



***The PTCAS application for the Summer 2026 cohort (June)
opens on June 16, 2025 www.ptcas.org***

Utica University Doctor of Physical Therapy Information Page

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Thank you for your interest in Utica University for your physical therapy education.

We pride ourselves on being a small, personalized and effective program dedicated to providing excellent education and training to our PT students. Our success can be measured by talking with any UC PT alumni who live and work throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

Ten full-time faculty, two part-time, and several adjunct faculty members work closely with students throughout the program. Faculty are national and international leaders engaged in teaching, research and service. Our students come from across the US and from diverse cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds and identities. These diverse perspectives strengthen the learning experiences of our students and enhance their ability to provide quality care and serve a diverse society.

The three-year professional program occurs over 8 semesters, including two summer semesters. The curriculum integrates traditional instruction with case analysis to guide, stimulate, and challenge student learning, while fostering development as professionals with sound reasoning skills.

Projects under faculty supervision provide opportunities for students to meet the profession's expectation for students to become consumers of research. A progression of critical inquiry and evidence-based practice will result in case reports and systematic reviews.

Students participate in 30 weeks of full-time clinical education experiences in a variety of settings, working with individuals across the lifespan. Four integrated clinical experiences occur during the academic semesters on campus, providing experiential learning in community settings with emphasis on prevention and wellness.

One of the strengths of our program is our student-centered approach to fieldwork choice. Another strength is the number and variety of field sites with which we have contracts. The program is, however, constrained by a number of factors that limit the availability of fieldwork sites. One of those constraints is the shortage of sites and the competition for those sites with students from other programs. Another constraint is the need to comply with state authorization requirements. Utica University has established contracts with clinical facilities outside of New York State. Recent changes to federal and state regulations require educational institutions to seek clearance from host states for clinical placements. Each state may have additional requirements that must be satisfied prior to placement of a student in an out-of-state host facility. Although we attempt, as much as possible, to place you in a fieldwork site of your choice, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The mission of the Utica University Physical Therapy Program is to empower students to transform into successful professionals who care for others with competence, integrity and compassion. Graduates are prepared to enter the profession of physical therapy to provide comprehensive physical therapy care to individuals across the lifespan and in a variety of practice settings. For more information, visit our website <https://www.utica.edu/directory/physical-therapy-department>.

Before you apply, please review the information below. **We are a highly competitive program and have specific requirements.** If after reading this you have any further questions about the program, please contact John Rowe jrowe@utica.edu or Lynn Cope lcopes@utica.edu in the Graduate Admissions Office at (315) 792-3010.

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Because Utica University has its own 3+3 program for PT, There Are Limited Number of Seats for External Applicants

Utica University is a “guaranteed freshman admit” school for PT which means that several seats in our 36 seat cohort are taken up by our own internal students who were accepted as freshmen and have met continuation requirements. The remaining seats are filled from a pool of external applicants who apply through PTCAS.

Normally we have approximately 10 to 15 seats to fill from PTCAS external applicants. We also maintain a wait list that expires at the beginning of the cohort start each year (mid-June).

Utica University Undergraduates Interested In Applying

Utica University undergraduates with a health studies major or a biology major apply as external candidates through the PTCAS application process. They are considered as external candidates and compete for seats with applicants from other schools. However, we want to give our qualified Utica University undergraduates an opportunity to enter the DPT program. **Therefore, we strongly encourage UC undergraduates to apply as soon as the PTCAS application opens so that their application will be verified in 4 to 6 weeks.**

The PTCAS Centralized Application Service

Utica University uses the PTCAS Centralized Application Service through the American Physical Therapy Association. The application portal opens in June each year. (www.ptcas.org) **You may apply for the Summer 2026 cohort by going to the PTCAS site when it opens on June 16, 2025. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2026. Because of the significant number of applications we receive each year, you should apply as early as possible.**

You may apply to several universities using a single PTCAS application. However, please keep in mind that you must pay a fee for each school you send your application to. That is why it is important to meet or be working toward meeting all Utica University criteria before applying.

Note: Utica University and the Graduate Admissions Office will only consider those PTCAS applications that meet our application criteria and are VERIFIED in PTCAS.

What Is Verification?

Verification through the PTCAS system is a way of verifying all university grades entered into a PTCAS application. In PTCAS, applicants will enter each grade taken, along with the course name, course prefix and number and number of credits for each course. Applicants will then request official transcripts from all schools attended which need to be sent directly to the PTCAS centralized processing office in Watertown, MA.

