Matt Kucharski didn’t follow a straight line from high school to undergraduate degree to PT graduate school. He started out earning a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Michigan. After graduation he was commissioned in the US Marine Corps, flew helicopters in San Diego, and was deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2004. He later developed a home improvement business and also flew helicopters to oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. THEN he decided to take on all of the prerequisite classes needed to apply for Physical Therapy program.

"Never let the idea of a second (or third) career keep you from pursuing your goals."

"My last two clinicals were in Richmond, VA, and I decided to move there after graduation. I initially worked in an outpatient ortho setting, but am now working at HCA Chippenham Hospital in the acute setting. I proposed a three-month pilot study for a full time PT in the Emergency Department, and we are finally making that happen and building momentum."

My advice to current DPT students: "Build your basic skill set. There is plenty of time to specialize along the way. Don’t be afraid to try new settings. You may be surprised with what you learn and enjoy.”