



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

December 9, 2004

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Memorandum

TO: David Watt, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

FR: Lori S. Gonzalez, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

RE: New Degree Proposal – Doctor of Physical Therapy

The College of Health Sciences Academic Affairs Committee recommends approval of the proposal for a new degree program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy. When this degree is approved, the Master's of Health Science in Physical Therapy degree will be discontinued. The existing Master's Program is a 100 semester hour program of study which includes 30 semester hours of graduate coursework. It builds upon the completion of all University of Kentucky "University Studies" requirements and specific physical therapy prerequisites.

The new DPT Program is 120 semester hours building upon the same prerequisites and University Studies requirements. Students enter the DPT Program either after completion of a baccalaureate degree or via admission to the University Scholars Program and completion of the specific prerequisites. The prerequisites include two courses with laboratories in each of three areas: Physics, Chemistry, and Biological Sciences. Students must also complete a course in Statistics and Medical Terminology.

The new Program provides significant curricular enhancements in both classroom and clinical experiences. The additional 20 hours are composed of nine hours of Clinical Education (including a 12 week capstone internship) and eleven hours of didactic course offerings. These eleven hours are divided into four hours of material added to existing courses and seven hours representing new courses. These materials include Differential Diagnosis, Pharmacology, Gerontology, Administration, Public Health and Wellness, Managing the Complex Patient, and Advanced Manual Techniques.

The proposal includes a rationale and description of the new curriculum as well as minor/major course change forms and new course proposals.

CONTACT PERSON: Terry Malone, Ph.D., Division Director, Physical Therapy. 323-1100, ext. 80600.

**Program Title:**  
Physical Therapy

**Federal CIP Code:**  
51.2308

**Proposing Institution:**  
University of Kentucky

**Name of Proposing Community or Technical College:**  
**Inside/Outside Institution Band of Authority:**  
Outside

**Degree Designation:**  
Doctoral (Doctor of Physical Therapy)

**Program Description:**

Doctor of Physical Therapy

The DPT will replace the existing Master of Science-Bachelor of Health Science (MSPT/BHS) program. The existing Program is a 100 semester hour program of study which includes 30 semester hours of graduate coursework. It builds upon the completion of all University of Kentucky "University Studies" requirements and specific physical therapy prerequisites.

The new DPT Program is 120 semester hours building upon the same prerequisites and University Studies requirements. Students enter the DPT Program either after completion of a baccalaureate degree or via admission to the University Scholars Program and completion of the specific prerequisites. The prerequisites include two courses with laboratories in each of three areas: Physics, Chemistry, and Biological Sciences. Students must also complete a course in Statistics and Medical Terminology. The new Program provides significant curricular enhancements in both classroom and clinical experiences. The additional 20 hours are composed of nine hours of Clinical Education (including a 12 week capstone internship) and eleven hours of didactic course offerings. These eleven hours are divided into four hours of material added to existing courses and seven hours representing new courses. These materials include Differential Diagnosis, Pharmacology, Gerontology, Administration, Public Health and Wellness, Managing the Complex Patient, and Advanced Manual Techniques.

**Statement of Need:**

The profession of physical therapy has been undergoing a significant shift in the locus of the professional educational programs during the last ten years. Increasingly the programs have been enhanced to award the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) with more than half of the accredited programs now being DPT in orientation. The impetus for this process is multifactorial and includes physical therapists providing direct access to patients. This necessitates the aforementioned enhanced curricular requirements in differential diagnosis, pharmacology, gerontology, administration, public health, and prevention/wellness domains. The University of Kentucky Physical Therapy faculty members have carefully considered the national trends and have designed a DPT Program utilizing our existing strengths and curricular

offerings to provide the expected Program in an efficient and effective form for the Commonwealth and for future students. Importantly, we anticipate that we will continue to annually enroll approximately 48 students at UK's campus in Lexington and 16 students at the Center for Rural Health in Hazard.

**Proposed Options:**

This will be a full-time enrollment requiring 120 semester hours to be completed in 40 months.

**Job Opportunities for Program Graduates:**

The demand for these health care providers remains high and projections are for continued long term growth. The newly designed DPT Program will be a significant enhancement for the Commonwealth. We anticipate that it will be received well by our constituents as it fosters the development of appropriate physical therapy practitioners for the future.

