DOISY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapists are health care professionals who improve or restore movement and health to enable individuals to have optimal function and quality of life. They evaluate, diagnose and treat individuals of all ages with conditions that limit the body’s ability to move and participate in daily life.

DEGREES OFFERED
- Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science (Completion of senior year)
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (Completion of six-year program)

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
High school seniors applying for Fall 2014 admission have two options for acceptance into the Saint Louis University Program in Physical Therapy.
- The standard selective admissions process is for students with an ACT composite score of 25 or higher with no subsection below a 23 (or equivalent SAT scores) and a high school GPA of 3.2/4.0.
- Early acceptance is for students with an ACT composite score of 30 or higher with math and science subsections scoring at least a 28 ACT (or equivalent SAT scores), high school GPA of 3.85/4.0 and an outstanding high school academic record (with an emphasis placed on excellence in math and science courses).*

* Students will automatically be considered for the standard selective admission process if they did not meet the requirements for early acceptance. Applications are reviewed on an individual basis.

Additional current minimum eligibility requirements are:
- Four years of science, including biology and chemistry. Physics is strongly encouraged but not required.
- Four years of math, including pre-calculus or greater.
- Four years of English.

Meeting minimum GPA and test score requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. For the freshman class admitted in Fall 2013, the mean composite ACT score was 29 and the mean GPA was 4.00 on a 4.00 scale.

The deadline for completed PT applications and financial aid consideration for all freshman is December 1.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY
PT students have the opportunity to study abroad in the fall of junior year. SLU offers many study abroad locations for students.

CURRICULUM
Physical therapists are required to earn a doctoral degree from an accredited PT program. Saint Louis University’s Program in Physical Therapy is a freshman entry program, allowing students to complete their degree in six calendar years. The program is divided into the pre-professional (freshman-junior years) and the professional phase (senior-second post baccalaureate year). Progression to the professional phase of the program provides a seamless entry from foundational coursework to practical labs and clinical experiences.

Once a student is accepted into SLU’s PT program, they will progress through the entire program without reapplication or graduate entrance exam provided the student meets the program academic and professional behavior standards.

During the professional phase, students enroll in coursework specific to the PT profession and complete 40 weeks of full-time clinical internships. Students begin their clinical experience in the fall of the senior year with a half day clinical.

Elective courses in the physical therapy curriculum and clinical exposure help students gain advanced knowledge and skills in specialty areas. In addition to the PT program, students pursue minors and double majors.

After graduation students must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination to obtain a license to practice PT.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
The Program in Physical Therapy is housed in the Doisy College of Health Sciences on Saint Louis University’s Medical Center Campus. This organizational model allows for integration of an interprofessional course sequence in the PT curriculum to build a team approach to health care.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Students are assigned a faculty mentor beginning in their freshman year to assist in their individual development. As a freshman-entry program, Program in Physical Therapy students are given early exposure to the profession through coursework taught by PT faculty.

All PT faculty are involved in research, which upholds the quality of education provided and offers students opportunities to participate in research alongside their professors. However, participation in research is not required for the program.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Graduates of the Program in Physical Therapy enjoy employment in a variety of settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics, long-term rehabilitation facilities, collegiate and professional sports, schools, patient homes and fitness centers.

EARNING POTENTIAL
Physical therapists typically work in full-time positions and receive benefits. The median annual wage of physical therapists was $81,110 in May 2012. Salary depends on location and experience level. (bls.gov)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
The American Physical Therapy Association is a professional organization representing more than 85,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students of physical therapy. Learn more at apta.org.

ACCREDITATION
The SLU Program in Physical Therapy is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, 703-706-3245, accreditation@apta.org, capteonline.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Kate Lochhead
Administrative Assistant for the Program in Physical Therapy
Phone: 314-977-8505  Email: klochhea@slu.edu

400+ Clinical Sites
SLU is affiliated with more than 400 clinical sites locally, nationally and internationally.

98.7% NPTE Passage Rate
The three year average (including classes 2011, 2012, 2013) of SLU PT graduates passing the National Physical Therapy Examination is 98.7%.

Ranked in the top 20%
The Program in Physical Therapy is ranked 34 out of 213 accredited physical therapy programs in the nation according to the 2013 ranking by U.S. News and World Report.

3,500+ Patients Served Annually
SLU PT faculty and clinical staff provided clinical services at Student Health, SLU Hospital and the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinic with more than 3,500 patients served annually.

80+ Years
Since its founding in 1933, the Program in Physical Therapy has a long history of educating excellent physical therapists. SLU was among the first Jesuit institutions to offer a degree in physical therapy and has had continuous accreditation since the inception of the accreditation process.

100% Employment Rate
SLU’s PT program has a 100% employment rate after graduation.

Occupational Satisfaction
According to a 2013 Forbes article, physical therapists are reported having one of “The Ten Happiest Jobs” and report among the highest job satisfaction levels in the country.