

Frequently Asked Questions

• **How do I apply to the program? When is the application deadline?**

The ATSU-ASHS PT program participates in the Central Application Service for Physical Therapist (PTCAS). PTCAS provides a web-based service that allows applicants to submit a single application to multiple participating PT programs. All official transcripts and letters of reference are sent directly to PTCAS as part of the application process. Please visit PTCAS at <http://www.ptcas.org/> for more information on how to apply for admission.

The SOFT deadline to apply with PTCAS for the ATSU/ASHS PT program is February 16th. Program enrollment is based on rolling admissions. Applicants are encouraged to apply early.

• **What is the average GPA and GRE of your students? What GRE do I need to take?**

Average GPA for the entering class of 2009 was 3.24 for Cumulative and 3.03 for Prerequisite. GRE averages for the entering class of 2009 was as follows:

Verbal = 428, Quantitative = 592 and Analytical = 4.10.

The GRE test you need to take is the General Test, not the Subject Tests.

• **How long is the program?**

The DPT program is 3 yrs in length. The first 2 yrs are spent in the classroom and the 3rd year you will complete 4 eight week rotations, three web-based electives, and complete work on your terminal project.

• **Will I be able to work while I am in school?**

Some students do choose to work part-time while in the program, the schedule is such that you should be able to hold a part-time job. Full-time employment is not possible while attending the program.

• **When do I need to complete my prerequisite courses?**

Prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the **spring semester** prior to enrollment. If you are unable to do this, you must have permission from the department. Normally permission is granted for one course only.

• **Can I take prereq's at a community college? Is there a preference?**

You may take your prerequisite courses at the community college, and there is no preference.

• **Can I take prereq's at your institution?**

No, prerequisites are to be taken at a community college and/or 4 year university. Our courses are only open to students enrolled in our programs

• **What undergraduate majors do you recommend to be a more competitive applicant?**

A student may have any degree, as long as all admissions requirements and prerequisite courses are fulfilled. Any major giving you a strong science background, such as kinesiology, exercise science, would also be good choices.

- **Does massage therapy, nursing, medical, naturopathic or other professional coursework transfer into the program?**

No

- **I have a question about a prerequisite course, what should I do?**

You may contact Janice Dickinson at 480-219-6162 to make an academic advising appointment.

- **Do you offer financial aid? Where can I find scholarship information?**

Yes, we offer financial aid to our students. Please call Debbie Richards @ 480-219-6117 for information regarding scholarships and loans.

- **Does ASHS have on campus housing?**

We do not have on campus housing; however we do assist students in finding housing and roommate matching. Please call Dustin Smith @ 480-219-6126 for information.

- **Does ASHS assist with job placement?**

Yes, we assist students in finding jobs through Student Services Office, as well as for our alumni. The PT department has a 100% job placement rate for our graduate, with starting salaries ranging from **\$50,000-\$65,000** per year.

- **What are the most recent pass rates on licensure exams?**

ASHS PT has a three-year pass rate of 98% on the National Physical Therapy Examination. The national average is 96%.

- **How many hours of experience do I need? How do I document hours?**

You are required to have at least 30 hours of experience with a PT. This will be documented on your PT CAS application. Letters verifying this experience are not required.

- **What are the clinical opportunities in the program?**

We have well over 500 clinical sites throughout the US, in a variety of both rural and urban settings.

- **What is the difference between a Master's and Doctorate level degree?**

The Doctor of Physical Therapy is the preferred first professional degree in physical therapy. As a professional doctorate degree, this degree is similar to dental, podiatry, and optometry professional degrees. A Masters degree in physical therapy allows you to sit for the licensure exam and practice physical therapy. The education of physical therapists is transitioning to the professional doctorate degree. In the future, more and more PTs will have the doctoral degree.

- **I'd like to visit campus, who should I contact?**

Contact the admissions office at admissions@atsu.edu to set up a visit to campus, or you may call 480-219-6000/6001. Tours are provided every Friday from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Tell them you are interested in the PT program. We look forward to sharing information with you about our DPT program!