**Plans for Delivery thru Distance Education:**

As is presently accomplished, the UK Physical Therapy Program will be provided at both Lexington and Hazard through the use of "live" didactic interactive television. This enables us to educate and graduate a second cohort of students annually. To date, more than 120 therapists have been educated with more than 80% accepting positions in rural settings. The Center for Rural Health serves as the Hazard location for the Program and we do not anticipate any changes in this relationship.

**Names for Primary Contact:**

Terry Malone, P.T., Ed.D., Director of Physical Therapy and Lori Gonzalez, Ph.D., Dean College of Health Sciences

**Preliminary Plans for Collaboration with other Institutions:**

This is the only Physical Therapy Program at a public institution in the Commonwealth. Bellarmine University does have a DPT program and we collaborate with them related to our clinical education curricular offerings thru a variety of jointly conducted developmental seminars. We have strong working relationships with their faculty in other activities. Interestingly, the use of distance education providing a second cohort of students has created a "collaboration environment" for us with the Center for Rural Health.

**Names of Contacts at Institutions Offering Related Programs:**

None

**Program Type:**

Single Institution at two locations (Lexington and Hazard)

**Proposed By:**

University of Kentucky – College of Health Sciences

**Proposal Date:**

December 7, 2004

**Email:**

Terry Malone – [trmal01@uky.edu](mailto:trmal01@uky.edu)

**Proposed Implementation Date:**

January 2006

**Proposal Submission Date:**

**End of 45-day Review:**

**Pre-Post:**

No

**Status of Proposal:**

Under 45-day review

**Footnotes:**

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This proposal has been developed to create the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree for the University of Kentucky. To facilitate review, we have provided information in different forms to accompany the other required materials. These include: a series of frequently asked questions related to this process (FAQ's); answers to the questions expected by the Council of Post-secondary Education; the actual Proposal and required forms for Program changes. The materials for each area are under the appropriate TAB of the document. We thank you for your review.

## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Doctor of Physical Therapy**

### **What is the Doctor of Physical Therapy ?**

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) is a professional degree designed to create the clinician or practitioner of physical therapy. This type of program is often described as a "clinical doctorate". Throughout the country, the DPT has become the "expected" physical therapy degree with more than 50% (104 of 204) of the accredited programs as of August 2004 now offering the DPT. The Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education August 2004 Update provided information indicating an additional 89 Programs are in transition to the DPT during the next 5+ years. This implies 94% of accredited Programs may be DPT in the relatively near future.

### **Why is the University of Kentucky Physical Therapy Program wishing to transition to this degree ?**

The existing degree (MS in PT) is a 100 semester hour program which includes 30 graduate hours and 26 weeks of clinical experiences. As the practice of physical therapy has evolved, the inherent patient management model requires a greater breadth and depth in educational preparation if practice expectations are to be met. In 39 states, (including Kentucky) patients have direct access to physical therapy practitioners. This reflects the physical therapy scope of practice being consistent with clinical doctoral preparation. The proposed DPT includes additional didactic emphases in Pharmacology, Health and Wellness, Evidence-Based Practice, Gerontology, Management of the Complex Patient, and Measurement and Instrumentation plus additional clinical experiences including a 12 week clinical capstone internship. These changes add 20 semester hours to the curriculum thus better preparing our future therapy providers to meet the physical therapy needs of Kentucky. These increases could not be added to the existing MS Program without grossly exceeding the expected requirements of such a Master's curriculum.

### **Is the transition to the DPT cost effective for Kentucky, the University and students?**

The proposed DPT Program is 120 semester hours completed in 40 months. The students have several weeks of vacation each year in response to student/graduate recommendations as the existing Program has no significant vacation time. The proposed tuition is equivalent to the other UK professional doctoral programs (DNP and DrPH) and is approximately \$29,000 for the Program. This compares favorably to our regional public institutions with existing DPT programs (USC-South Carolina \$48,400, U of Ill-Chicago \$42,500, UCA-Arkansas \$30,000, IUPUI-Indiana \$29,126 and UT-Tennessee \$25,145 –data from APTA.org – educational program website – October 2004). One very important option designed into our proposal is the opportunity for students to gain entry to the Program after completion of 90 semester hours. This design can decrease the required pre-professional phase by one year, which reduces the time needed to complete the Program when compared to other states. This greatly increases the cost efficiency for the students. The differential tuition also allows the Program to continue to be supported by the College of Health Sciences without requiring the University to reallocate or provide additional funds for these changes.

