

BS+MS or MPT to PhD in Physical Therapy

School of Allied Health Professions



DEGREE OFFERED

- ◆ BS+MS or MPT to PhD in Physical Therapy
89 units

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".

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.

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. Orthoscience Research Laboratory
2. Neuroscience Research Laboratory
3. Motion Capture Research Laboratory
4. SAHP Clinical Molecular Research Laboratory

DOMAIN 1: CORE CURRICULUM

PTGR 552	Pain Science	15u
PTGR 580	Movement Science III: Bio Motor Control	3u
PTGR 550	Psychoneuroimmunology	3u
PTGR 591	Biomechanics I	3u
PTGR 599	Comprehensive Exam	0u
STAT 515	Grant/Contract Proposal Writing	3u

DOMAIN 2: CLINICAL & APPLIED SCIENCES

The Dissertation Chair in collaboration with the Program Director and the student will select courses from the approved list based on the proposed research topic

24u

DOMAIN 3: LIFESTYLE HEALTH & WELLNESS

(Select one from the list below)

AHCJ 528	Lifestyle Health & Wellness	3u
AHCJ 541	Managing Stress	3u
AHCJ 546	Therapeutic Humor in Health Care	3u

6u

DOMAIN 4: EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP

(Select three from the list below)

AHCJ 506	Education Evaluation Clinical Assessment	3u
AHCJ 509	Transformational Teaching	3u
AHCJ 515	Curriculum Development in Higher Ed	3u
AHCJ 556	Administration in Higher Education	3u
AHCJ 564	Collaborative Learning in Higher Ed	3u

9u

DOMAIN 5: RELIGION

RELR 540	Health & Wholeness	3u
RELE ---	Graduate-level – Ethical	3u
RELT ---	Graduate-level – Theological	3u

9u

DOMAIN 6: RESEARCH & STATISTICS

AHRM 581	Research & Statistics I	3u
AHRM 582	Research & Statistics II	3u
PTGR 693	Research & Statistics III	3u
	Development & Approval of Research Topic	
PTGR 694	Research & Statistics IV	3u
	Proposal Development & IRB Approval	
PTGR 695	Research & Statistics V	
	Data Collection (A, B)	3u, 3u
PTGR 696	Research & Statistics VI	3u
	Data Analysis	
PTGR 699	Research & Statistics VII	3u
	Preliminary Dissertation	
PTGR 594	Evidence Based Practice in PT	2u
PTGR 577	Dissertation Seminar (recommended)	0u

3u, 3u

3u

3u

3u

3u

2u

0u

TOTAL 89 quarter units

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 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 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 2022-2023 academic year (rates are subject to increase by 3.5% annually). Each quarter the student will pay a quarterly enrollment fee (\$950) 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

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Assistant Dean, Research Affairs

Program Director, Post-professional Physical Therapy Programs

Director, Orthoscience Research Laboratory

Director, Motion Capture Research Laboratory

Professor

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY | School of Allied Health Professions & Faculty of Graduate Studies

HARVARD UNIVERSITY | *Harvard Macy Institute Scholar and Alumnus*

Loma Linda University

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

K. Sabha

Updated 09/01/22



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

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