Our bodies are the vehicles through which we interact with our environment and experience the world around us. Yet accidents can happen to anyone, turning simple pleasures into excruciating pain, impairing our mobility, and diminishing our ability to enjoy life. Physical therapists are the medical professionals we turn to in times of pain and discomfort to help restore physical mobility and function.

Whether in need of recovery from a debilitating injury or dealing with the side-effects of aging, clients turn to physical therapists to help relieve pain and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities.

Doctorate in Physical Therapy
The College of Staten Island confers the Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT degree) effective for the 2014 Fall semester through its clinical doctoral program in Physical Therapy. (Prior to this time, the CUNY Graduate Center conferred the DPT degree). The Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy is designed to prepare students to become clinicians who can perform all aspects of clinical physical therapy practice.

The DPT program prepares students to become autonomous practitioners who can competently apply evidenced based research to clinical practice and perform all aspects of physical therapy (PT) practice. It will prepare graduates to examine, evaluate, diagnose and intervene in the management of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities of the cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular and integumentary systems. The program meets changing national standards as well as community needs for physical therapists working in a multitude of settings.

Preparation for the Doctoral Program
Many undergraduate students who intend to become physical therapists choose the College of Staten Island to complete their undergraduate education.

Students who intend to advance into the Physical Therapy Clinical Doctoral program can complete any undergraduate degree they would like, from Accounting to Women’s Studies. Applicants can be considered for admission to the DPT program as long as they complete coursework that satisfies the academic pre-requisite requirements outlined below during the course of their undergraduate studies, regardless of their major. Most applicants major in Biology or Psychology.

Prerequisites
Before applying, students must successfully complete the academic and clinical pre-requisite requirements, which are:

- Two semesters of Human Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) for science majors, with lab (Students must take A&P at the same institution within the past 10 years).
- Two semesters of Physics for science majors, with lab
- Two semesters of General Chemistry for science majors, with lab
- Two semesters of Psychology (including one semester of Developmental Psychology, Child Psychology or Abnormal Psychology)
- One semester of Mathematics (Pre-Calculus or College Algebra and Trigonometry)
- One semester of Statistics (preferably a course that includes computer applications—this can include Statistics in Psychology)
- One semester of English Composition (e.g. Expository Writing)
- a passing grade on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for applicants who do not have a degree from an English-speaking country
- completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), www.ets.org/GRE
- Documented clinical experience of at least 100 hours in the United States under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. To give applicants a varied experience, they must have no less than two volunteer sites, and must have no less than 50 hours in either a hospital or nursing home setting. Examples of other

Awarded by the College of Staten Island, the DPT degree is consistent with the American Physical Therapy Association’s (APTA) recommendation that physical therapists have doctoral credentials.
acceptable sites include private practice and Pediatrics. The potential applicant may inquire at any hospital or other facility about volunteering in its Physical Therapy department as a means of gaining access to clinical experience.

- An undergraduate minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 calculated from all college courses.

Upon completion of these prerequisites, students may apply for the DPT program through CSI’s Graduate Office of Recruitment and Admissions: www.csi.cuny.edu/admissions/grad/.

Physical therapy is a rewarding career choice that affords practitioners the opportunity to make an immeasurable difference in the lives of patients and clients. Seeing a child run again or an accident victim hug a loved one without wincing from pain is very rewarding.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “employment of physical therapists is expected to grow 27 percent from 2006 to 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations.” The Bureau goes on to point out that an “increasing elderly population will drive growth in the demand for physical therapy services. The elderly population is particularly vulnerable to chronic and debilitating conditions that require therapeutic services. Also, the baby-boom generation is entering the prime age for heart attacks and strokes, increasing the demand for cardiac and physical rehabilitation. And increasing numbers of children will need physical therapy as technological advances save the lives of a larger proportion of newborns with severe birth defects.” Physical therapy will be in high demand, and the Clinical Doctoral program offered by the College of Staten Island is ready to help students train for service in this rewarding field.

**Applying to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

To apply for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the College of Staten Island for the Fall semester, fill out the application, which will be available on-line at the College of Staten Island Graduate Admissions Office at www.csi.cuny.edu/admissions/grad/ on or about June 1. The deadline for submitting your application online is November 1. If you have any questions regarding your application for the Doctoral Program, please contact the Physical Therapy Department.

**Department Chair**

The Physical Therapy Department office is located in Building 5N, Room 207. The Department Chair is Dr. Zaghloul Ahmed, Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, Program of Neuroscience. Prospective students who would like further details about the Physical Therapy degree may contact Dr. Ahmed at zaghloul.ahmed@csi.cuny.edu or (718) 982-3153, or physicaltherapy@csi.cuny.edu.

**Accreditation**

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT) at the College of Staten Island/CUNY is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

**Address:**

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

**Telephone:**

703-706-3245

**E-mail:**

accreditation@apta.org

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