



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Physical Therapy Program

**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL
THERAPY PROGRAM
ADMISSIONS RESOURCE**

ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

ACCREDITATION STATUS

Graduation from a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states. Tufts University is seeking accreditation of a new physical therapist education program from CAPTE. The program is planning to submit an Application for Candidacy, which is the formal application required in the pre-accreditation stage, on December 1, 2019. Submission of this document does not assure that the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status is required prior to the implementation of the professional/technical phase of the program; therefore, no students may be enrolled in professional/technical courses until Candidate for Accreditation status has been achieved. Further, though the achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status signifies satisfactory progress toward accreditation, it does not assure that the program will be granted 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.

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 Coordinator contact information for specific information and assistance. Additionally, the program uses webinars, virtual fairs, and a variety of social media outlets to promote the program and recruit potential applicants. College tours and individual appointments with the Director of Admissions 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 informational webinar sessions 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 Director of Admissions. Additionally, one or more faculty members or current students will be present to answer questions.

The following describes persons who would benefit from the informational webinar sessions:

- An undergraduate or post-undergraduate student, either interested or ready to apply to the program, can take advantage of the opportunity to meet with the Director of Admissions and current physical therapy graduate 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

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 accepts only degrees and courses from institutions accredited by agencies that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Admission into the DPT program may be granted pending completion of the degree. All official transcripts must be submitted.

2. Completing Prerequisite Coursework: Courses must be completed before matriculation into the DPT program, but applications will still be accepted if courses are in progress or scheduled for a future semester.

- a. All prerequisites must be completed with a grade C or better. Pass/fail courses are not accepted. If a course is repeated, the repeated course needs to be a grade C or better and will be averaged with the original course to calculate the GPA. Credit awarded through AP exams may be used toward direct equivalent prerequisites.
- b. All courses must be taken within ten years of the admissions cycle year (*e.g., If applying in 2020, then courses taken since January 2010 will be accepted*).
- 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 provide on the DPT program website under Admissions.

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

- General Biology I (lab required)
- General Biology II (lab required) (may include or an upper-level Biology course, such as Genetics, Microbiology, or Neuroscience)
- General Chemistry I (lab required)
- General Chemistry II (lab required)
- General Physics I (lab required)
- General Physics II (lab required)
- Introductory Psychology
- Human Growth and Development or Lifespan
- Human or Vertebrate Anatomy (lab required)
- Human Physiology
- Statistics or Research Design
- English Composition or Writing

General guidelines for Pre-Requisite Courses:

- Science course descriptions should state that they are “for science majors” and contain a lab. In most circumstances, they should not be listed as “not available for credit toward a degree in biology.”
- College Level Entry Program (CLEP) or aptitude tests 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.
- Acceptable Psychology pre-requisites may include; Introduction or 101, Human Development, Abnormal Psych, Personality, or Child Psychology. Courses should cover developmental theories; lifespan is a plus. If an applicant has more than one psychology course beyond an introductory course, the two courses with the highest grades will be accepted.
- Biomechanics cannot count for the biology pre-requisite.
- Kinesiology courses cannot substitute for exercise physiology.

4. **Tests:**

GRE: All applicants must take the general [Graduate Record Examination](#) (GRE) within five years of the admissions cycle year.

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 U.S. university for two or more years. Minimum TOEFL score required = 100 IBT*

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 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 Tufts University School of Medicine's DPT application in 2020 for the inaugural cohort for the January 2021 start. Subsequent years will use the common application system available through PTCAS. 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 class.
2. In addition to the online application, applicants also submit the supplemental materials below. (*Please note:* Tufts will review application based on unofficial documents. Applicants offered admission are required to submit official documents in order to be eligible to enroll.):
 - a. Transcripts: All applicants must have official transcripts sent directly to Tufts University from each University and university attended.
 - b. Graduate Record Examination (GRE): Applicants must submit their official GRE scores to Tufts University Department of Public Health. The school code is 4732.
 - c. Letters of Recommendations: Each evaluator will be able to submit the letters of reference electronically, via a secure link that will be sent to them directly.
 - d. Application Fee: The application fee is \$70 and is non-refundable.
 - e. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): International students are required to submit official TOEFL scores to be considered for admission. For international 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.

APPLICATION REVIEW

1. The DPT Admissions Committee and faculty will review completed applications (i.e., application and all supporting materials received) in the

- order of receipt on a rolling basis.
2. Applicants are evaluated based on Cumulative GPA, Prerequisite GPA, GRE, References, and Personal Essay. 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 Coordinator 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.

REGISTRATION

1. Registration is conducted annually, prior to the start of the academic year, to screen students for financial clearance and to verify and update student demographic information. Because the curriculum is fixed, registration for courses in the traditional sense is not necessary.
2. All students must meet six primary requirements during each registration period:
 - a. Complete a Registration Form
 - b. Obtain Financial Clearance
 1. Financial Clearance: Students must obtain financial clearance from the Bursar's Office. Students without financial clearance are ineligible to start or may be subject to withdrawal from their academic program.
 2. In addition, students without financial clearance are not entitled to receive official transcripts and other services of the Registrar's Office and Office of Student Affairs.
 - c. Comply with the Health Insurance and Immunization Requirements identified by the legislation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and with University policy, fall registration will be incomplete unless the student enrolls in the student health insurance program or submits an authorized waiver of enrollment to the Student Advisory and Health Administration Office, certifying coverage comparable to legislative and policy requirements. In addition, the student must file complete immunization documentation with the Student Advisory and Health Administration Office. The student must obtain clearance

from the Student Advisory and Health Administration Office for health insurance and immunization requirements. Students without clearance are subject to withdrawal from their academic program.

- d. Complete the TUSM HIPAA training (on TUSK)
 - e. Complete the TUSM Universal Precautions Certification (on TUSK)
 - f. Review and sign off on the TUSM Student Treatment Policy (on TUSK)
Registration Form
 1. A Registration Form is provided by the Registrar's Office at the beginning of the academic year. The form shows the addresses and demographic data on file for the student. The student must review the form for accuracy, make changes if necessary, sign and return the form to the Registrar's Office by the stated deadlines.
3. 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.