

Q and A

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Program Specific

1. What is the structure of the DPT program?

The program is a blended model including online lectures and interactions as well as monthly onsite skills labs. Face-to-face labs are scheduled four consecutive days each month in Waterloo, IA during the duration of the program and four consecutive days each month during the first semester in Saint Louis, MO (see schedule below). The full-time rigorous program is delivered over 11 semesters. The structure allows students to maintain family and financial obligations fostering a more flexible lifestyle while studying.

2. How long is the program?

The program is 11 semesters, 41 months or 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ years. Although it may appear longer than other blended format programs, this model allows students to earn a DPT without relocating and with a lifestyle allowing flexibility to take care of life commitments. Most semesters require less credit hours than other DPT programs. Students focus on fewer classes each term, gain mastery in specific content areas and reduce the risk of falling behind and failing out of the program.

3. Is relocation to Waterloo, IA necessary?

No, students can live wherever they choose, traveling to Saint Louis, MO during the first semester and Waterloo, IA throughout the program to complete the mandatory onsite skills labs.

4. Where does the Human Gross Anatomy course take place?

Human Gross Anatomy, required the first semester, will be completed at the world renowned PASE laboratory on the campus of Saint Louis University in Saint Louis, Missouri.

<https://www.slu.edu/medicine/medical-education/continuing-medical-education/pase/index.php>

Holding gross anatomy at the PASE lab allows students to have access to a state-of-the-art gross anatomy facility. Not all DPT programs require gross anatomy but Allen College believes this course is the foundation to DPT education. Faculty believe strongly in the experience of Human Gross Anatomy and are committed to offering the best available to students. Hotel accommodations, during required labs in Saint Louis, will be provided.

5. What are the dates of gross anatomy lab in Saint Louis, MO?

The fall 2020 mandatory gross anatomy lab sessions are scheduled in Saint Louis:

September 21–24

October 19–22

November 16–19

December 7–10

6. What are the dates for the lab skills courses in Waterloo, IA?

The fall 2020 mandatory lab sessions are scheduled in Waterloo:

August 24–27

September 8–11

October 5–8

November 2–5



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Program Specific Continued

7. Are there mandatory online classes?

For convenience, students will have unlimited access to recorded lectures, video, and reading content online. Synchronous sessions may be scheduled during the week as well, at the discretion of the instructor. Group projects may also be assigned, requiring additional scheduled meetings.

8. Will I be able to continue working during the program?

The DPT program is rigorous, demanding student's full attention. Faculty recommend taking the first semester to determine if the demands of the program can be successfully met while working. DPT faculty also understand financial and family obligations may remain. Students are required to attend all onsite skills labs and attend all synchronous sessions. The program schedule is not developed based upon individual life and work schedules; therefore, students must adjust their personal schedules so they can meet the program requirements.

9. Can clinical rotations be completed where I live?

The clinical coordinator has developed clinical partnerships with facilities all over the country. The top priority is securing placements allowing students to gain practical experience caring for patients across the lifespan and with diagnoses representative of those typically seen in physical therapy practice. Placement at a site for clinical experiences is dependent upon multiple factors including which sites are available for a given experience and the types of patient populations or settings the student needs to experience for a well-rounded clinical education before graduation.

Students will have the opportunity to review available clinical sites and submit a list of preferences. This "wishlist" will be considered in the placement process. However, students should be prepared for the likelihood that some or all assigned clinical experiences may require the student to relocate for the duration of the experience. Students should not assume that appropriate clinical sites will be available in their geographic area of residence. Likewise, students are not allowed to negotiate or find their own clinical sites at any time. Allen College observes restrictions on student placements at sites which may pose a conflict of interest.

10. Can I work during clinical rotations?

No, it is unlikely a student can meet the expectations of the clinical rotation and also work. Clinical rotations are 40+ hours per week and students are required to attend all working days of their clinical rotations. Students will not be allowed to schedule clinical rotations around their work schedule.

11. Where can I learn more about the DPT program at Allen College?

Attend an informational webinar. They are scheduled March 31, April 28, and May 26 at 7 p.m. central. Registration is open <https://enroll.allencollege.edu/dpt-webinar>.

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Admission and Prerequisites

- 1. Can I apply to the DPT program prior to Allen College achieving candidacy?**
Yes, students can apply immediately! However, admittance into the program does not guarantee Candidacy will be achieved. If Candidacy is not achieved, students will not be able to enroll.
- 2. Are interviews required for admission?**
Yes, an interview is required to complete a full application. The interview will be online through an audio video communication program. Students do not need to travel to campus for an interview; however, interested and admitted students are encouraged to visit campus.
- 3. If I have not met all the prerequisites can I still apply to the program?**
Yes, prospective students may complete an application. However, all prerequisites must be completed by June 15, 2020.
- 4. Will the program accept prerequisites if taken more than once?**
Yes, prerequisites may be retaken. The admissions committee will look at the overall academic record of each student.
- 5. Do prerequisite courses have an expiration date?**
Prerequisite courses must be completed in the last ten years.
- 6. How competitive is the program?**
As a new and developing program, there is no data to provide on average GPA and GRE scores for admitted Allen College students at this time. Students must meet the minimum admission requirements for consideration. Students with a 3.5 GPA or above in overall and science GPA is common in accepted students in DPT programs. Verbal and quantitative scores of 150 are common for accepted students into DPT programs. However, these scores will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- 7. If I have specific admissions questions who is a resource?**
For questions regarding admissions or prerequisites, please contact Mandy.Rokusek@allencollege.edu or (319) 226-2019.

Accreditation

- 1. Is the Allen College DPT program accredited?**
Allen College is seeking Candidacy and submitted an application in March 2020. If Candidacy is granted students will be allowed to enroll beginning August 2020. The program will apply for full accreditation in 2024.

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Accreditation and Status

Graduation from a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone: (703) 706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Allen College is seeking accreditation of a new physical therapist education program from CAPTE. The program applied for candidacy in March 2020. Submission does not assure the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status is required prior to implementation of the professional phase of the program; therefore, no students may be enrolled in professional courses until Candidate for Accreditation status has been achieved. Further, though achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status signifies satisfactory progress toward accreditation, it does not assure the program will be granted accreditation.

Allen College will be notified July 2020 if Candidacy is granted and students can be enrolled in the program. Admitted students will be notified as soon as possible on the achievement of Candidacy.

