



## Quick Facts – Physical Therapy

- Program: 24-month, full-time, professional MScPT degree.
- Website: <https://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/>
- Email: [physther.facmed@utoronto.ca](mailto:physther.facmed@utoronto.ca)
- How to Apply: Applicants apply through the [ORPAS website](#). Be sure to read the [ORPAS Application Guide](#) for full details. <https://www.ouac.on.ca/orpas/>
- Deadline to Apply: January 8, 2020 – check ORPAS and department website for full details.
- Application Requirements:
- Appropriate undergraduate degree with a minimum of a mid-B in the final year
  - Prerequisite courses with at least 70% in each course and completed within the last 7 years
  - TOEFL (if applicable)
  - 1 academic and 1 professional reference (letters and accompanying forms)
  - CASPer test
  - Computer Administered Profile (by invitation only)
  - Check ORPAS application guide and the department website for full details.



# Physical Therapy: Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the role of a Physical Therapist/Physiotherapist?**

Physical Therapists are primary health care professionals with a significant role in health promotion and treatment of injury and disease. They combine their in-depth knowledge of the body and how it works, with specialized hands-on clinical skills to assess, diagnose and treat symptoms of illness, injury or disability.

## **Is Physical Therapy the same as Occupational Therapy?**

No. An OT is a health professional who works with people of all ages and conditions to enable them to lead satisfying and productive lives. Physical Therapists assist people with various physical disorders to overcome barriers to physical performance. PTs focus on decreasing the impact of disability and enhancing quality of life.

## **What are the admission requirements for this program?**

- Appropriate bachelor's degree with high academic standing from a recognized university, with a mid-B average or better in the final year (i.e., five full-course equivalents at the senior level)
- Prerequisite courses completed within the past seven years with a minimum of a B-70% in each course
- Two reference forms and accompanying letters (one academic reference & one professional reference)
- CASPer online test
- Computer Administered Profile (CAP) for invited applicants only

## **How do I apply for the program?**

Applications will be available on the Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service (ORPAS) website at <http://www.ouac.on.ca/orpas/> by mid-October 2018.

## **When is the deadline to apply?**

Applications will be available on the Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service (ORPAS) website at <http://www.ouac.on.ca/orpas/> by mid-October 2019 and are will be due January 8, 2020. Please visit the ORPAS website in October for full details.

## **How many applications do you receive?**

In the 2019 admission cycle, we received 904 applications for 112 seats.

### **What type of degree do I need to apply?**

Undergraduate degree programs in almost any discipline (e.g., science, liberal arts, kinesiology, etc.) are acceptable.

### **Can I apply with a college degree?**

We will consider college level bachelor degree programs only if the degree is/ will be completed in full by June 30, 2020 and provides appropriate scholarly preparation. However, applicants will be competing against students with university level bachelor degrees.

### **When do I have to graduate from my undergraduate program?**

Students applying in the final year of their degree program must provide proof of completion of their degree requirements no later than June 30, 2020.

### **What university grades are required to be competitive in the admission process?**

Sub-GPA is calculated based on the last 20 half courses completed by December 31 of the application year (December 31, 2019 for September 2020 program entry). The minimum sub-GPA to be invited to the CAP is based on the applicant pool and fluctuates from year to year. The minimum sub-GPA for an invitation to the **2019 CAP was 3.81**. This is equivalent to an A- to A average. Please note that meeting the sub-GPA minimum does not guarantee an invitation to write the CAP. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to exclude courses from the sub-GPA calculation. For a grade conversion chart, visit: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/orpas-conversion-table/>.

### **What's the best way to increase my sub-GPA to be more competitive in the application process?**

If desired, you may complete courses at the undergraduate level after you finish your degree. These are considered upgrading courses and any upgrading courses must be completed at the senior (3rd or 4th year) level, unless they are prerequisite courses. Prerequisite courses are permitted to be at the 1st and 2nd year level. We also recommend that applicants take courses in the life sciences/ social sciences/ humanities, as these subjects are most relevant to the MScPT program.

### **What kind of courses do you count in the sub-GPA?**

Only courses with a letter grade, numerical percentage grade, GPA, or convertible scale grade that were earned at the university undergraduate or graduate degree level are considered. Please note that the Admissions Committee reserves the right to refuse consideration of courses not considered eligible or comparatively equivalent to undergraduate degree study in the liberal arts or sciences. **New for the 2020 Cycle:** For

applicants applying to begin the MScPT program in September 2020, academic and research practicums will be included in the calculation of your ORPAS sub-GPA.

### **What kind of courses do you NOT consider in the assessment of an applicant's sub-GPA?**

The following courses will NOT be counted towards the sub-GPA calculation:

- Co-operative education courses
- Courses with non-convertible grades such as pass/fail (i.e., no grade awarded; courses for which a "Pass" grade is assigned are not included in the calculations and courses for which a "Fail" grade is assigned will be included as a failure)
- Continuing education certificate courses
- Diploma courses
- Sports performance courses
- Visual, music, or dramatic arts performance
- Naturopathic medicine courses
- Chiropractic medicine courses
- Many theological courses
- Nil/Zero credit courses
- Community college credits
- Internships, vocation courses, and apprenticeships
- Upgrading courses that are not completed at the senior level (see below for more details)
- Consecutive Bachelor of Education (BEd) undergraduate degree courses
- Transfer credits from the college level that have not been assigned a grade by the university issuing the degree

\*Please note that the list above is not comprehensive. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to refuse consideration of courses not considered eligible or comparatively equivalent to undergraduate study in the liberal arts or sciences.

