The Department of Physical Therapy offers the clinically oriented, entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. Students interested in the physical therapy program at UND should stay in contact with the PT department to keep informed of the pre-professional and professional curriculum. Our website address is: http://www.med.und.edu/physical-therapy.

Physical therapists provide services to patients who have impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities. Physical therapists assist patients in restoring health; alleviating pain; examining, evaluating, and diagnosing changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease, or other causes. Physical therapists are also involved with intervention, prevention, and the promotion of health, wellness, and fitness. They are employed by hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, home care, school systems, industrial settings, athletic facilities, and in private practice.

The Physical Therapy program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

The mission of the Department of Physical Therapy is to train physical therapists who will provide quality physical therapy services. The professional services provided by a physical therapist demand a strong background in the liberal arts and clinical sciences as well as high moral and ethical standards. In addition to clinical practice expectations, teaching, service, and research responsibilities are an integral part of the educational experience.

**Goal 1:** The student will demonstrate the skills necessary for the entry-level practice of physical therapy.
**Goal 2:** The student is an advocate for service to the community and the profession.
**Goal 3:** The student will develop critical inquiry skills related to clinical and basic science research.
**Goal 4:** The student will develop the skills required for life-long learning.
**Goal 5:** The student is to be an advocate for health and wellness at the individual and societal levels, demonstrate respect for self and others, and a commitment to the profession of physical therapy.

**Admission Requirements**

Please refer to the academic catalog for the Pre-Physical Therapy admission requirements.

Acceptance is on a competitive basis, with the major determinant being the basic science grade point average. The basic science GPA is defined as: biology (eight semester credits), chemistry (eight semester credits), physics (eight semester credits), anatomy (three semester credits), physiology (four semester credits), and psychology (seven semester credits). In addition to the science GPA, GRE score, and cumulative GPA, an interview and letters of reference will be considered in the admission process. Prospective students are expected to complete at least 60 hours of physical therapy observation prior to application.

The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies’ current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

1. Completion of the application for admission to the professional program and UND School of Graduate Studies application form.
2. Submission of score from the Graduate Record Examination General Test.
3. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

Applicants who have received their bachelors or masters degree in the United States or English-speaking Canada are not required to submit the TOEFL or IELTS.

**Degree Requirements**

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu

Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.
1. Students must be formally accepted into the professional education component of the DPT and endorsed by the Chair of Physical Therapy. NOTE: Acceptance by the UND Office of Admissions or the School of Graduate Studies does not constitute acceptance into the professional program in Physical Therapy.

2. The professional education component of the DPT will require three academic years and two summer sessions following completion of the pre-physical therapy entrance requirements.

3. No student will be allowed to remain in the program or complete the full-time clinical experiences unless he/she attains a letter grade of at least “C” in the major courses.

4. To advance to candidacy, the student must successfully complete the first year comprehensive examination, and maintain a cumulative School of Graduate Studies GPA of > 3.00 AND/OR a summer session GPA of > 3.00. Students who fail to advance to candidacy during the first year will be dismissed from the professional program.

5. After advancement to candidacy, the student is expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of > 3.00. The School of Graduate Studies will monitor the cumulative GPA, which must be > 3.00. If the cumulative GPA is not > 3.00, the School of Graduate Studies policies for probation and dismissal for GPA will govern the student’s status.

6. Students in the professional program should be aware that there are special requirements for clinical uniforms, professional liability insurance, medical insurance, immunizations, CPR certification, and completion of a criminal background check. These requirements must be met prior to any clinical contact with patients. The student will also be responsible for travel, housing, and food costs, in addition to the payment of tuition and fees, during the full-time clinical experience semesters. The majority of these experiences will be completed at geographical locations other than the City of Grand Forks.

7. Prospective students should be aware that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to obtain a professional license to practice physical therapy.

The faculty reserves the right to place on professional probation or to cancel the registration of any student in Physical Therapy whose performance in the classroom or the clinic is unsatisfactory.

Please refer to the academic catalog for the Pre-Physical Therapy coursework and the Physical Therapy Professional Program coursework.

Program Faculty and Areas of Expertise

Meridee Danks, PT, DPT, NCS, Neurology, Geriatrics, Balance, Motor Control
Schawnn Decker, PT, DPT, Orthopedics, Electrotherapy, Examination, Industrial Medicine, Wellness
Cindy Flom-Meland, PT, PhD, NCS, Neurology, Stroke, Brain Injury, SCI, Degenerative Disease, Amputation, Psychology Aspects of Disability, Communication
Susan Jeno, PT, PhD, Gross Anatomy, Orthopedics and Administration
Beverly J. Johnson, PT, DSc, GCS, Director of Clinical Education, Clinical Education, Administration, Industrial Medicine, Geriatrics, Prevention and Wellness
Michelle LaBrecque, PT, DPT, Orthopedics, Geriatrics, Therapeutic Agents, Motor Control, Rehabilitation
Renee Mabey, PT, PhD, Patient Evaluation, Statistics and Medico-legal Aspects
Peggy Mohr, PT, PhD, Pediatrics and Early Intervention
Thomas M. Mohr, PT, PhD, Neuroscience, Biomechanics, Electromyography, and Motion Analysis
David Relling, PT, PhD, Exercise Physiology, Cardio-pulmonary Rehabilitation, Exercise Physiology and Orthopedics
Mark Romanick, PT, PhD, Sports Medicine, Orthopedics, and Biomechanics
Gary Schindler, PT, DPT, OCS, Orthopedics, Manual Therapy, Therapeutic Exercise, Sports Medicine

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Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

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