

# Physical Therapy Program Podcast

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Hello, my name is Kelsey and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GVSU's Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The Doctor of Physical Therapy program will prepare students to become physical therapists in practical settings through lecture and lab courses and clinical experiences. This is a 119 credit hour program and can be completed in 3 years as a full-time student.

GVSU graduates of the physical therapy program have 100% placement in the job market and employment in this field is projected to grow 34% by 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Standard GVSU admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

In addition, all applicants must have completed several prerequisite courses, or their equivalent. Those courses can be found on the program's website at: [www.gvsu.edu/pt/](http://www.gvsu.edu/pt/). The Doctor of Physical Therapy also requires that applicants have at least 50 hours of clinical observation with a physical therapist and two letters of recommendation, one being from a licensed physical therapist. Program applications are administered through a national application service, the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). This can be accessed at: [www.ptcas.org/home.aspx](http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx).

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Department of Physical Therapy website: [www.gvsu.edu/pt/](http://www.gvsu.edu/pt/).

The great news about GVSU's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at [www.gvsu.edu/financialaid](http://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid) or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu).

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at GVSU is a 119 credit hour program with 43 of these credit hours occurring in the first year of the program. The first year of the program helps students develop the basic science background and initiates preparation in the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, and integumentary components of the curriculum. An additional 4 credit hours will be dedicated to the initial, full-time clinical education training experience. For a complete listing of all courses please visit [www.gvsu.edu/pt/](http://www.gvsu.edu/pt/).

The Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate program at GVSU is unique for a number of reasons. This program is housed in the outstanding facilities of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in downtown Grand Rapids, in the midst of the Medical Mile. This graduate program is fortunate to have the largest numbers of physical therapy faculty in the State of Michigan. The faculty to student ratio is among the best in the country and a leader in the state. There are specialists on our faculty in a wide variety of clinical practice areas and the expertise provided will prepare our graduates for a successful career in the profession.

That is just a snapshot of the Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Dan Vaughn, at [vaughnd@gvsu.edu](mailto:vaughnd@gvsu.edu) or to The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu). Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.