

Frequently Asked Questions

How A.T. Still's Orthopedic Residency Program differs from other residency programs?

A.T. Still's Orthopedic Residency Program is unique in that it is a University-based program partnering with a variety of clinical partners. Our program has experienced faculty both as educators and as clinical specialists. In addition to the core A.T. Still faculty, we have partnered with expert clinicians in areas of clinical specialties with a wealth of knowledge and clinical experience as a resource for our residents. The foundation of this residency Program is built from a strong clinical reasoning base. Our residents are trained with a focus on education, leadership, and evidenced based practice. The Program's university setting also provides tremendous resources to the resident including the learning resource center, a virtual library with online journals and books, people, equipment, and facilities designed to promote learning.

What is the curriculum like?

Supervised clinical mentorship and teaching are key components of the A.T. Still University's Orthopedic Residency Program. Each week will include 2.5 hours of mentored clinical practice. Core faculty from A.T. Still University also mentors once a month with the resident in clinical practice. The didactic component of the residency curriculum is centered on the "Current Concepts of Orthopedic Physical Therapy" for the 12 body regions published by the APTA, and the best evidence available in the practice of orthopedic physical therapy. There are assigned learning activities to develop leadership and skills in teaching. The resident is required to be a clinical instructor for an entry level PT student during the 12-month program. Weekly webinars are held where the residents and core faculty have discussions, and share case studies. The program has 8 clinical experts available for consultation and shadowing in clinical practice. There are 10 weekend courses over the course of the residency program including lab sessions to develop and practice clinical skills. There are two written and live patient exams for assessment of clinical skills and theoretical knowledge.

How many years of clinical experience in the Physical Therapy profession should I have before applying to the Orthopedic Residency Program?

There is no minimum experience requirement to apply to the Program. We are able to tailor our Program to address the needs and experience level of each individual resident. We welcome new graduates to apply to the program.

When is the application deadline, and Program start date?

The deadline for applications is June 15th, and the Program starts October 1.

What is required of my practice setting?

Residents are required to be employed in a non-physician owned orthopedic clinic that has a wide patient population with musculoskeletal conditions in Arizona. We recommend the resident works approximately a 30-hour week schedule however; the details of the employment are between the resident and the employer.

Who will be my mentor and what are the requirements of the mentor?

Residents are required to have a clinical mentor willing to and able to mentor the resident one-on-one in clinical practice each week. The mentor should practice evidence based practice and have a minimum of 5 years experience in the practice of orthopedic physical therapy. The mentor should have gone through the Clinical Instructor Credentialing Course sponsored by the APTA. If they have not, there is opportunity to do so as part of the residency program. The core faculty at A.T. Still University will also mentor the resident in clinical practice once a month.

What are some of the benefits to the mentors?

The mentors are given the title and privileges of Adjunct Faculty of A.T. Still University. This includes full access to the extensive resources of the university's library. We encourage participation in our weekend course (no registration fee), and participation in the webinar sessions though these are recorded and can be viewed at another time. Mentors are learning with the resident the best evidence in physical therapy practice and elevate their own clinical knowledge and skills while participating in the 12 month program.

How many residents participate in the Orthopedic Residency Program?

Three to 6 residents are accepted into the Program each year.

What degree should I hold to apply to the Orthopedic Residency Program?

There is not specific degree requirement however; the applicant must have an Arizona license to practice Physical Therapy at the time of matriculation.

Can student loans be deferred while enrolled in the Program?

Residency programs do qualify for deferment of student loans while enrolled in the Program. However, individual lenders may have different requirements. Please check with your lender to confirm this information for your specific situation.

Is an interview required as part of the Application process?

Yes

Have additional questions?

Contact Cheri Hodges, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT program director at email address Chodges@atsu.edu or phone number 480-219-6189.