### **Why are the course numbers of different classifications?**

The existing MSPT curriculum has the majority of courses classified as professional thus designated as 800 level. When the Program transitioned to the MSPT from the BHS, 30 hours of coursework were implemented through the Graduate School providing a non-thesis option of the MSPT. As the MSPT thesis Program is still available and other graduate students in our Rehabilitation Science Program may wish to access these existing courses, we have decided to maintain existing course numbers whenever possible to facilitate material submission as well as efficiency for student enrollments. Thus the proposed DPT has primarily 800 level courses with 30 hours at the graduate level.

### **What are the perceived advantages of the DPT ?**

- Professional DPT programs more appropriately reflect the scope, depth, and breadth required for current and future practice
- The professional DPT program provides a strong educational background that should better enable the graduates to successfully enter clinical practice to examine, evaluate, prognose, and intervene in the management of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities of all body systems (cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, and integumentary)
- The DPT degree will facilitate consumer awareness and recognition of the expected clinical role for physical therapists
- The DPT degree will facilitate professional interactions and enhance research opportunities
- The DPT degree will enable the clinicians to better provide care and also to lobby/advocate for and represent patient needs to external parties (such as insurance carriers)

### **What are perceived “concerns” for this transition ? (with responses)**

- The DPT can be seen as unwarranted professional education and degree creep.  
Response: The evolving accreditation expectations (greater breadth and depth) and professional scope of practice (direct patient access) are placing the educational process much more in line with a Clinical or Professional Doctorate than the existing “Masters Degree” model. – The program length (120 semester hours) is reflective of the Clinical Doctorate.
- The DPT only adds confusion to the role of physical therapy.  
Response: As with any transition, for a period of time there will be multiple “entry-level” degrees. – Since the majority of programs have transitioned and a large number of additional programs are in transition, the DPT will soon be the expected degree.
- The costs to the student and institution are too great.  
Response: Because of our concern to this issue, we have designed our DPT to minimize the cost to the student while still providing the revenues needed to implement the program without requiring reallocation of University resources.

**Are students desiring the DPT ?**

During the last two years of interviews for our PT Program, the majority of applicants asked specific questions as to when and how we (UKPT) were going to transition and offer the DPT degree. We have had students accept offers to other programs as they have chosen to attend a DPT program rather than our existing Program. The majority of our existing students have indicated their desire to gain the DPT degree after they finish their MSPT. Thus the demand from students is very much in line with us offering the DPT.

**Does the external accrediting agency have a position regarding this issue ?**

The Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) has taken no true formal position but has continued to facilitate the DPT transition as these programs better match new accreditation guidelines. This has been particularly true of higher level expectations seen in the newly promulgated accreditation materials.

**Does the Professional Organization have a position regarding this issue ?**

Although the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has not specifically endorsed this transition, the 2000 House of Delegates endorsed the Vision 2020. This document expresses physical therapists as "Doctors of Physical Therapy". The APTA leadership is strongly supportive of this transition.



## **Introduction and Proposal Rationale**

The purpose of this document is to provide a rationale for the proposed change of the current professional degree from a Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Science in Physical Therapy (BHS/MSPT) degree to a Doctor in Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

The Division of Physical Therapy was a part of the initiation of the College of Allied Health Professions in 1966. The College was renamed the College of Health Sciences in 2002, and is now composed of two Departments: Rehabilitation Sciences and Clinical Sciences. The Physical Therapy Division is one of four Divisions or Programs in Rehabilitation Sciences (Athletic Training, Communications Disorders, Physical Therapy, and the Doctoral Program in Rehabilitation Sciences). The College of Health Sciences is part of a large and vibrant Academic Medical Center (Health Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, and Public Health).

