

Program in Physical Therapy

Master of Physical Therapy

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The mission of the Program in Physical Therapy is to prepare graduates to prevent, diagnose, and treat dysfunction and to enhance the health and functional abilities of members of the general public. The Program is dedicated to developing the practice, research, and teaching abilities that will permit our graduates to meet the physical therapy needs of society through the 21st century. The faculty are dedicated to excellence in professional teaching, research, and service to the profession, to the university, and to the community. The Program offers an education that promotes a standard of excellence in academic achievement, in the attainment of clinical performance skills, and in professional interaction and communication skills. The Program also seeks in its student body a diverse group of students who are representative of the diverse patient population they will eventually treat.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The Program in Physical Therapy supports the University goals of (a) graduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, (c) discovery of new knowledge (d) of the concept of lifelong learning, (e) diversity and (f) community service. The Program in Physical Therapy also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs)

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Program students will be prepared for the National Physical Therapy Board Examination.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: 95% of Program graduates will successfully pass the National Therapy Board Examination on the first attempt.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: 98.3% (57 students passes out of 58) of the Master of Physical Therapy Class of 2000 (graduated from ODU in August 2000 and sat for the National Physical Therapy Board Examination between September 2000 and March 2001) passed the National Physical Therapy Board Examination on the first attempt.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program: We will continue to focus our practical and written examinations during the Program on clinical problem solving and case study approaches to foster problem solving skills.

Intended Outcome 2

Program students will successfully pass a written comprehensive examination.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: 95% of Program students will successfully pass the written comprehensive examination.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: 100% of the students in the Master of Physical Therapy Class of 2000 passed their written comprehensive examinations on the first attempt.

Intended Outcome 3

Program students will use research methods and designs to effectively test hypotheses and draw conclusions.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: All Program students will successfully pass the research methods course and effectively present their findings to the faculty and their peers.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: 100% of the Master of Physical Therapy Class of 2000 passed CHP 601: Research Design and Evaluation in the Health Professions successfully presented their research in both oral and written formats during PT 694: Seminar in Physical Therapy.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: 10% of Program students' research projects will be accepted for presentation, either platform or poster, at state or national scientific symposia/conferences.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3: 9 students (15.5%) presented their research projects at either the 2000 Virginia Physical Therapy Association or at Combined Sections 2000 national physical therapy conference.

Intended Outcome 4

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theory, principles, and clinical applications in physical therapy, demonstrate appropriate affective behavior in academic and clinical environments, and demonstrate competence in physical therapy examination, evaluation, and intervention methods.

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: All students will successfully pass (pass/fail course) courses PT 671 (Clinical Internship II) and PT 672 (Clinical Internship III). On an annual basis, students scores from PT 699 (Clinical Internship I), "pretest", will be compared to PT 671 and PT 672 scores, "posttest", to determine the "value added" by the Program.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4: All 58 students passed PT 671: Clinical Internship II. One student (MPT Class of 2000) did not pass PT 672 and had to repeat Clinical Internship III in the fall of 2000. We were unable to compare scores from PT 699 with PT 671 and 672 for the Class of 2000 due to a change in the evaluation instrument used for the internships last year. We will be able to add this for next year (Class of 2001)

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: Students will be "pretested" during year one of the Program for self-assessment of student clinical competencies. They will be "posttested" after completion of the academic and clinical components of the curriculum during the second year to determine the "value added" by the Program.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 4: No data available on this assessment outcome yet due to starting to address this for the Class of 2001 which will graduate in August 2001. (We administer the self-assessment instrument prior to their graduation)

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: Employer survey and employer focus group data will be collected every two years to assess intended Outcome 4.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 4: We did not conduct focus groups this past academic year but are planning to conduct them in October 2001 at the state physical therapy conference.

Intended Outcome 5

Program graduates will be successful in finding positions of employment in physical therapy.

Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success: 100% of Program graduates will obtain employment in a physical therapy setting within six months of taking the National Physical Therapy Board Examination as determined by survey results.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 5: At the time of their August graduation, 16 (28%) of the Class of 2000 were employed in physical therapy. Survey results indicate that by February 2001, 56 (96.5%) of 58 students were employed. Anecdotal reports indicate that 100% of the Class of 2000 were employed by March 2001.

Intended Outcome 6

Program students will demonstrate social responsibility, citizenship, and advocacy, including participation in community and human services organizationa and activities.

Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success: 100% of Program students will participate in district, state, or national association meetings, community or service organization events such as Sun Wheelers tournament volunteer, health screens for dance, sports, or Tangier Island, teaching projects in the community, Physical Therapy Month events, or pro bono activities in the community. Students will document participation in student portfolios in PT 605 (Clinical Teaching & Professional Communication)

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 6: Institution of portfolios in OT 650 was instituted this past fall of 2000 therefore no data is available to assess this outcome for the Class of 2000.