ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

ACCREDITATION STATUS - BOSTON

Effective (May 12, 2020), Tufts University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call 617-636-3593 or email megan.donaldson@tufts.edu.

Candidate for Accreditation is an accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure that the program will be granted Initial Accreditation.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

You are considering an academic program that leads to a professional license in your state, it is highly recommended that you first seek guidance from the appropriate licensing agency in your home state, before beginning the academic program located outside of your state.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program meets the educational requirements for professional licensure as a Physical Therapist in all 50 states. It is the student's responsibility to contact the appropriate licensing board in his/her home state to confirm whether our DPT program, at Tufts University School of Medicine, will meet the requirements for licensure in that state.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement is an agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of post-secondary distance education courses and programs. SARA covers all interstate placements in clinical or practical situations among SARA member states, no matter the nature of the main program. However, some placements may also be subject to the rules of professional licensing boards, in which case the placement must also meet such requirements. SARA does not supersede professional requirements imposed by such boards. State authorizations can be quite complex depending on the student's home state. Students interested in Tufts University School of Medicine’s DPT Program should check this site for updates, but also follow-up with local licensing agencies to determine any potential concerns within their home state. Currently, all states with the exception of California are part of the SARA initiative.

RECRUITMENT

The Tufts DPT Program Website is the primary means used to recruit prospective
students. The website provides detailed information relative to the program’s mission, faculty, accreditation status, curriculum, state authorizations, admission requirements, application procedures, and estimated program costs. Institutional catalogs and academic calendars are available for download from the DPT program website. Prospective students are invited to use web-based or inquiry forms for general admissions information or the DPT Admissions email address (DPT.Admissions@Tufts.edu) for specific information and assistance. Additionally, the program uses Virtual Open Houses, virtual fairs, and a variety of social media outlets to promote the program and recruit potential applicants. College tours and individual appointments are available on request. Accuracy and full disclosure are emphasized through all these informational outlets. Particular attention is emphasized but not limited to correct and complete information regarding institutional and programmatic accreditation, state authorizations and participation with State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), admission requirements and prerequisites, application procedures, curriculum, and estimated program costs.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Tufts University School of Medicine’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program adheres to the non-discrimination policy established by the University:

Tufts does not discriminate in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability or handicap, sex or gender (including pregnancy, sexual harassment and other sexual misconduct including acts of sexual violence such as rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and coercion), gender identity and/or expression (including a transgender identity), sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law.

In consideration of the above policy, persons with bachelor’s degrees from accredited institutions, who meet the prerequisites established by Tufts University School of Medicine’s DPT Program and demonstrate promising scholastic standing, along with professional potential, will be considered for admission.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS

Tufts Physical Therapy Virtual Open Houses are intended to offer a preview to potential candidates interested in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Tufts University. An overview of the unique, 2-year accelerated hybrid DPT program as well as admissions criteria for the Physical Therapy program are provided. Attending these sessions allows interested students to learn about the DPT program and participate in a question and answer session with the members of the DPT Program leadership. Faculty member(s) and, when possible, current students attend these events to interact and have Q&A with prospective students.

Attendance at a Virtual Open House may benefit undergraduate or post-undergraduate students, either interested or ready to apply to the program. Attendees can take advantage of the opportunity to talk with the DPT Program Faculty and current physical therapy students
about their educational experience.

ADMISSIONS OVERVIEW

There is currently one route of admission into Tufts DPT program. All qualified students applying to the Tufts DPT Program are required to successfully complete an online interview prior to being accepted. The admissions route involves a model in which the student completes an undergraduate degree prior to entry into the DPT program. Students can complete their undergraduate degree from Tufts University or other accredited institutions and submit application materials for review.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Please refer to the Tufts DPT website under the Admissions & Prerequisites tab for COVID-19 related admissions requirement changes.

The DPT program is designed for qualified individuals who wish to further their academic studies in the field of physical therapy. The program specifically targets traditional and nontraditional students with the demonstrated potential to navigate the academic rigors of an accelerated, hybrid model DPT curriculum. Students accepted into the DPT Program must meet the following criteria:

Program Admission Requirements and Prerequisites

1. Degree Requirements:
   Complete a bachelor’s degree (B.S. or B.A.) from an accredited institution. Tufts University School of Medicine DPT program only accepts degrees and courses from American institutions accredited by agencies that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Prerequisite courses and degrees completed at universities outside of the United States will require equivalency evaluation through the World Education Services (WES). Course or degree evaluation by WES should be initiated several months prior to submitting your application and the WES evaluation must be submitted to PTCAS. Admission into the DPT program may be granted pending completion of the degree. All official transcripts must be submitted.

