiry and scholarship, Dr. Bertoti was recognized as recipient of the APTA Jack Walker Award for Excellence in Clinical Research 1989. In 1990, the American Business Club named her National Therapist of the Year (USA). Known for her talent and engagement in the classroom, Bertoti was awarded Alvernica College's Annual St. Bernardine Award for Teaching Excellence in 1995 and the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2013. At Alvernia University, Dr. Bertoti has been Department Chair and Program Director for the PTA, AT and OT Programs and she served for five years as Dean of Student Success (Academic Advancement). Presently, Dr. Bertoti is an associate professor and chair of the Allied Health and Human Services Department, where she teaches in the areas of Kinesiology, Neuroscience, Electrotherapy and Healthcare Science.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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APPLY ONLINE OR FIND MORE INFORMATION AT: http://www.alvernia.edu/dpt

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