

## DEGREE(S)

- + Six-year Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in exercise science and Doctor of physical therapy (D.P.T.) program

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Saint Louis University's early assurance (freshman entry) Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) curriculum takes six years, including two summers. Students receive a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science (BSES) after completion of the first four years, and the D.P.T. degree after successful completion of the additional two postbaccalaureate years.

Physical therapists also work with clients who want to improve their physical performance and fitness level. A physical therapist's duties include the examination and evaluation of patients/clients, the development and implementation of intervention programs, patient education and supervision of other health care practitioners. In addition to patient care, physical therapists may also serve as administrators, teachers, researchers and consultants.

SLU Physical Therapy by the Numbers

- + SLU is affiliated with more than 300 clinical sites locally, nationally and internationally.
- + The three-year average (including the classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014) of SLU physical therapy (PT) graduates who pass the National Physical Therapy Examination is 99.1 percent.
- + SLU physical therapy faculty and clinical staff provide clinical services at Student Health, SLU Hospital and the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinic with more than 3,500 patients served annually.
- + Physical therapists are reported as having one of "The Ten Happiest Jobs" and report among the highest job satisfaction levels in the country, according to a 2013 Forbes article.

## 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 in 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.SLU.EDU

### Contact

Doisy College of Health Sciences  
314-977-2570  
dchs@health.slu.edu

OFFICE OF ADMISSION, ONE NORTH GRAND BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO 63103  
(800) SLU-FOR-U • (314) 977-2500 • admitme@slu.edu • www.slu.edu • beabilliken.com

### Graduate Programs

For a full listing of programs, visit [graduate.slu.edu](http://graduate.slu.edu).

## 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](http://finaid.slu.edu).

## WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

- + The physical therapy program is ranked 40 out of 213 accredited physical therapy programs in the nation, according to the 2015 rankings issued by U.S. News & World Report.
- + Students in SLU's PT program report a 99 percent employment rate after graduation.
- + Since its founding in 1933, the physical therapy program 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.

Graduates of the physical therapy program enjoy employment in a variety of settings, including hospitals, out-patient clinics, long-term rehabilitation facilities, collegiate and professional sports, schools, patient homes and fitness centers.

Physical therapists typically work in full-time positions and receive benefits. The 2014 median annual wage of physical therapists was \$82,390 per year according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The salary depends on location and experience level.

The American Physical Therapy Association is a professional organization representing more than 93,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students of physical therapy. You can learn more by visiting the association online at [apta.org](http://apta.org).

The SLU physical therapy program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

The program in physical therapy at Saint Louis University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

For more information, contact them at:

- + Address: 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314
- + Telephone: 703-706-3245
- + Email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org)
- + Website: [capteonline.org](http://capteonline.org)

### Contact

Doisy College of Health Sciences  
314-977-2570  
[dchs@health.slu.edu](mailto:dchs@health.slu.edu)

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