2. Completing Prerequisite Coursework: Tufts DPT Program has 12 prerequisites courses. All prerequisite courses must be completed before matriculation into the DPT program. However, applications will be accepted if 8/12 prerequisite courses are completed and the remaining prerequisite courses are in progress or scheduled (and successfully completed) in a future semester, prior to matriculation.
   a. All prerequisites must be completed with a grade C or better. Pass/fail courses are not accepted. If applicants have repeated a prerequisite course, the applicable course with the most recent acceptable grade (C or better) will be used to calculate the
applicant’s prerequisite GPA. Credit awarded through AP exams might be used toward direct equivalent prerequisites if the AP credit was accepted by the prospective student’s undergraduate institution.

b. Both Anatomy & Physiology prerequisite courses (with labs) must be completed within ten years of the admissions cycle year (e.g., If applying in 2021, then Anatomy & Physiology courses completed since January 2011 will be accepted). The remaining prerequisite courses (except for Anatomy & Physiology) are acceptable even if they are completed longer than 10 years before the application year.

c. It is recommended that all courses be taken at a 4-year accredited institution. However, courses from 2-year accredited institutions will be accepted.

3. **Prerequisites:** Completion of the following prerequisite courses or acceptable approved equivalents with a grade of C or higher before the start of the DPT program. Credit awarded through AP exams may be used toward direct equivalent prerequisites. At the time of submitting an application, prospective students must have at least 8 of the 12 required prerequisites complete in order to be considered for admission. Complete details are provided on the DPT program website under Admissions.

   The prerequisites for Tufts University School of Medicine’s DPT Program are:

   1. General Biology I (lab required)
   2. General Biology II (lab required) (may include or an upper-level Biology course, such as Genetics, Microbiology, or Neuroscience)
   3. General Chemistry I
   4. General Chemistry II
   5. General Physics I
   6. General Physics II
   7. Introductory Psychology
   8. Abnormal, Developmental, or Lifespan Psychology (may also include sports, exercise, cognitive, rehab psychology, or similarly related psychology course)
   9. Human Anatomy and Physiology I
   10. Human Anatomy and Physiology II (Anatomy and Physiology sequence may be taken as a series of Human Anatomy and Human Physiology or as a 2-course A&P sequence)
   11. Statistics or Research Design
   12. English Composition or Writing

   **Required Labs:** Courses used to fulfill the Anatomy & Physiology I & II requirements **must** have a lab associated with them. For the remaining six courses with labs (two chemistry, two biology, and two physics courses), at least four of the six **must** have labs associated with them.
Prerequisite courses taken at institutions other than Tufts University are evaluated by reviewing, of course, catalog descriptions and/or syllabi to determine the appropriateness of course material and rigor level.

General guidelines for Pre-Requisite Courses:

- In most circumstances, science courses should not be listed as “not available for credit toward a degree in biology.”
- College Level Entry Program (CLEP) are not accepted in place of having completed courses with a grade requirement; however higher-level subject matter courses will be considered as pre-requisites on a case by case basis.
- The psychology pre-requisites may be completed with two general Psychology courses (Psych I/Psych II), one general Psychology course and one upper level course, or two upper level courses. Upper level psychology courses may include courses such as Exercise, Sport, Rehabilitation, Cognitive, Developmental, Abnormal, Lifespan, or Biological psychology. If an applicant has more than one psychology course beyond an introductory course, the two courses with the highest grades will be accepted.
- Upper-level Biology courses may include courses such as Genetics, Microbiology, or Neuroscience. One biology requirement may be fulfilled with Exercise Physiology.
- Biomechanics cannot count for the biology pre-requisite. However, Biomechanics may be used to fulfill one physics prerequisite.

4. Tests:

**GRE:** All applicants must take the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within five years of the admissions cycle year. Applicants must check with Educational Testing Services (ETS) to determine if their GRE scores are within the timeframe for which ETS will report scores. No minimum score has been established. For the GRE, the program considers Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning. Applicants are encouraged to have overall GRE scores above the 50th percentile. Scores will be used in conjunction with other data to consider applicants. The GRE is required even if an applicant holds a previous master's or doctorate degree.

**TOEFL:** The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) evaluates the ability of non-native speakers to understand and use English in an academic setting. Tufts University School of Medicine – like many other American universities, government agencies and businesses – requires candidates to submit their TOEFL scores and certificate for admission to its programs. The TOEFL is **REQUIRED** if English is NOT the
candidate's first language OR the candidate has a non-U.S. academic degree. The TOEFL requirement is WAIVED for students who have attended a degree-granting U.S. university for two or more years located in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, or New Zealand. Minimum TOEFL score required = 100 IBT.

IELTS)The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is a standardized English language proficiency test for non-native English language speakers. The IELTS is an alternative option for applicants to demonstrate English language proficiency when applying to the DPT program. The IELTS requirement is WAIVED for students who have attended a U.S. university for two or more years. Minimum IELTS score required = 7.0.

5. References: Submission of two (2) references; one from a licensed physical therapist and one from someone of the applicant's choice. References cannot consist of family, friends, clergy, or politicians.
6. Observation Hours: Completion of a minimum of forty hours of observation of volunteer or work experience with a licensed physical therapist is required.
7. Interview: Successful completion of an online recorded asynchronous admission interview. Applicants are selected for interviews based on a holistic evaluation of their application and supporting materials.
8. Technical Standards: The Technical Standards of the Tufts University School of Medicine’s Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (non-academic prerequisites) define the essential functions that an applicant must be able to perform to be admitted to the DPT Program, to progress satisfactorily, and to graduate.

