ABOUT THE FACULTY

The physical therapy faculty is committed to providing you an educational experience that provides the foundation for practice and promotes the desire to continue to seek new knowledge and skills as you grow in your career. Students are encouraged to join faculty in research activities and to share in the dissemination of knowledge. Interested students can engage in faculty research activities.

CURRICULUM

Physical therapists are required to earn a Doctor of physical therapy (D.P.T.) degree from an accredited PT program. Saint Louis University’s physical therapy program is an early assurance program, allowing students to enter as freshman and complete their D.P.T. degree in six years.

The curriculum is divided into the preprofessional (freshman–junior years) and the professional phase (senior year–second postbaccalaureate 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 the need for reapplying or taking a 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 physical therapy profession and complete 38 weeks of full-time clinical internships. Students begin their clinical experience in the spring of the senior year.

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.

SLU’s early assurance D.P.T. curriculum takes six years, including two summers. Students receive a Bachelor of Science in exercise science (B.S.E.S.) after completion of the first four years, and the D.P.T. degree after successful completion of the additional two postbaccalaureate years.

After graduation, students must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination to obtain a license to practice physical therapy.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

High school seniors applying for admission have two options for acceptance into the Saint Louis University program in physical therapy. Applications are reviewed on an individual basis.

+ The standard selective admission 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 on a 4.0 scale (with an emphasis on math and science).

+ The early acceptance admission process 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), a 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.

Minimum eligibility requirements also include:
+ Four years of science, including biology and chemistry. Physics is strongly encouraged but not required.
+ Four years of math (precalculus recommended, but not required).
+ Four years of English.

Meeting minimum GPA and test score requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. The deadline for completed PT applications and financial aid consideration for all freshman is Dec. 1.

SHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need. In addition to University scholarships, the Doisy College of Health Sciences Alumni Association offers a scholarship to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.