The purpose and mission of the University of Kentucky Physical Therapy (UKPT) Program is foremost to meet the physical therapy needs of Kentucky and society as a whole, by developing competent physical therapy practitioners who are analytical thinkers, educators and professionals. The Program provides students enrolled in the program a quality education that requires accumulation of scientific knowledge accompanied by the acquisition of essential physical therapy skills and professional attitudes and behaviors. The current dual degree offered is a Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Science in Physical Therapy (BHS/MSPT). The UKPT program is currently the only physical therapy program offered at a public institution in Kentucky. The needs of the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky have always been paramount for the program, as is evidenced by its history. In the mid-80s the serious shortage of physical therapists throughout the state resulted in a progressive increase of the class size (from 24 to 32 to 48). The shortage continued to be particularly critical in rural areas, resulting in legislative action that created the Center for Rural Health based in Hazard. As a part of that action, an Expansion Program in Physical Therapy (one of the first in the country) was developed in 1991, adding a class of 16 students. Much of the didactic education for this cohort is delivered through distance learning technology and strategies. Additionally, in response to the shortage of post-professional doctorally trained allied health professionals needed for instruction and research, the UKPT program contributed to the development of the UK Rehabilitation Sciences PhD program in 2000.

Currently, approximately 48 students at the Lexington site and 16 students from the Hazard site matriculate annually into the dual degree BHS/MSPT Program. No change in class size is planned with the implementation of the DPT. Fourteen full-time core faculty members are responsible for curricular offerings and Divisional administration at the two loci (Lexington & Hazard); all are supportive of this transition. The program performed a self study in 2003, was reaccredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Physical Therapist Educational Programs (CAPTE) in 2004, and had the distinction of being one of the few programs in CAPTE's history that did not have to write a progress report after the accreditation process.

The UKPT faculty asserts that the goal of physical therapist professional education is to graduate knowledgeable, self-directed, adaptable, reflective and service-oriented practitioners. It is expected that graduates will utilize critical thinking, participate in lifelong learning, and embrace ethical values as they render independent judgments concerning patient or client needs; promote the health of the client; and enhance the professional, contextual, and collaborative foundations for practice. These practitioners contribute to society and the profession through practice, teaching, administration, and the discovery and application of new knowledge about physical therapy. In order to continue to achieve this goal, the faculty is proposing a curricular model for preparation of entry-level physical therapists at a professional doctoral level. The current proposal to progress the program degree from the MS to the DPT level is once again driven by the needs of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and society as a whole. The following provides a synopsis for the rationale for the degree change.

1. The profession of Physical Therapy is evolving within an ever-changing health care system. Those responsible for providing reimbursement for PT services are recognizing the benefits of patients having direct access to physical therapy. Thus, the trend toward providing reimbursement for direct access to physical therapy is expected to grow. The expanded role of the physical therapy profession as an entry point into the health care system requires that our graduates become better prepared for advanced practice as new graduates. This preparation in the proposed DPT curriculum will include *increased depth in the areas of differential diagnosis, pharmacology, management of complex patients, interpretation and utilization of the rapidly evolving scientific literature, administration, and leadership*. Such preparation is essential to shape graduates who can optimally address the physical therapy needs of Kentucky and society as a whole, and be vital team players in primary, secondary and tertiary care arenas.

2. The progression to a DPT degree will prepare UKPT graduates to more effectively address the public health and wellness issues of Kentuckians. The citizens of the Commonwealth face considerable challenges in health care, due in part to the prevalence of pathologies such as cancer, heart disease, lung disease, Alzheimer's disease, and arthritis, and conditions related to obesity, smoking, sedentary lifestyle, and the aging of the population. The new curriculum will have *increased emphasis in the areas of aging, health promotion and prevention, public health, and service learning.*
3. The DPT will prepare students for advanced independent practice at a time when on-the-job mentorship for the new graduate is diminishing in a health care system dominated by productivity and reimbursement issues. The rural nature of our state often results in new graduates working in locales with few other therapists. New graduates must be ready to "hit the ground running" in the health care arena. The new curriculum will require *increased time devoted to clinical education in order for students to achieve optimal independence in clinical practice upon graduation.*
4. The DPT is rapidly becoming the preferred professional degree for physical therapists across the country for reasons such as those listed above. The following facts highlight this transition:
  - Of the 13 benchmark universities which have PT Programs, 7 have transitioned to the DPT while the other 6 indicate they are in transition.
  - Data from the 2004 Biennial Accreditation Report indicate that by January 1, 2006, approximately 81% of all PT programs in the United States will be enrolling students into DPT Programs.
  - The US News and World Report rated the UKPT program 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation (18<sup>th</sup> in terms of public institutions only), and of the 34 programs ranked ahead of UKPT, 27 have transitioned to a DPT.
  - The only other PT professional program in the state at Bellarmine University in Louisville has already transitioned to the DPT.