Essential functions refer to all non-academic criteria that are necessary to participate in the educational program. These include basic motor and communication skills, intellectual abilities, behavioral and social attributes, and other requirements. Listed below are considered minimum abilities required in the educational process of a physical therapist. Each person will be evaluated on an individual basis. Tufts University School of Medicine reaffirms its commitment to be flexible, innovative, and creative in trying to meet any special needs of students. The integrity of the curriculum must be maintained, and those elements deemed essential to the education of a physical therapist must be required and completed. In developing these criteria, the DPT Program faculty affirm the following expectations of our admissions candidates:

Observation: The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of hearing and smell.
Communication: A candidate should be able to speak, hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, families, peers, and faculty. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

Motor: Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to execute motor activities reasonably required to provide general care, to perform diagnostic procedures and to provide emergency treatment to patients.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, a critical skill demanded of physical therapists, requires all of these intellectual abilities. Candidates and students must be able independently to access and interpret medical histories or files, identify significant findings from history, physical examination, and laboratory data, provide a reasoned explanation for likely physical therapy diagnoses and recall and retain information in an efficient and timely manner. The ability to incorporate new information from peers, teachers, and the medical literature in formulating physical diagnoses and plans is essential. Good judgment in patient assessment, diagnostic and therapeutic planning is crucial; students must be able to identify and communicate their knowledge to others when appropriate.

Behavioral and Social Attributes: A candidate must possess the mental and emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities associated to the physical therapy diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to learn the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admissions and education process.

9. Additional Standards: All students will undergo criminal background checks before matriculation into the program and prior to attending clinical experiences. Applicants should be aware that a prior criminal background could restrict the ability to obtain professional state licensure. Acceptance into the DPT program does not imply or guarantee that a student will be able to obtain such licensure.
APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The Tufts University DPT program receives applications for admission exclusively through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) online application system. Application instructions can be found on the Tufts University DPT Program website. The deadline for submitting completed applications for admission is published on the DPT Program website for each cohort.

2. As part of the Tufts DPT application on PTCAS, applicants also submit the supplemental materials below:
   a. Transcripts: All applicants must have official transcripts sent directly to PTCAS from each University attended. Transcripts for prerequisite courses taken internationally must be evaluated by the World Education Services (WES). The WES evaluation MUST be sent to Tufts directly. A WES evaluation of foreign transcripts is necessary ONLY if the applicant took a Tufts DPT Program prerequisite course during their study abroad and if the credits and/or grades for these courses DO NOT appear on their undergraduate transcript.
   b. Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Applicants must submit their official GRE scores to PTCAS using the Tufts Doctor of Physical Therapy PTCAS specific GRE code. Please check the Tufts DPT website for the specific GRE code for each Tufts DPT Program.
   c. Letters of Recommendations: Each evaluator will be able to submit the letters of reference to PTCAS electronically, via a secure link that will be sent to them directly from PTCAS.
   d. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit official TOEFL scores to be considered for admission. For applicants who earned a degree from an institution whose language of instruction is English, and those who earned a degree from an institution within the United States, the TOEFL requirement is waived.
   e. Program Questions: Applicants must complete the Tufts DPT Program specific questions in PTCAS during the application process.

APPLICATION REVIEW

1. The DPT Admissions Committee and faculty will review completed applications (e.g., application and all supporting materials received) in the
order of receipt on a rolling basis.

2. Applicants are evaluated based on a holistic review that includes but is not limited to: Cumulative GPA, prerequisite GPA, GRE, references, observation/work hours, and responses to Tufts-specific questions. Additionally, applicants are required to complete forty hours of observation. Other factors considered, but not required, include relevant work experience, extracurricular activities, and prior military experience. The DPT admissions committee will grant admission interviews by invitation only.
   a. Interview process: The DPT Admissions team will coordinate interviews for all selected applicants. All interviews will be conducted using a web-based video platform. Applicants will video-record and upload their responses to interview questions in real-time for review by the DPT Admissions Committee.
   b. Selection Process: The DPT Admissions Committee and faculty will accept students into the program based on a holistic evaluation of their application, supportive documents, and interview. All applicants will be notified by email and/or mail regarding final selection decisions.
   c. The DPT Admissions Committee will use a combination of academic performance, personal references, essays, and interviews to ensure nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all applicants.
   d. The planned size for each cohort is set at 100 students, and enrollment is targeted to be within ten percent of the planned class size. Once 100 students have been accepted, other applicants meeting admission criteria and recommended for acceptance are added to a waitlist. If seats become available, the Admissions Committee will use the waitlist to offer admission to rank-ordered applicants. These procedures allow for the maintenance of planned class size while also preventing over-enrollment.