



PROGRAM OFFERED

- ◆ PhD

Program Objective

To prepare leaders in the profession of physical therapy who are capable of conducting research that will improve the lives of people through whole person care, to serve as client/patient advocates, and to serve as educators in entry-level and graduate physical therapy programs.

Program Description

Designed for the working professional, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physical Therapy (PT) synergizes with the University's Motto, "To Make Man Whole". Physical Therapists who are currently treating or teaching will benefit from a modern, evidence-based curriculum aimed at caring for the whole person. Face to face classes, a mere two evenings a week, facilitate the balance of work and study for our students. Aligned closely with our core values, this program provides physical therapy graduates with the skills and experience that are necessary to pursue careers as researchers and educators.

As part of the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP), Department of Physical Therapy, the PhD program begins with a distinctive core of classes. These fundamental courses align with the American Physical Therapy Association's movement science agenda as well as with LLU's Mission, "To continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ".

The Core Curriculum includes (15 units):

1. Psychoneuroimmunology I (Mind/Body Connections)
2. Biomechanics (Musculoskeletal System)
3. Biocontrol (Nervous System)
4. Grant Writing
5. Pain Science

In addition to the Core Curriculum, five other domains enhance the student's comprehensive knowledge in the areas of:

1. Clinical & Applied Science
2. Lifestyle Health & Wellness
3. Education, Administration & Leadership
4. Religion
5. Research & Statistics

This curriculum is uniquely and individually designed to meet the student's interests, background and desired area of research. This is accomplished through collaboration with the program director and the dissertation chair who work carefully with the student to create an interesting, challenging and applicable direction of study that will facilitate acquisition of the skills needed to produce exceptional research. Because this is a research-oriented doctorate degree, the PhD student will then select a research guidance committee consisting of 3-4 content experts to facilitate student-driven, faculty-supported research that is ready for publication by the end of the program.

As a faith-based institution, our program thoughtfully integrates religion and spirituality into our approach to wholeness. The three religion courses are directed towards ethical, theological and religious studies and are designed to complement the greater understanding of spirituality and religion and especially its role in the mind/body connection.

After completing the required number of units of didactic work and a comprehensive examination, PhD students will engage in the active research process utilizing the experience, skills and knowledge of their dissertation chair. These esteemed research mentors are recognized faculty of the LLU School of Allied Health & Faculty of Graduate Studies with a wide diversity of research interests and active research studies.

The PhD student's research will take place in one of several specialized laboratories including:

1. Orthopedic Research Studies
2. Neurologic Research Studies
3. Movement/Pain Studies
4. SAHP Metabolic Laboratory

Learning Objectives

PhD Program Graduate will demonstrate:

- Skills to design and conduct novel, original research, provide evidence of an understanding of research designs and the ability to formulate, develop methodologies, collect data, excogitate conclusions, and effectively disseminate research findings;
- Qualities of lifelong learning and commitment to scholarship after graduation;
- The ability to add to the body of knowledge in physical therapy research literature through publications and presentations;
- A commitment to conducting research in lifestyle health and wellness and providing whole-person care.
- The ability to serve as an educator in entry-level, post-professional and graduate level programs
- Personal and group leadership skills at institutional, professional, national, and global levels.

Admission and Entrance Requirements

There are two possible entrance points for students in the PhD in PT program:

- Track 1: Prior Bachelors of Science (BS) in PT plus a master's degree or a Masters in Physical Therapy degree
- Track 2: Prior Doctor of Physical Therapy degree

Admission Requirements:

- Grade Point Average (GPA) Minimum = 3.3/4.0.
- GRE or approved substitution (e.g., structured interview)

International Students:

- TOEFL score of 80 or higher
- Foreign Transcript Evaluation (World Education Services [WES])

Program Completion Requirements

The total units required to complete the program will vary depending on the applicant's prior level of education. Students entering the program with a Bachelor's of Science in Physical Therapy (BSPT) and a master's degree or a Master of Physical Therapy Degree (MPT) will be required to complete a minimum 89 quarter units. Students matriculating with a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree or a MPT degree plus another doctorate degree will need to complete a minimum of 72 units.

Program Information

- ♦ Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:00 to 10:20 p.m.
- ♦ The tuition rate is \$651 per unit for the 2021-2022 academic year (rates are subject to increase by 3.5% annually). Each quarter the student will pay a quarterly enrollment fee (\$924) even during quarters that they are only enrolled in an "In Progress" course. Each student is required to have an iPad for course materials provided by the instructor and for electronic examinations. Each student will be required to perform one or more research projects in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Therapy. The typical costs for student research projects range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. The physical therapy department will cover the first \$2,500 of approved research expenses. The student and/or their sponsor will be required to cover any research-related expenses over this amount. When necessary, the program director and dissertation chair will assist the student in attempting to secure funding for unmet research expenses.

How to Apply

For further information or to apply, please visit <http://alliedhealth.llu.edu/academics/physical-therapy/degree-options/physical-therapy-phd>

Contact Us

Everett B. Lohman III, DSc, PT, OCS
Program Director
Loma Linda University
24951 N. Circle Drive, Room A-620, Loma Linda, CA 92350
909-558-1000, ext. 83171
elohman@llu.edu

Todd C. Nelson PT, DPT, MBA, NCS
Associate Program Director
Loma Linda University
24951 N. Circle Drive, Room A-620, Loma Linda, CA 92350
909-558-1000, ext. 15921
tnelson@llu.edu

"As a working physical therapist, this program enhanced my knowledge and taught me the value of the whole person care".

K. Sabha

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LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

LLU at a Glance

>> Founded in 1905 >> A Seventh-day Adventist institution integrating health, science, and Christian faith >> Offers over 200 programs in the health sciences >> Houses eight schools: Allied Health Professions, Behavioral Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Religion >> About 4,000 students >> Over 1,300 faculty >> 2,000 professional researchers >> \$46 million dollars in private and public grants generated each year >> Many service learning opportunities

Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California 92350
909.558.4632
Website: www.llu.edu
www.facebook.com/llualliedhealth