Students will clearly be considering going to a school that has the highest level of degree possible, and may ultimately be willing to pay more for such a degree (and possibly leave the state to attain it) if it is not available at UK. Furthermore, if students graduate from UK with an MSPT, many are likely to

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seek a transitional DPT program at a different institution upon graduation in order to be consistent with the preferred professional degree in other parts of the country.

The UKPT program has been dynamic in its response to addressing the elements described in 1, 2, and 3 above, but clearly the time and level of study required in the BHS/MS curriculum have reached their limits. Therefore to adequately prepare PT students to meet today's needs will require advancement of the degree to the DPT.

Notably, the *Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education, Version 2000* (APTA, Alexandria, VA, 22314) expands the expected outcomes of physical therapy graduates in the areas of prevention, critical inquiry, clinical decision making, diagnosis, prognosis, management of care delivery and administration/business management. Furthermore, the December 1995 PEW Report (PEW Charitable Trust, Philadelphia, PA 19103) made recommendations for all health professions to expand in the following areas: scientific base, public health management, clinical prevention, health education and health promotion, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and communication and collaboration in the health care arena. The recommendations of both of these reports are consistent and well represented in the proposed DPT curriculum.

#### Comprehensive Program Description

The new curriculum continues our design of a spiral pattern allowing the introduction of concepts at increasing levels of sophistication (knowledge through application) culminating in a newly designed final clinical (capstone) internship. The curriculum builds on a prerequisite base and early foundational sciences coursework. Review of the proposed curriculum demonstrates additions to course content related to practice environments (continuum of care, professional practice issues, leadership, health promotion and prevention), gerontology, advanced diagnostics (differential diagnosis), advanced manual interventions, management of the complex patient, pharmacology, and clinical education.

## **Proposed Curriculum**

The existing curriculum consists of 100 semester hours while the proposed DPT curriculum consists of 120 semester hours completed in 40 months as is detailed in the tables on the following pages. Included in this pattern are nine credit hours of additional clinical education: PT-835B (1 credit) and PT 840-(8 credits). Enhancements to existing didactic courses include adding content and credit hours to PT-854 (Pathology and Clinical Applications increased from 3 to 4 credits), PT-654 (Motor Control increased from 3 to 4 credits), PT-877 (Cardio-Respiratory Therapy increased from 2 to 3 credits) and PT-628 (Gerontology increased from 1 to 2 credits). New didactic courses include PT-604 Pharmacology II (1 credit), Diagnostic Imaging, Screening and Instrumentation (2 credits; 1 credit of material moved from an existing course), Diagnosis and Management of the Complex Patient (2 credits), and Advanced Manual Interventions (3 credits).

The following one-page table outlines the proposed additions and changes to the existing program. Columns represent *New Courses*, *Expansion of Existing Courses* and *Course Title and/or Credit Changes*. Following the table of changes, the next template presents the entire proposed DPT curriculum. Students will enter the DPT in the fall semester and graduate in December, completing 120 semester hours over 40 months. Those areas highlighted in RED or BLUE represent changes from the existing curriculum. Note that the additional 20 semester hours is the net change based on new courses and the re-organization of content among existing courses.

## Proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Curriculum

NEW COURSES	INCREASED CREDITS AND TITLE CHANGE DUE TO EXPANDED CONTENT	COURSE TITLE CHANGE AND/OR DECREASED CREDIT CHANGE
Physical Therapy 814 <i>Foundational Skills – 2 cr</i>  Physical Therapy 604 – 1 cr <i>(Pharmacology II)</i>  Physical Therapy 835B – 1 cr <i>(Clinical Clerkship II)</i>  Physical Therapy XXX <i>Diagnostic Imaging, Screening and Instrumentation – 2 cr</i>  Physical Therapy XXX <i>Diagnosis and Management of the Complex Patient – 2 cr</i>  Physical Therapy XXX <i>Advanced Manual Interventions – 3cr</i>  Physical Therapy 840 – 8 cr <i>(Internship IV)</i>	Physical Therapy 854 – 4 cr <i>(Pathology and Clinical Application)</i>  Physical Therapy 877 – 3 cr <i>(Cardio-Pulmonary Physical Therapy)</i>  Physical Therapy 628 – 2 cr <i>Gerontology</i>  Physical Therapy 654 – 4 cr <i>(Motor Control Theory and Intervention)</i>  Physical Therapy 827 – 2 cr <i>(Management of Neurological Systems II) [Spinal Cord]</i>	Physical Therapy 603 – 1 cr <i>(Pharmacology I)</i>  Physical Therapy 815 – 3 cr * <i>(Basic Clinical Skills)</i> ,  Physical Therapy 835A – 1 cr <i>(Clinical Clerkship I)</i>  Physical Therapy 847 – 3 cr <i>(Mgmt. of Neurological Systems I)</i>  Physical Therapy 836 – 3 cr <i>(Clinical Clerkship III)</i>  Physical Therapy 821 – 2 cr <i>(Management of Vascular and Integumentary Disorders)</i>  Physical Therapy 770 – 2 cr* <i>(Public Health &amp; Wellness Issues) [Seminar in Physical Therapy]</i>
<b>15 new credit hours + 4 credit hours reconfigured from other courses to facilitate spiral nature of curriculum</b>	<b>5 increased credit hours representing expanded course material</b>	<b>* denotes course credit reduction with omitted material reconfigured in new courses to facilitate spiral nature of curriculum</b>

**New courses, expanded material, and/or increased credits in RED;**

**New course titles in BLUE**

**20 new credit hours total**

## Proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Curriculum

### Year 1

FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SEMESTER	SUMMER SESSIONS
PGY 412 G - 4 cr  Behavioral Science 331 – 3 cr  Physical Therapy 645 – 3 cr <i>(Research and Measurement)</i>  Physical Therapy 834 – 3 cr <i>(Introduction to Physical Therapy)</i>	Physical Therapy 854 – 4 cr <i>(Pathology and Clinical Application)</i> (Increased credits, Title change)  Physical Therapy 814 <i>Foundational Skills</i> – 2 cr (New Course)  Anatomy 801 – 1cr <i>(Histology)</i>  Human Gross Anatomy 811 – 5 cr  Physical Therapy 603 – 1 cr <i>(Pharmacology I)</i> (Title change)	(4 week Intersession)  Students on break  (8 week session)  Physical Therapy 805 – 3 cr <i>(Normal Functional Anatomy)</i>  Physical Therapy 815 – 3 cr <i>(Basic Clinical Skills)</i> (Credits decreased-reconfigured in other courses)  Physical Therapy 856 – 2 cr <i>(Therapeutic Exercise)</i>
<b>13 Hours</b>	<b>13 Hours</b>	<b>8 Hours</b>

### Year 2

Anatomy 802 – 2 cr <i>(Neuroanatomy)</i>  Physical Therapy 652 – 3 cr <i>(Pathomechanics)</i>  Physical Therapy 831 – 2 cr <i>(Neurophysiology)</i>  Physical Therapy 835A – 1 cr <i>(Clinical Clerkship I)</i>  Physical Therapy 676 – 1-3 cr <i>Electrophysiological Testing and Therapeutics</i> (2 cr expected)  Physical Therapy 877 – 3 cr <i>(Cardio-Pulmonary Physical Therapy)</i> (Increased credits-title change)  Physical Therapy 628 – 2 cr <i>Gerontology</i> (Increased credits)	Physical Therapy 650 – 3 cr <i>(Dysfunction of Peripheral Joints)</i>  Physical Therapy 654 – 4 cr <i>(Motor Control Theory and Intervention)</i> (Expanded course-credit change and title change)  Physical Therapy 604 – 1 cr <i>(Pharmacology II)</i> (New Course)  Physical Therapy 847 – 3 cr <i>(Mgmt. of Neurological Systems I)</i> (Title change)  Physical Therapy 887 – 1 cr <i>(Introduction to Administration)</i>  Physical Therapy 825 – 2 cr <i>(Prosthetics)</i>  Physical Therapy 835B – 1 cr <i>(Clinical Clerkship II)</i> (New Course)	(4 week Intersession)  Physical Therapy 836 – 3 cr <i>(Clinical Clerkship III)</i> (Title change)  (8 week session)  Student break at beginning or end of 8 week session  Physical Therapy 686 – 1-4 cr <i>(Specialty Electives)</i> (1 expected)  Physical Therapy 827 – 2 cr <i>(Management of Neurological Systems II)</i> (Increased credits, title change)  Physical Therapy XXX <i>Diagnostic Imaging, Screening and Instrumentation</i> – 2 cr (New Course)
<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>SPRING SESSIONS</b>	<b>SUMMER SESSIONS</b>
<b>15 Hours</b>	<b>15 Hours</b>	<b>8 Hours</b>

