

College of Health and Human Sciences
School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
Doctor of Physical Therapy

October 1, 2020

Submitted to the University Assessment Panel by:
MJ Blaschak, DPT Program Coordinator

Introduction

The Physical Therapy Program at Northern Illinois University admitted its first students in 1980 into the Bachelor's program. The program made the transition to the Master of Physical Therapy Program in 1999, and then to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in 2010. The program was housed on campus until spring 2014, when the teaching labs moved from McMurry Hall to the Wellness Center. Over the next few years, the program gradually moved all program teaching and faculty to the Wellness Center. The Physical Therapy Clinic was moved from the basement of Health Services to the Wellness Center in 2008. The program has been continually accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education since the graduation of the first class in 1982.

Over the past ten years (2010 – 2020) 385 students have matriculated into the program, and 268/287 (93%) have graduated. To date, 231/239 (97%) program graduates have passed the licensure examination. Based on graduate report, there is 100% employment for those seeking work as physical therapists.

The faculty of the program have established the following Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

Program Goals

1. Provide an educational experience that will prepare physical therapists who will deliver high quality physical therapy with creativity and with a sound scientific basis.
2. Foster an environment of scientific inquiry that will promote research and scholarly activities that will contribute to the advancement of learning in the physical therapy profession.
3. Foster lifelong learning.
4. Provide high quality physical therapy consultative services to the university community.
5. Provide continuing education for physical therapists.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Practice in a manner that is culturally competent, is consistent with established legal and professional standards, and it based on current evidence and best practice.
2. Perform physical therapy patient examinations using evidence-based tests and measures and evaluating exam data to make clinical judgments to generate a diagnosis and prognosis that guides patient management.
3. Establish and implement a physical therapy plan of care that is effective, safe, and based on current best evidence of practice, and proficiently modifying throughout the course of intervention.
4. Communicate effectively and professionally in a manner that is congruent with situational demands, while seeking and incorporating feedback from multiple sources.
5. Perform self-evaluation and utilize ongoing feedback from multiple sources, with critical self-reflection to improve clinical practice and professional development.

Assessment Method	SLO 1	SLO 2	SLO 3	SLO 4	SLO 5
	Practice in a manner that is culturally competent, is consistent with established legal and professional standards, and it based on current evidence and best practice	Perform physical therapy patient examinations using evidence-based tests and measures and evaluating exam data to make clinical judgments to generate a diagnosis and prognosis that guides patient management	Establish and implement a physical therapy plan of care that is effective, safe, and based on current best evidence of practice, and proficiently modifying throughout the course of intervention	Communicate effectively and professionally in a manner that is congruent with situational demands, while seeking and incorporating feedback from multiple sources	Perform self-evaluation and utilize ongoing feedback from multiple sources, with critical self-reflection to improve clinical practice and professional development
First time and Ultimate pass rates on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE)	S,D	S,D	S,D	S,D	S,D
Performance on the Clinical Performance Criteria	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D
Practical Examinations	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D
Scholarly paper	S,D	S,D	S,D	S,D	S,D
Graduate review of the program	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I
Year 1 Alumni Survey	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I
Year 3 Alumni Survey	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I
Employer Survey	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I	S,I

Scores on Practice Exam and Assessment Tool	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D	F,S,D
Review of Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Records for discipline of NIU DPT program graduates	S, D				
<i>Note.</i> F=formative assessment, S=summative assessment, D=direct assessment, and I=indirect assessment. See the paragraph above for an explanation of each type of assessment.					

Curriculum Map

The DPT curriculum was revised to reflect moving the matriculation semester to summer and revision of the sequencing of the courses. The curriculum map is for the revised curriculum, with the courses presented in chronological order.

Course	1. Culturally competent	2. Examinations	3. Treatment	4. Communication	5. Self evaluation
AHPT 601	B			B	
AHPT 609				B	
AHPT 615	B				
BIOS 546	B	B	B		
AHPT 604		B			
AHPT 610	B	B		B	
AHPT 611	B	B	B	B	
AHPT 618	B			B	
AHPT 620			B		B
AHPT 602	B	B	B	B	
AHPT 608				D	
AHPT 613	D	D	B	D	
AHPT 617	D				
AHPT 619	B	B	B	B	B
AHPT 639	D	D	B	D	
AHPT 612	D	D	D	D	
AHPT 616	D				
AHPT 709	D			D	
AHPT 614	B	B	B	D	
AHPT 621	D	D	D	D	D
AHPT 622	D	D	D	D	D
AHPT 636	D	B	P	D	P
AHPT 651	D			D	
AHPT 703	D	D	D		
AHPT 709	D			D	
AHPT 623	D	D	D	D	D
AHPT 637	D	D	D	D	
AHPT 641	D	D	D	D	
AHPT 642	D	D	D		D
AHPT 702	D	D	D	D	
AHPT 709	D			D	
AHPT 603	D			D	D
AHPT 660	D	D	D	D	D
AHPT 799				D	

Course	1. Culturally competent	2. Examinations	3. Treatment	4. Communication	5. Self evaluation
AHPT 652	D	D	D	P	P
AHPT 657	D	D	D	P	P
AHPT 700	P			P	
AHPT 701	P	P	P	D	D
AHPT 799				P	
AHPT 760	P	P	P	P	P
AHPT 761	P	P	P	P	P
AHPT 798					P
AHPT 799				P	P
<i>Note.</i> Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=developing, or P=proficient level.					

