**EARLY ADMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY**

University of Missouri  
Department of Physical Therapy  
801 Clark Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211-4250  
(573) 882-7103  
[https://healthprofessions.missouri.edu/physical-therapy/](https://healthprofessions.missouri.edu/physical-therapy/)

**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

All application materials must be submitted/completed in the Graduate School application system by **September 30th**  
It is the responsibility of the applicant to be sure all required materials are received. The Department of Physical Therapy will not review incomplete applications.

**SUMMER grades MUST be used for GPA calculations. Do not finalize your application until summer grades have been reported.**

- The following minimum requirements must be met prior to submission of an application:
  1. Be able to complete 90 credit hours by the beginning of summer session
  2. **Students who seek to gain early admission to the DPT program must complete a minimum of three years (six fall/spring semesters or 12 quarters) of residential coursework on a college campus prior to starting the DPT program.**
  3. 3.0 cumulative grade point average in all completed core required courses, with the minimum grade of “C” in these courses
  4. Overall GPA of 3.5 in all completed college coursework
  5. A minimum of 40 hours of observation/volunteer work/employment in two different types of physical therapy settings (ie. pediatric, outpatient, hospital, home health, rehab, etc.) under the supervision of a physical therapist. The settings, dates, hours, and supervisor must be reported on your Activities and Award Questionnaire.
  6. At the time of application, students may have up to three core courses to be completed with no more than two core courses planned for the spring semester. All offers of acceptance to the program are conditional upon successful completion of core requirements and maintenance of the minimum GPA requirements.
  7. Show that all prerequisite coursework for general education requirements of the University of Missouri can be completed prior to the start of professional coursework in the Summer semester, if accepted. This includes two writing intensive courses at MU.
  8. Official **GRE scores reported to University of Missouri. MANDATORY Requirement**

- Core required courses may be completed at any accredited university or college, where appropriate courses are available.

- Prospective applicants to the Department of Physical Therapy whose native language is not English must demonstrate near native English language ability on the TOEFL. Internet-based scores: Total Score 80, minimum subscales- 17.

- Specific information concerning educational costs should be obtained from the Cashier’s office or the web site at [http://cashiers.missouri.edu/](http://cashiers.missouri.edu/)  
Financial assistance information may be obtained through the Office of Student Financial Aid, 11 Jesse Hall (573-882-7506) or visit [http://financialaid.missouri.edu/](http://financialaid.missouri.edu/)  
Scholarship information may be obtained from the American Physical Therapy Association, 1111 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (800-999-APTA) as well as Internet and library resources.
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- Professional physical therapy courses begin with the 7-credit hour Gross Human Anatomy and 1-credit hour Fundamentals of PT course in the summer term. With the exception of clinical education, all professional coursework is completed on the MU Campus.

- Clinical education is offered at intervals throughout the professional phase of the program. Students are required to participate in clinical experiences in a variety of geographical locations, and should be prepared to meet costs of travel and housing for 8 to 10 week periods.

- **Drug Testing and Criminal Background Check Requirement:** Due to current healthcare regulations and University policy, students that test positive for illegal drugs or appear on a formal Government Sanction List (e.g. Employee Disqualification List, Missouri Division of Family Services, Office of Inspector General Exclusion) may not be eligible to complete the requirements for graduation from our program. Drug screening and criminal background checks are required and must be on file with the PT department during the start of the summer semester of the first professional year.

- **After entering the professional phase of the Physical Therapy Program, all students** must earn a minimum of 3.0 semester and cumulative grade point average, and achieve no grade below "C" in any course. If the student does not achieve these levels of performance, the physical therapy faculty will review the situation with the option to dismiss the student.

**The Application Process:**

1. Log into the Graduate School application website. Create an account per the instructions. [http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/admissions/apply/](http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/admissions/apply/)
2. Complete the application process for the doctor of physical therapy program.
3. Applicants must upload:
   a. Unofficial transcripts for all schools attended. We will need to view grades for all completed coursework. MU students must upload transcripts (academic profile format). **PLEASE BE SURE SUMMER GRADES ARE POSTED ON TRANSCRIPTS. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE IF SUMMER GRADES ARE NOT INCLUDED. DO NOT UPLOAD DEGREE AUDIT FORMATS.**
   b. Activities and Award Questionnaire (please see specific instructions) (upload to Resume/Vita)
   c. Distinct Experiences and Attributes Essay.
4. Applicants will be required to provide the name, telephone, and e-mail address for individuals completing their recommendations. You will provide this information under the Recommendations Link. One recommendation must come from a professor, the other from a supervisor/employer. The evaluator must complete the standardized form and upload a written evaluation of the applicant. Please give your evaluator advanced notice that an e-mail will come from MU Graduate School so they can be prepared to complete this process. **Your application is not complete until both recommendations have been returned. Please submit ONLY two recommendations.**
5. Applicants must submit the graduate application fee ($65) as well as the departmental application fee ($60) at the website. You can submit the application once the necessary materials are completed. You will be able to review the status of the application, but will have only limited ability to change the application once it is submitted.
6. Applicants accepted via Early Admission who are not currently MU students must complete the University undergraduate admission application upon acceptance.
Helpful Hints

- Calculate application GPA for the all hours of completed/graded college coursework and core required courses. Calculate GPA by multiplying credit hours by honor points ("A" = 4; "B" = 3; "C" = 2; "D" = 1; "F" = 0), adding the products and dividing by the total number of credit hours. Note: Do not use +/-’s to calculate application GPA’s. Do not include pass/fail courses as you complete your overall GPA calculation.

