

# Doctor of Physical Therapy



The St. Ambrose University Physical Therapy Department is comprised of a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program and an Orthopaedic Residency program. The DPT program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high quality physical therapy services, and includes training in clinical decision-making and evidence-based practice, and skills to care for medically complex patients. Our faculty members are dedicated to providing students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to become integral members of the modern health care team. The DPT program is distinguished by a rich environment of academic excellence, a wide variety of clinical experiences and a sense of community, respect and friendship among students, faculty and staff.

## DPT Program Mission

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program prepares highly competent physical therapists who have the broad knowledge and skills required for contemporary physical therapist practice. Graduates of the program will be known for their compassionate care, professionalism, and commitment to lifelong learning.

## Accreditation

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at St. Ambrose University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

## Ambrose Advantages

- > Accelerated DPT degree in 2.5 years
- > Class size of 36 students
- > 7 clinical education experiences
- > Interprofessional opportunities
- > State-of-the-art facilities

## Admissions

Up to 36 students are admitted into the DPT program through a competitive process, with a new class beginning each fall. Applicants to the DPT program choose one of three admission tracks.

### Track I: High School Seniors – Application Deadline, October 1

Track I is a “3+2.5” plan of study (3 years of undergraduate study plus 2.5 years in the DPT program). Track I is exclusively for high school seniors planning to enroll at SAU. Each year, up to 15 high school seniors are granted placement in Track I conditionally reserving them a place in the DPT class that begins during their senior year at SAU. Application materials found at [www.sau.edu/pt](http://www.sau.edu/pt).

### Track I Application Criteria and Process

- To apply for a Track I position, high school seniors will need to:
- > Complete a general application online to St. Ambrose University
  - > Meet the entrance requirements of St. Ambrose University
  - > Have completed the equivalent of one year each of high school biology and chemistry. One year of high school physics is strongly recommended



- > Attain a minimum of 3.5/4.0 unweighted high school GPA
- > Score a minimum of 24 on the ACT or 1160 on the SAT
- > Have completed and provided documentation of at least 20 hours of observation with a licensed physical therapist in one or more physical therapy settings
- > Complete an acceptable on-site personal interview with DPT faculty members
- > Complete a PT Department Track I application form

### Track II/III: College Juniors, Seniors, and College Graduates – Application Deadline, December 1

Track II is a “3+2.5” plan of study (3 years of undergraduate study plus 2.5 years in the DPT program). Track II allows undergraduates from both SAU or other institutions to apply their junior year for consideration of entry into the DPT class that begins during their senior year at SAU.

Track III is a “4+2.5” plan of study (four years of undergraduate study plus 2.5 years in the DPT Program). Track III is the more traditional application process for individuals who are in their senior year of college or hold a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree from an accredited four-year college or university.



## Track II/III Prerequisite Courses

<i>Course</i>	<i>SAU Equivalent</i>	<i>Credits</i>
General Biology I & II (with labs)*	Biology 199 and 200	8
Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II (with labs)*	Biology 230 and 232	8
General Chemistry I & II (with labs)*	Chemistry 105 and 106	8
College Physics I & II (with labs)*	Physics 203 and 204	8
Statistics/Biostatistics	Statistics 213	3
Introduction to Psychology	Psychology 105	3
Upper level Psychology/ Sociology elective	Psychology 255	3

\*DPT program will not accept online lab courses.

## Track II/III Application Criteria and Process

- > Complete all prerequisite courses with a grade of “C” or above prior to enrollment
- > Attain a minimum 3.0/4.0 cumulative and prerequisite GPA in all undergraduate coursework or a minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.25 / 4.0 for 18 or more semester hours in an approved graduate science degree program
- > Document at least 50 hours of observation with licensed physical therapists in two or more physical therapy settings to include inpatient and outpatient. All hours must be completed at the time of submitting application
- > Complete the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- > Submit official transcripts from all undergraduate institutions
- > Submit two references from individuals well acquainted with the applicant
- > All international students are required to submit official results from the TOEFL exam and must score at least 600 (written), 250 (computerized) or 100 (internet)

- > International students are required to have their transcripts evaluated through the World Education Services (WES)
- > Submit applications for Track II/III through [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org)
- > Complete an acceptable on-site personal interview with SAU DPT faculty members

## Orthopaedic Residency Program

This 12 month post-professional opportunity is for physical therapists who want to accelerate their learning in the area of orthopaedic physical therapy. The program is based on the American Physical Therapy Association’s credentialing criteria and the Description of Specialty Practice in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy. Residents work full-time in the clinical setting, where they are mentored by faculty with advanced clinical skills and expertise in teaching. Classroom and lab training, study groups, case presentations and community service are integral to the series of classes that include radiology, advanced musculoskeletal therapeutics and mentored clinical internships. Interested students can apply during their second year in the DPT program and then begin the program upon graduation and licensure.

## For Further Information

Physical Therapy Department  
 St. Ambrose University Center for Health Sciences Education  
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 563-333-6403  
[pt@sau.edu](mailto:pt@sau.edu)  
[www.sau.edu/pt](http://www.sau.edu/pt)

## Admissions Office

563-333-6300  
[admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu)  
[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)