Applicants will need to put significant time into preparing their application. A completed, verified PTCAS application is approximately 36 to 40 pages long. Graduate admissions recommends that you begin your application as soon as it opens on June 16. Verification normally takes an average of 4 to 6 weeks to be completed.

Once an application is verified, it will appear on the dashboard used by graduate admissions.

Application Deadline

The deadline to apply for the Utica University DPT program cohort that begins in June 2026 is March

15, 2026. However, waiting until late in the application cycle to apply will most likely place qualified candidates on the waitlist.

NOTE: **You can apply while finishing your undergraduate degree and completing prerequisites.** Once you graduate, the university will ask you to request an official transcript showing your graduation date and major.

Minimum GPA To Apply

You must have an OVERALL GPA of 3.2 or higher to apply.

While you may apply with a 3.2, please understand that the average GPA of accepted students is usually higher. For example, the recent cohort that started in Summer 2024 (Class of 2027) had an average overall GPA of 3.6.

Prerequisites and minimum grades

Utica University requires that **ten prerequisites** be met successfully by June 1, 2026. You may apply through PTCAS while you complete these prerequisites.

Prerequisite courses that **require a grade of B- or better** (a B- or better is required in both lecture and lab):

- *A&P 1 with lab*
- *A&P 2 with lab*
- *An upper-level Biology (at the 300 or 400 level-can also be exercise physiology or kinesiology)*
- *College Physics 1 with lab*
- *College Physics 2 with lab*
- *College Chemistry 1 with lab*
- *Either College Chemistry 2 with lab or Organic Chemistry with lab*

Note: While B-'s are acceptable for science prerequisites, candidates must also have a minimum Science GPA of 3.0 as configured in the PTCAS application.

A student may repeat no more than two prerequisite science courses and any prerequisite science course may be repeated only once.

Remaining prerequisites - A minimum grade of C or better in each of the major or major related required courses (a grade of C- is NOT an acceptable grade)

- Two psychology courses (any course with a psychology prefix)
- Statistics

NOTE: Prerequisite science courses must be completed **within 10 years of the expected matriculation year.**

We understand that your school may have different course titles. If you are unsure if a course at your school meets the Utica University prerequisite requirements, please email a copy of the course description, name and number to John Rowe (jrowe@utica.edu) or Lynn Cope (lcope@utica.edu) in

Graduate Admissions for review.

Very Important:

- Only one retake of the seven science prerequisites in order to earn a B- or better is allowed for our program. Retaking a prerequisite science course twice will disqualify your application.
- You are only allowed to retake two prerequisite science courses one time (each). A retake of more than three science prerequisites will disqualify your application.
- Successful completion of all prerequisites does NOT constitute a guarantee of acceptance

Utica University DOES NOT Require the GRE or Any Other Graduate Examination for Consideration

NOTE: OBSERVATION HOURS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR UTICA UNIVERSITY.

Interviews For Selected Candidates

Interviews will be conducted between late September and April. We normally interview between 40 to 50 applicants for each cohort.

During your interview, it is important to be able to clearly explain why you want to be a PT, what you have learned through clinical observations of practicing PT's and what motivated you to prepare yourself to enter a graduate PT program.

Acceptance and Matriculation Rates for 2023-24

Out of 219 total applications, 37 were verified and met Utica DPT criteria= 16.8%

Of the 37 verified, 18 candidates were offered admission to the Summer 2024 DPT cohort = 49%.

Of the 18 offered admission, 10 deposited = 56% enrolled.

Student Learning Goals

Goal #1. The curriculum reflects current standards of physical therapist practice and prepares graduates to be skilled professionals with sound reasoning skills and capable of incorporating evidence into practice.

Physical therapy program students will:

1. a. Demonstrate the knowledge to provide comprehensive patient/client management across the lifespan and in a variety of practice settings.
1. b. Demonstrate the skills to provide comprehensive patient/client management across the lifespan and in a variety of practice settings.
1. c. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary for professional practice administration.

1. d. Demonstrate sound clinical reasoning skills that are based on the best available evidence.

Goal #2. The DPT curriculum prepares students with entry-level professional behaviors.

The Utica University Physical Therapy Program student will demonstrate responsible behaviors toward society consistent with entry-level practice expectations, Utica University's Mission and Values, and American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA's) Core Values.

