



PROGRAM OFFERED

- ◆ Post Professional DPT 45-unit track

About the program

The following definition is provided by the American Physical Therapy Association. (APTA web site, 2000):
Post-professional educational programs: The “Post-professional” DPT is the degree conferred upon successful completion of a post-professional physical therapist education program. The “Post-professional” DPT is intended for practicing clinicians and typically offers a didactic and, in some cases, a clinical augmentation that is deemed necessary to meet current and future expectations for physical therapy practice.

APTA Vision Sentence for Physical Therapy 2020: “By 2020, physical therapy will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy, recognized by consumers and other health care professionals as the practitioners of choice to whom consumers have direct access for the diagnosis of, interventions for, and prevention of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities related to movement, function, and health.”

Our Post-Professional Programs serve as “stepping stones”, allowing our applicants with prior physical therapy education to reach their terminal degree goals.

Candidates from international programs must have their coursework evaluated by World Education Services (WES). Candidates must have the equivalent level of physical therapy education as US programs with final determination of equivalency and admission made by the post-professional graduate committee. A TOEFL score of 80 internet-based or 230 computer-generated is required for applicants whose first language is not English.

Admission

The Post Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy (PP-DPT) degree (45-unit track) is designed for the individual with a bachelor’s degree in physical therapy and a master’s degree who wishes to pursue a clinical doctorate degree in the profession. To be eligible for admission, the applicant must have earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Therapy from an accredited program and a master’s degree. Candidates from international programs must have their course work evaluated by World Education Services (WES). There is no GRE requirement for acceptance into this program.

Graduation requirements

A minimum of 45 quarter units must be completed in the PPDPT 45 Unit Track program at Loma Linda University.

Program Information

- ◆ Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:00 to 10:20 p.m.
- ◆ *Cost of Attendance*
Please review LLU’s Find a Program website [page](#) for the most up-to-date information on the cost of attendance.
- ◆ International students on a student visa are not allowed to work off campus. To help offset the tuition costs in America, we offer a limited number of graduate assistantships that result in up to 16 hours per week of service for one of the academic or research faculty members.
- ◆ Some courses are web based. Students are required to have an iPad for the courses in the orthopedic and neurology tracks as well as for testing activities in all courses. It is highly recommended that students have access to a personal computer (minimum: 800 MHz multimedia) with Internet access (minimum: 56 k.b.p.s. [connected at 44+ k.b.p.s.]). A \$65 technology fee is charged in year one.

Message from the program director

Thank you for your interest in the post-professional doctor of physical therapy (PPDPT 45 Unit Track) program at Loma Linda University.

Although Loma Linda University has been one of the premiere post-professional programs since 1994 with the post-professional master of physical therapy program, the first transitional DPT class graduated on June 10, 2001. A pre- and exit-questionnaire was given to each participant in the program. In all areas tested, the students’ scores showed significant gains in competency. The areas tested included the following: 1) diagnostic skills, 2) basic science (including pharmacology), 3) administration, 4) clinical skills, and 5) literature analysis.

We are very proud of our PPDPT programs and our graduates. I hope this will serve to answer the majority of your questions. If you should have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Again, let me express my delight that you are considering Loma Linda University. I wish you the best as you start your journey in post-professional education.

Course of study

AHCJ 519 Graduate Wholeness Portfolio	1
PTGR 511 Advanced Clinical Practice I	3
PTGR 512 Advanced Clinical Practice II	3
PTGR 513 Advanced Clinical Practice III	3
PTGR 514 Professional Systems in Management I	3
PTGR 515 Cardiopulmonary Assessment	3
PTGR 516 Movement Science – Upper Extremities	3
PTGR 517 Movement Science: Lower Qtr. Biomechanics	3
PTGR 519 Home Health	3
PTGR 553 Clinical Reasoning & Critical Thinking	3
PTGR 571 Advanced Physiology I: Neurobiology	3
PTGR 578 Medical Screening	3
PTGR 579 Clinical Imaging	3
PTGR 594 Evidence Based Practice in PT	2
RELR 525 Dynamics of Christian Leadership	3
Electives	3

Electives available

PTGR 509 Function Based Rehab	3
PTGR 529 Integumentary and Lymphatic Systems	3

Frequently Asked Questions

Program outcomes

Each student is expected to develop a strong knowledge base relating to the full spectrum of the practice of physical therapy, including the following areas:

Diagnostic skills

Graduates from the post-professional doctor of physical therapy program are expected to develop their diagnostic skills to assist the team or physician in establishing an appropriate treatment plan. This includes understanding the significance of the findings and interpretation of radiographic reports.

Basic science

Graduates from the post-professional doctor of physical therapy program are expected to expand their knowledge base in the basic sciences and learn to synthesize this knowledge during the evaluation, assessment, and treatment of their patient populations.

Administration

Each graduate from the post-professional doctor of physical therapy program is expected to develop a thorough understanding of administration and management styles and how each style relates to their particular professional environment.

Clinical skills

Each graduate from the post-professional doctor of physical therapy program is expected to have developed a high level of clinical skills. These skills will be in harmony with and reflect a knowledge base resulting from current research and clinical trials.

Literature analysis

Each graduate from the post-professional doctor of physical therapy program is expected to become skillful in critical analysis of scientific literature. They are expected to develop the ability to glean from and synthesize scientific literature and the associated research findings.

Student Learning Outcomes

In addition to the stated institutional learning outcomes, the PP-DPT (45-Unit Track) program student is expected to meet the following programmatic learning outcomes:

- Outcome 1 Discovery. Students will demonstrate a commitment to discovery.
- Outcome 2 Science. Students will use basic science knowledge-related physical therapy practice.
- Outcome 3 Clinical Excellence. Students will provide advanced patient-specific physical therapy care.
- Outcome 4 Evidence-based practice. Students will select best practice and examination techniques based on scientific evidence.

How many years does it take to complete the PPDPT program?

The PPDPT 45 Unit Track program is an eleven-month program. The start date is the last Tuesday of September. The PPDPT is a 45-quarter unit program. Full-time students will complete 12-quarter units (or more) per 10-week quarter.

Do I have the option of attending the program part-time?

No, due to course sequencing a part-time option is not available.

Can I still work as a physical therapist during the program?

The answer to this question is a resounding yes. Not only may you work as a physical therapist, but it is strongly encouraged. The program is set up in a clinician-friendly manner. The classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to allow for the participant to maintain part or full-time employment. Please note students on a visa are not permitted to work off-campus.

How many students do you accept in the program?

Since this program is a clinical-based program, we typically limit our enrollment to 20 students.

Is there a research component in the transitional DPT program?

Although research is and will remain a strength of the Loma Linda University physical therapy programs, students who have completed a full research component during their entry-level or post-professional master of physical therapy curriculum will not be required to perform an additional research project. For those students who desire a stronger research the PhD in Physical Therapy offers two years of didactic education plus a formal research project.

Contact the Program Director

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Assistant Dean, Research Affairs

Program Director, Post-professional Physical Therapy Programs

Director, Orthoscience Research Laboratory

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Professor

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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

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