### **What prerequisite courses are required and when do they need to be completed?**

Prerequisite courses must be taken at the university level. Applicants must have earned a minimum grade of B- (or 70%) in each prerequisite course, as per the grade recorded on the transcript. All prerequisite courses must be completed within the last seven years, or no earlier than **September 2013 and no later than May 31, 2020**. Undergraduate degree level distance courses are accepted. Anatomy, physiology, and statistics/ research methods courses must be approved by the Department of Physical Therapy prior to applying.

Prerequisites are:

- One half course equivalent in Human Physiology
- One half course equivalent in Human Anatomy
- Two half course equivalents (or one full course equivalent) in Life and/or Physical

Sciences

- Two half course equivalents (or one full course equivalent) in Social Sciences and/or Humanities and/or Languages
- One half course equivalent in Statistics or Research Methods

Students must verify physiology, anatomy and statistics/ research methods courses with the Department of Physical Therapy prior to submitting an application. Please verify your prerequisites at: <http://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/admissions/how-to-apply/prerequisite-verification>.

### **Can I complete my prerequisites at the college level?**

We will consider college level courses towards prerequisites only if the course(s):

- Have been transferred to an accredited University transcript with equivalent courses and grades (or pass/fail) clearly stated on the University transcript.
- The transfer course(s) for which you receive University credit(s) must be approved by the Department of Physical Therapy for anatomy, physiology, and statistics/ research methods.
- A minimum of 70% or a B- is obtained in each prerequisite.
- The courses have been completed within the last seven years.

Please note that college level courses are not included in the sub-GPA calculation. Acceptability of college level credits towards prerequisites is at the discretion of the Department of Physical Therapy.

### **What is the CASPer online test?**

CASPer is an online situational judgment test that evaluates personal and professional characteristics. All applicants are required to complete the CASPer. You can complete the CASPer test on any computer with internet and a webcam from a location of your choice. The test consists of 12 sections and is composed of open-ended questions that measure soft skills such as communication, ethics, and empathy. You can learn more at <https://takecasper.com/>.

### **When should I take the CASPer test?**

All applicants must complete the CASPer test between August and January of the application year. Specific CASPer testing dates for the University of Toronto MScPT program are listed on the CAPSer website: <https://takecasper.com/>

### **Should I take a prep course to study for the CASPer?**

No. Taking a prep course is not recommended. Research suggests that coaching does not improve scores on situational judgment tests. You should however review the CASPer Information Webinar from Monday, September 16 and complete the sample CASPer test available at <https://takecasper.com/test-prep/>.

## **How do I prepare for the CASPer?**

Book your test well in advance and familiarize yourself with the format and technical requirements. Review the CASPer Information Webinar from Monday, September 16 and complete the sample CASPer test available at <https://takecasper.com/test-prep/>.

## **How do I send my CASPer scores to University of Toronto MScPT program?**

CASPer scores are processed and distributed to the programs on your distribution list. You must include the University of Toronto MScPT program on your distribution list and you must add your ORPAS number to your CASPer account after you submit your MScPT application to ORPAS.

## **What is the Computer Administered Profile (CAP)?**

Only selected applicants will be invited to write the CAP. The CAP is a 2-hour online exam with a series of short and long answer questions. The CAP is not a personal profile nor is it an MCAT-type exam for which you can study; rather, it is designed to assess personal characteristics/attributes, life experiences, knowledge of the profession, and critical thinking/problem-solving skills. Typical questions will explore understanding of the profession and ability to problem solve.

## **When and where does it take place?**

The CAP takes place on **Saturday April 25, 2020** and must be completed online. In order to accommodate religious observances and examination conflicts, there will be a secondary online CAP on **Wednesday April 22, 2019**.

## **How do you decide who receives a final offer?**

Selections will be based on a combination of CAP exam score, sub-GPA, CASPer score, and a file review.

## **I've applied! When can I expect to hear from the department?**

Review our important dates at [www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/admissions/how-to-apply/important-dates](http://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/admissions/how-to-apply/important-dates).

## **How much does the program cost?**

For the 2019-2020 academic year, tuition and other fees were approximately \$12,300 for one full year of the program (September through August). Similar fees are charged in the second year.

### **How long is the program?**

The MScPT program is 24 months in length, full-time, including summers. Students can expect to be in classes or in clinic from 8/9AM to approximately 3/4PM on most weekdays.

### **Can I start in January?**

No. The MScPT program begins in September.

### **Can I study part-time?**

No. The MScPT program is only offered on a full-time basis.

### **How many sites are affiliated with the program and what is your clinical catchment area?**

There are approximately 200 clinical sites available for structured clinical sessions and clinical internship experiences. They range from acute general hospitals to long-term care facilities, paediatric centres, out-patient clinics, rehabilitation centres, community care access centres, community services, northern sites, industry, private practices and administrative service locations. Our catchment area is located within the Greater Toronto Area and includes Oakville in the west, Ajax/Pickering in the east and Barrie in the north.

### **What's the job market like in Physical Therapy?**

The job market continues to be good. With the shift in health care from hospital to the community and private sectors, PTs are finding work today in many different settings.

### **I have more questions!**

The U of T PT website has additional information on a variety of topics, including program curriculum, clinical education, profession details and faculty information. We also have an extensive FAQ page. Visit [www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca](http://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca) and click "Admissions" for more information.

To register for the **October 2019 information session**, visit [www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/admissions/admission-events](http://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/admissions/admission-events). We will post a recording of this session for those unable to attend. If you still require assistance, contact us at [physther.facmed@utoronto.ca](mailto:physther.facmed@utoronto.ca).