### Year 3

FALL SEMESTER	SPRING SESSIONS	SUMMER SEMESTER
<p>Physical Therapy 686 – 1-4 cr <i>(Specialty Electives)</i> (1 expected)</p> <p>Physical Therapy 821 – 2 cr <i>(Management of Vascular and Integumentary Disorders)</i> (Title change)</p> <p>Physical Therapy 826 – 2 cr <i>(Orthotics)</i></p> <p>Physical Therapy 651 – 3 cr <i>(Dysfunction of Vertebral Joints)</i></p> <p>Physical Therapy 655 – 3 cr <i>(Neuromotor Development)</i></p> <p>Physical Therapy 668 – 1 cr <i>(Research Topics: Analysis)</i></p> <p>Physical Therapy 837 – 4 cr <i>(Internship I)</i></p>	<p>Physical Therapy 676 – 1-3 cr <i>(Electrophysiological Testing and Therapeutics)</i> (1 cr expected)</p> <p>Physical Therapy 838 – 6 cr <i>(Internship II)</i> 8 weeks</p> <p>Physical Therapy XXX <i>Diagnosis and Management of the Complex Patient</i> –2 cr (New Course)</p> <p>Physical Therapy XXX <i>Advanced Manual Interventions</i> – 3cr (New Course)</p> <p>Physical Therapy 686 – 1-4 cr <i>(Specialty Electives)</i> (1 expected if 2 have not been completed by this time)</p> <p>Physical Therapy 888 – 3cr <i>(Advanced Physical Therapy Management)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(4 week Intersession)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Students on break</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(8 week session)</p> <p>Physical Therapy 839 – 6 cr <i>(Internship III)</i></p>
<b>16 Hours</b>	<b>15-16 Hours</b>	<b>6 Hours</b>

### Year 4

FALL SEMESTER		
<p>Physical Therapy 840 – 8 cr <i>(Internship IV)</i> (New Course)</p> <p>Physical Therapy 669 – 1-3 cr <i>(Research Topics: Outcomes)</i></p> <p>Physical Therapy 770 –2 cr <i>Public Health &amp; Wellness Issues</i> (Decreased credits-material reconfigured in another course, Title change)</p>		
<b>11 Hours</b>	<b>Program Total 120 Hours</b>	



## Resources

Over the history of our program, the number of faculty members has increased, as have the qualifications of the faculty. Currently, there are 14 full-time core faculty members. Eight of the full-time faculty members are doctorally prepared; three others are enrolled in PhD programs; one other is enrolled in a post-professional DPT program. The other non-doctorally prepared full-time faculty members are considering enrollment in doctoral programs. Additionally, several clinical specialist certifications are held by faculty members and include the areas of geriatrics, orthopedics, sports, electrophysiology, neurorehabilitation, administration, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, and lymphedema. Our program has experienced relatively low faculty turnover during the past ten years with three faculty members having achieved the rank of Professor while five others have achieved the rank of Associate Professor.

The PT program uses many community physical therapists to help provide laboratory assistance, and serve as clinical instructors. Physical therapists in the community who are identified as "expert clinicians" in specific areas of physical therapy practice are guest lecturers in the Program. Several of these individuals have post-professional master's degrees in physical therapy, advanced graduate degrees, and/or clinical specialization. Adjunct doctorally prepared faculty members from the College of Medicine teach specific courses (Anatomy, Neuroanatomy, Histology, Physiology, and Pathology) in the curriculum, and support personnel includes two full-time support staff in Lexington and additional work-study assistance, as well as one support staff at the Center for Rural Health.

The Division of Physical Therapy is part of a large academic health science center and, therefore, has developed a strong working relationship with other departments within the institution, particularly the rehabilitation staff of UK -Chandler Medical Center. The Division has also developed strong working relationships with hospitals throughout the state and locally in the Lexington and Hazard communities, including Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital, Appalachian Regional Hospital, Central Baptist Hospital, Saint Joseph's, Samaritan, Shriner's Hospital for Children and Frankfort Regional Medical Center.

