



## Doctorate of Physical Therapy

Physical therapists provide services to patients/clients who have impairments, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status as a result of injury, disease and other causes. They restore and promote overall fitness and health. Physical therapy is often indicated for individuals with disabling conditions such as low back pain, arthritis, heart disease, fractures, head injuries and cerebral palsy as well as for individuals needing services for disease and disablement prevention.

Therapists test and measure strength, range of motion, balance and coordination, posture, muscle performance, respiration and motor function; they use electrical stimulation, hot packs or cold compresses, and ultrasound to relieve pain and reduce swelling. They may also use traction or deep-tissue massage to relieve pain. Therapists teach patients to use assistive and adaptive devices such as crutches, prostheses and wheelchairs. Some therapists specialize in areas such as pediatrics, geriatrics, orthopedics, sports medicine and neurology.

### **JOB OPPORTUNITIES:**

Physical therapy is expected to be one of the fastest growing occupations in the coming decade. Demand for physical therapists continues to rise with the increase of injuries and chronic disabilities in the aging population. Job prospects are expected to continue to be very good due to the increasing demand for physical therapy among the elderly population and the baby-boom generation.

A growing number of employers are using physical therapists to evaluate worksites, develop exercise programs and teach safe work habits to employees to reduce the incidence of injuries.

### **EARNINGS:**

New graduate salaries for physical therapists will vary depending on region and practice setting. The wage scale ranges given below reflect these differences. The numbers quoted are for full-time work (40 hours per week). Check with practice settings in your area to get more detailed information.

Physical Therapist: \$60,000-70,000/yr

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Most therapists are employed in hospitals or out-patient physical therapy clinics. Other job opportunities are in home health agencies, outpatient rehabilitation centers, schools, and skilled nursing facilities. Some physical therapists are self-employed in private practice. In sports therapy, they may work with athletes before, during, and after sporting events. Physical therapists also teach in academic institutions and conduct research.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AT LLU**

The entry-level Doctorate degree in physical therapy (DPT) requires a minimum of seven years of college after high school: Four years to complete a Bachelor degree and the core prerequisites followed by three years of study in the professional program at LLU. Students who are looking for quick entry into the professional world of healthcare may wish to pursue the physical therapy assistant degree. All states require physical therapists to pass the National PT Licensing Exam after graduating from an accredited program before they can practice.

## DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)

The Entry-level DPT program is for individuals with a previous Bachelor degree in any field, earned from a regionally accredited university/college, is required. The DPT program is 3 years in length; always beginning in June. A minimum GPA of 3.4 is required for prerequisite course work. However, to be competitive, over the past few years the applicant has needed a 3.6 GPA or higher.

In calculating the GPA, we count science prerequisites, all non-science prerequisites, two humanities courses, one social science, and the freshman/English composition sequence. If you do not have an additional social science course, we will then count three humanities courses. For any course repeated, the most recent grade will be used. We have a three attempt rule which states if an applicant repeats a course more than three times, we will count the grade received on the third attempt.

At the time of application:

- A. The Anatomy and Physiology sequence must be completed
- B. No more than three science prerequisites can be outstanding
- C. Science prerequisites can be no older than ten years
- D. Forty observation hours must be completed prior to receiving an interview

All applications must be submitted through [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org). The priority deadline is September 1st with a final deadline of November 1st. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by the priority deadline. The Department uses the date applicants e-submit their PTCAS application to see if they have met our deadlines. For example, if you e-submit your PTCAS application on August 25th, you have met our priority deadline. Once applicants have e-submitted their application and PTCAS has received all transcripts, PTCAS will verify the application. This can take several weeks to verify. After the application has been verified, PTCAS will send the application to LLU. Once we have received it, an email containing a link for the secondary application, will be sent to you. It can take up to a week, after LLU has received your application, before you will receive the secondary application email.

### Prerequisites:

- Human Anatomy & Physiology w/lab, complete sequence
- Statistics
- General Chemistry w/lab, complete sequence
- General Physics w/lab, complete sequence
- Medical Terminology
- Two additional Biological courses (anything with a Biology prefix)
- General Psychology
- Human Growth & Development/Developmental Psychology of the Lifespan
- Speech

**Observation Experience:** 80 physical therapy observation hours are required. A minimum of 20 hours in an inpatient P.T. setting and a minimum of 20 hours in an outpatient P.T. setting.

**Note:** "C-" grades are not accepted for credit.

**LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY** is located in Southern California 60 miles East of Los Angeles. We are a health sciences university emphasizing excellence in education, personal integrity, intellectual development, community service, and personal commitment to Christ. Located on campus is the world famous Loma Linda University Medical Center, a 797 bed acute-care teaching hospital and the Children's Hospital.

One of the unique things about Loma Linda University is its diversity in education within health care. As you learn within your chosen discipline, you are in direct contact with other students studying in related health care fields. You will have the opportunity to interact with medical students, dental students, nursing students and many others. The School of Allied Health Professions at LLU is the largest school of its kind in the world. It is one of the eight schools which comprise Loma Linda University.

### How to apply:

The DPT program application period opens in July. We recommend that you apply soon after July 1, with a priority deadline of September 1 and a final deadline of November 1st. To apply to the entry-level DPT program, go to [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org).

TOEFL or IELTS (or equivalent English language proficiency examination) scores are required for applicants whose native language is not English or whose secondary education was received outside the United States (refer to: <http://www.llu.edu/allied-health/sahp/internationalstudent.page>)

**Financial Aid:** Our Financial Aid Office can help you plan to finance your education. Be sure to apply early for financial assistance, even before receiving your acceptance into the program. FAFSA applications open on October 1. Applications for Cal Grants (California residents only) must be postmarked no later than March 2. These applications are available after December 25. Contact our Financial Aid Office at (909) 558-4509, or by mail at: Financial Aid Office, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350

**Housing:** On-campus housing is available for men and women. For information on the men's dormitory (Daniell's Residence), call (909) 558-4562. For information on the women's dormitory (Lindsay Hall), call (909) 558-4561.

Website: <http://www.llu.edu/central/housing/index.page>

### Contact Information:

#### DPT Department Chair

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#### DPT Admission Liaison

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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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