- The question about ethnicity and race serves to help the University track its performance in enrollment of a diverse student body. The question about English as a native language helps us identify applicants that must submit a TOEFL score.

- The Activities and Award Questionnaire (NEW) is very important in evaluating your qualifications. Please download and complete the word document. You will upload your completed questionnaire to the application system. See sample on our website.

- Distinct Experiences and Attributes Essay: (NEW) Be prepared to upload your response into the application system. The confidentiality of your response is a priority in the review process.

A body of students with a variety of experiences and attributes contributes to a beneficial learning environment for all students. Standardized test scores and GPAs may not capture the breadth of experiences and personal qualities that an applicant might bring to our program. Please describe how your experiences have shaped your development, and how this would contribute to the educational environment. Be specific about what traits, qualities, or characteristics you have gained from each individual experience, and describe how these might influence you as a student and future healthcare provider.

This essay should be no more than 500 words. Include anything that you feel is important for the admissions committee to know, but you were unable to convey through the other aspects of your submission. Your topic(s) may contain additional details or expound on something mentioned elsewhere in the application, but should not be a narrative of your Activities and Awards Questionnaire. Some examples of themes may include, but are not limited to: leadership roles, unique cultural experiences or background, role as a caregiver, prior career experiences, or challenges overcome. This essay should highlight you as an individual and how your experiences set you apart.

- GRADUATE RECORD EXAM:
  The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) official score must be submitted to the University of Missouri by early September. Plan to take the exam no later than August 15th to assure the results will be received before the deadline. For information regarding test dates and fees, please visit GRE online at http://www.gre.org/. The institution code is R6875.

Thank you for considering the University of Missouri, Department of Physical Therapy.

PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

The Admissions Committee will review and evaluate each application when it is complete. The applicant’s official GRE scores, pattern of academic accomplishment, extra-curricular activity, work experience, verbal expression, distinct attributes and recommendations are all-important in the process.

Applicants will be ranked and selected for interview. All who wish to be considered for admission should be available for interview on the MU campus in November.
If you are not selected for an interview, you will be notified by e-mail. You may telephone the Department Office if you have not received a response to your application by December 15th. Following interviews, those accepted, alternates, and those not accepted will be notified by e-mail and/or mail.

**FINAL ACCEPTANCE TO THE MU PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM DEPENDS UPON:**

- Subsequent acceptance by the University (non-MU students).
- Earning "C" or higher grades in all remaining program core required courses incomplete at the time of the application.
- Validation of previous coursework through inspection of Official Transcripts.
- Determination of English language proficiency by the Department.

**MU STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION:**
The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability, or status as a protected veteran. Discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions is also prohibited. The University’s nondiscrimination policy applies to all phases of its employment process, its admission and financial aid programs, and to all other aspects of its educational programs and activities. Further, this policy applies to sexual violence and sexual harassment (forms of sex discrimination) occurring both within and outside of the University context if the conduct negatively affects the individual’s educational or work experience or the overall campus environment. Retaliation directed to any person who pursues a discrimination complaint or grievance, participates in a discrimination investigation, or otherwise opposes unlawful discrimination is prohibited. Any person having inquiries concerning the University of Missouri’s application of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972*, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or other civil rights laws should contact one of the following:

**Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resource Services/Affirmative Action Officer**
University of Missouri
1095 Virginia Avenue, Room 101
Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-4256
University of Missouri Office for Civil Rights & Title IX

Ellen Eardley
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights & Title IX
Title IX Administrator
573-882-3880

**U.S. Department of Education**
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
(regarding race, color, sex, national origin, disability, and age issues),
For more information, please visit the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX site.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):** The University of Missouri complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need accommodations in connection with the application process, please notify us at 573-882-7103 as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made.
TTY users: Please call through Relay Missouri at 1-800-735-2966.
FERPA
The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.§1232g, and the University of Missouri’s policy on student records, Section 180.020 and Section 180.025 of the Collected Rules and Regulations, describe student rights of access and rights of privacy which a student can expect with regard to his or her education records. That law and University policy applies whether those education records are in hard copy, are electronically stored or are contained along with other images either recorded or broadcast in connection with courses available online or through distance learning. The content of such education records should not be shared with individuals, other than individuals who have been determined by the University of Missouri to have an educational need to know, except in accordance with the provisions of FERPA and University policy.