Doctoral Program

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Alvernia University
The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at Alvernia University is designed to provide an educational experience that prepares the next generation of physical therapist clinicians, researchers and educators to think critically, act professionally and serve selflessly. The DPT program is offered at our main campus located in Reading, PA. Alvernia offers the following track options from which to choose:

**4+3 Year Option**

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. Upon admission, students will be required to complete an additional three years of coursework in order to achieve their Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

**3+3 Year Option**

The 3+3 year DPT option allows Alvernia students who are admitted as undergraduate freshmen 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 six years.

Graduation from a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) is necessary for eligibility to take the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Explore the full depth of our curriculum at [www.alvernia.edu/dpt](http://www.alvernia.edu/dpt)
Expand Your Opportunities

More than 120,000 physical therapists are licensed in the United States today, treating nearly one million people every day. Physical therapy is a sought-after career offering a lifetime of satisfaction while directly helping people move more efficiently and function more effectively. Employment in areas of orthopedic outpatient and hospital-based facilities, sports medicine, acute care, long-term care, rehabilitation centers, pediatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities and home health care are available for licensed physical therapists.

Physical therapists use their minds and hands to:

- Diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities.
- Restore and maintain optimal physical function while promoting wellness and fitness that improves quality of life as it relates to movement and health.
- Prevent the onset, symptoms and progression of impairments, functional limitations and disabilities that may result from diseases, disorders or injuries.

The Career You Want

Physical therapists have the necessary training to meet the total range of patient care responsibilities involved in preventing disabilities and promoting restoration of function to the physically impaired. Therapists find work in hospitals and medical centers, rehabilitation centers, private practice clinics, home health settings, sports medicine facilities, colleges, universities and in various other settings. They also work as educators, researchers, consultants and administrators. The broad options available allow them to develop and pursue a focus of care in any specific population, from children and athletes to senior citizens.
Our goal is to develop the next generation of autonomous physical therapists who are self-reflective, service-oriented, skilled and prepared to assume a leadership role in today’s health care environment.

At Alvernia, you will find a faculty of accomplished scholars and industry experts, along with outstanding learning facilities. Professors bring real-world experience into the classroom to ground learning in a practical setting that is ideal to help students successfully meet their personal and professional goals.

First-Class Faculty

Experts. Advisors. Mentors.

Dr. Christopher H. Wise, PT, DPT, OCS, FAOMPT, MTC, ATC
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Director
Associate Professor of Physical Therapy
Learner-Directed
At Alvernia, DPT students will partner with faculty on a journey toward academic success. The faculty will create a culture of excellence that fosters the development of knowledge and skill. They also will teach students a variety of specialty areas to ensure that relevant best-practice standards become infused into the curriculum.

Performance-Based
The hallmark of the DPT Program is its emphasis on the development of clinical competence. Early and frequent clinical practice experiences and a curriculum that connects the classroom to the clinic provide the context for optimal student learning and preparation for effective practice designed to impact the lives of others.

Interprofessional
Alvernia DPT students will have the opportunity to engage and collaborate with faculty and students from other health-related programs within the university. An appreciation of other disciplines will enable students to better understand their unique contribution to the health and wellness of others.

Interactive
Alvernia’s DPT Program integrates the classroom with the clinic by exposing students to actual patient care early and often throughout the curriculum. Beginning in the first semester, students will have exposure to patients, which provides context for classroom learning. The Program concludes with two back-to-back internships that prepare students for immediate clinical practice.
Career Focused

Our values-based learning philosophy, combined with our emphasis on experiential learning, opens doors to careers with a variety of companies throughout the region and the nation. The demand for professionals with a DPT remains high, improving job security with your current employer and within your industry, as well as providing you with a competitive edge.

Attainable

Our DPT program is easily accessible to students from Harrisburg, Lancaster, Allentown, Reading, Kutztown, Philadelphia and regions along the East Coast. On-campus housing is also available for DPT students.

Affordable

Alvernia offers a quality education at a cost you can afford. Our tuition is competitive, and we are an outstanding value. We are committed to helping you find the best ways to finance your education. From our convenient payment plans to our popular tuition deferment program, you’ll find there are many options our Student Financial Planning Office provides to help make your tuition more affordable.

We invite you to visit campus and speak with a member of our Graduate Admissions staff. Our supportive team will help you every step of the way. To arrange a visit or submit an application, please go to www.alvernia.edu/gradandadult
Effective November 12, 2014, the Physical Therapy Program at Alvernia University has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.