Physical therapy program student will:

2. a. Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with entry-level practice.
2. b. Demonstrate responsible behaviors toward society consistent with Utica University's Mission and APTA Core Values.

Utica University has a three-year, eight semester program that includes two summers.

Course and clinical schedule below starting in mid-June:

Academic Requirements (108 Credit Hours)

Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy: Course Sequence

Summer 1: (6 credits)

- [DPT 564 - Human Gross Anatomy \(0,6\)](#)

Fall 1: Foundations of Physical Therapy (17 credits)

- [DPT 581 - Professional Development I: Introduction to Physical Therapy \(1\)](#)
- [DPT 582 - Clinical Sciences Foundation \(3\)](#)
- [DPT 584 - Movement Science \(3\)](#)
- [DPT 586 - Examination/Evaluation \(0,4\)](#)
- [DPT 587 - Interventions \(0,4\)](#)
- [DPT 589 - Caring for the Community I \(1\)](#)
- [IPE 504 - Interprofessional Practice and Leadership \(1\)](#)

Spring 1: Patient Management: Musculoskeletal System (16 credits)

- [DPT 591 - Professional Development II \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 592 - Clinical Sciences: Musculoskeletal System \(3\)](#)
- [DPT 593 - Case Analysis Musculoskeletal \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 595 - Evidence in Clinical Practice I \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 596 - Examination/Evaluation of the Musculoskeletal System \(0,3\)](#)
- [DPT 597 - Interventions for the Musculoskeletal System \(0 to 3\)](#)
- [DPT 599 - Caring for the Community II \(1\)](#)

Summer 2: Neuroanatomy and Clinical Education I (10 credits)

- [DPT 654 - Neuroscience \(0,4\)](#)
- [DPT 659 - Clinical Education I \(6\)](#)

Fall 2: Patient Management: Neuromuscular System (17 credits)

- [DPT 681 - Professional Development III \(1\)](#)
- [DPT 682 - Clinical Sciences: Neuromuscular \(3\)](#)
- [DPT 683 - Case Analysis: Neuromuscular \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 684 - Motor Development, Learning and Control \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 685 - Evidence in Clinical Practice II \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 686 - Neuromuscular System I: Across the Lifespan \(0,3\)](#)
- [DPT 687 - Neuromuscular Systems II: Adults \(0,2\)](#)
- [DPT 688 - Neuromuscular System III: Pediatrics \(1\)](#)
- [DPT 689 - Caring for the Community III \(1\)](#)

Spring 2: Patient Management: Additional Systems (17 credits)

- [DPT 691 - Professional Development IV \(1\)](#)
- [DPT 692 - Clinical Sciences: Additional Systems \(3\)](#)
- [DPT 693 - Case Analysis: Additional Systems \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 695 - Evidence in Clinical Practice III- Capstone Experience \(2\)](#)
- [DPT 696 - Examination/Interventions: Cardiovascular, Pulmonary and Other Systems \(0,4\)](#)
- [DPT 697 - Examination/Interventions: Integumentary and Other Systems \(0,3\)](#)
- [DPT 698 - Advanced Musculoskeletal Topics: Management of Complex Musculoskeletal Conditions \(1\)](#)
- [DPT 699 - Caring for the Community IV \(1\)](#)

Fall 3: Clinical Education (12 credits)

- [DPT 779 - Clinical Education II \(12\)](#)

Spring 3: Clinical Education - Preparation for Transition to Licensed Professional (13 credits)

- [DPT 789 - Clinical Education III \(12\)](#)
- [DPT 799 - Comprehensive Examination \(1\)](#)

The NPTE

Graduates are eligible for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) and licensure in all states. Students may take the NPTE only after all program requirements are met. The Utica University Entry Level DPT Program is designed to meet educational requirements intended to prepare students to pursue professional licensure that is required in the U.S. for employment and to practice in the field of Physical Therapy. However, additional requirements for licensure or certification beyond these educational requirements and the NPTE may vary in each state. These additional requirements may include jurisprudence assessment, criminal background check, professional liability insurance or other non-educational requirements. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the requirements in the state in which they intend to seek licensure.

The Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) provides some great resources for such requirements that can be reviewed using this link "Licensure Reference Guide" or visiting www.fsbpt.org. Additionally, FSBPT also maintains a list of licensing boards' contact information. However, this list does not include American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, or Guam.