Assessment Methods

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement	Program-Level Target	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs Covered
First time and Ultimate pass rates on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE)	Graduates of accredited physical therapy programs must pass the national licensing examination in order to practice as a physical therapist in any state. The examination is offered through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) and is offered four times a year.	Graduates of the program must achieve a score of at least 600 on the NPTE to be eligible for state licensure.	At least 80% of the graduates in a cohort will pass the NPTE on the first attempt. At least 95% of graduates in a cohort will ultimately pass the NPTE.	The NPTE is given four times a year; data are typically available four weeks following the examination.	Program coordinator	1 (S,D) 2 (S,D) 3 (S,D)
Student performance in external clinical experiences, based on the Clinical Performance Instrument	Students' clinical performances will be assessed by each student's clinical instructor at midterm and end of each external clinical experience. Student performance is assessed on a standard set of criteria; the expectations based on level of student experience.	Students must meet the specific expectations for each of four external clinical experiences in order to progress in the program and to graduate.	At least 90% of each cohort will meet the requirements of each external clinical experience. At least 95% of each cohort will demonstrate entry-level competence at the completion of the final external clinical experience (AHPT 761).	Students have four full-time external clinical experiences: fall semester of the second year, summer after second year; two ten-week experiences to complete the third year	Directors of Clinical Education	1 (S,D) 2 (S,D) 3 (S,D) 4 (S,D) 5 (S,D)

<p>Practical Examinations</p>	<p>Examinations that test a student's ability to appropriately apply knowledge in a practical setting are a component of all clinical courses. Students must earn at least a grade of 80% on each practical in order to pass that practical and progress in the program. Students who fail to meet this requirement are provided remediation and a retake on the practical.</p>	<p>Students must earn at least 80% on each practical examination to pass that examination.</p>	<p>At least 95% of each cohort will pass each practical examination in the program.</p>	<p>Data are collected after each practical examination.</p>	<p>Instructor</p>	<p>1 (F,S,D) 2 (F,S,D) 3 (F,S,D) 4 (F,S,D) 5 (F,S,D)</p>
<p>Scholarly Project</p>	<p>Students are required to participate in a research project to demonstrate the ability to integrate evidence-based practice that is suitable for presentation by the end of the third academic year.</p>	<p>Students must conduct and complete a research project</p>	<p>100% of the members of a given cohort will conduct and complete a research project, which will be presented to local clinicians. At least two student projects will be presented at a state or national meeting.</p>	<p>End of the third semester</p>	<p>Instructor</p>	<p>4 (S,D) 5 (S,D)</p>

Graduate Review of the Program	During their final week in the program, students provide a review of the program on how well they feel the program has prepared them to practice as an entry-level physical therapist, and in meeting the program's student learning outcomes.	All students will provide a review of the program during the final week of the program.	The average of the program review for each cohort will exceed 3.25/5.00, indicating more than adequate preparation for entry-level practice	During the final week of the program	Program Coordinator	1 (S,I) 2 (S,I) 3 (S,I) 4 (S,I) 5 (S,I)
One-Year Post-Graduation Alumni Survey	After one year of practice as a physical therapist, alumni will be asked to provide feedback on how well they feel the program prepared them for the practice as an entry-level physical therapist and the meeting of program learning objectives	Graduates who have provided the program with contact information will provide a one year review of the program.	At least 40% of the graduates who have provided the program with current contact information will submit the survey. The average rating of program preparation will be at least 2.25/4.00, indicating above average competency	One year after graduation, via survey	Designated faculty member	1 (S,I) 2 (S,I) 3 (S,I) 4 (S,I) 5 (S,I)

Three-Year Post-Graduation Alumni Survey	After three years of practice, alumni will be asked to provide feedback on how well they feel the program prepared them for the practice as an entry-level physical therapist and the meeting of program learning objectives	Graduates who have provided the program with contact information will provide a three year review of the program.	At least 40% of the graduates who have provided the program with current contact information will submit the survey. The average rating of program preparation will be at least 2.25/4.00, indicating above average competency	Three years after graduation, via a survey	Designated faculty member	1 (S,I) 2 (S,I) 3 (S,I) 4 (S,I) 5 (S,I)
Employer Survey	Graduates of the program will be asked to provide a survey link to their employers at the first and third year post-graduation year.	Graduates who have provided the program with contact information will provide the survey link to employer	The employers of at least 30% of the graduates who have provided the program with current contact information will submit the employer survey. The average rating of employees will be at least 2.5/4.00, indicating above average competency	One-year and three-years post-graduation	Designative faculty members	1 (S,I) 2 (S,I) 3 (S,I) 4 (S,I) 5 (S,I)

Licensing Practice Examination	Students will take the Practice Examination and Assessment Test (PEAT). Students will be expected to develop a study plan based on test results.	Students are expected to take the PEAT exam and develop a plan of study during their final semester.	100% of the students will develop a study plan based on the 1 st PEAT exam that reflects self-evaluation of knowledge base and preparedness to pass the NPTE. At least 80% of the students will score 600 or above on a PEAT.	During the spring semester of the third year	Instructor	1 (S,I) 2 (S,I) 3 (S,I) 4 (S,I) 5 (S,I)
Disciplinary records of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR)	The IDFPR publishes monthly reports of disciplinary action for all licensed professions in the state. The disciplinary action lists the profession, the individual, the license number of that individual, the offense, and the disciplinary action.	Graduates of the program are expected to follow the rules and regulations that govern the profession.	There will be no reports of disciplinary action taken on NIU DPT graduates	Annually, during the summer	Program coordinator	1 (S,D)