The continued growth and outreach of the educational program also is extraordinary because of the committed, aggressive and talented core faculty. Educational program growth is exemplified by the development of the Doctoral Program in Rehabilitation Sciences, initiated in 2000 with now approximately 27 enrollees. The development of physical therapists for practice in rural environments is of major importance to the Program and Commonwealth. The location of our expansion program in Hazard, KY at the Center for Rural Health, exemplifies this commitment and outreach. State of the art

distance learning technologies are in place and have been utilized successfully by the Division to support the delivery of the curriculum to the Center for Rural Health for over ten years.

**Financial Implications of the DPT**

Overall, the addition of 20 credit hours will substantially impact each existing faculty and staff member through increased course development time, increased student contact hours, increased preparation, increased advising and through contributions to the overall depth, breadth and rigor of the program. These increased responsibilities in addition to the expanded new didactic credit hours will require the identification of additional faculty resources.

**Current Revenue**

Participation in and completion of the current professional BHS/MSPT program at UK costs approximately \$20,000 per student. This figure is based on two semesters of undergraduate tuition and six semesters of graduate tuition (including summer school differential costs).

**Proposed Revenue and Expenditures: DPT**

The implementation of the DPT will result in the transition to a professional doctoral program and as such will have tuition reflecting this process. The anticipated DPT tuition level will be similar to other doctoral programs at the University of Kentucky (DNP and DrPH). For a reference point, DPT tuition levels at public institutions in the region are included below: (Data from APTA.org -Educational Programs – National education/accreditation website - as of October 2004)

- USC-South Carolina \$48,400
- U of I-Chicago, Illinois \$42,500
- UCA-Arkansas \$30,000
- IUPUI-Indiana \$29,126
- UT-Tennessee \$25,145

***Proposed Revenue- DPT Program***

***All at professional doctoral level***

7 semesters at \$3326.25 per semester	\$23,283.75
Estimated 18 credit hours of summer at \$312 per hour	\$ 5,616.00

**Total tuition per student in proposed program** **\$28,899.75**

**Net differential in tuition collected with proposed program  
(difference between existing MSPT-Graduate rate and proposed DPT rate)**

Differential tuition per student for total program	\$ 7,547.00
Anticipated admission of 64 students (with attrition)	X 60

<b>Total annual estimated additional “differential tuition” generated</b>	<b>\$452,820.00</b>
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***Expected “New” expenditures***

We anticipate the recruitment of: three faculty members; three GA/TA’s through the Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program and 1 staff member.

Faculty \$80,000 + Benefits 26% (\$20,800) x 3 =	\$302,400
GA/TA \$22,500 (Stipend + benefits) x 3 =	\$ 67,500
Staff \$ 22,366 (Salary/benefits) =	\$ 22,366
Research Support: student and faculty projects	<u>\$ 35,000</u>
Total	\$ 427,266

## **The Five Questions Asked by the Council for Postsecondary Education**

- 1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?**
- 2. Are more students enrolling?**

Since the UKPT program is a professional level program, all applicants have post-secondary status and enrollment numbers are appropriate. We anticipate a seamless transition from the MHS to the DPT degree. While admissions requirements will change slightly in the DPT program, the admissions process has always been a competitive one that attracts well-qualified Kentuckians. In an effort to admit well-rounded students with sufficient depth and breadth of knowledge, the admissions criteria include both cognitive and non-cognitive factors. Within the cognitive factors are: consideration of the GPA, Science GPA, and GRE as well as any degrees received. Students who enter the program prior to completion of a baccalaureate degree must complete the University Studies Program requirements in addition to the other program prerequisites, to demonstrate acquisition of broad-based knowledge as well as qualifying for the University Scholars Program. Other significant factors considered for candidate selection include ethnicity, race, unique background and experiences, and a history involving overcoming significant hardships. In recognition of the faculty's belief that diversity among the students strengthens and enriches each individual as it does the group and the profession, careful thought has gone into this process.

The proposed DPT curriculum consists of 120 semester hours of professional study preceded by a minimum of 90 prerequisite hours (admission requiring the University Scholars Program) or completion of a baccalaureate degree. The current MSPT curriculum consists of 100 semester hours of study preceded by a minimum of 75-80 prerequisite hours. The additional admission requirements are consistent with the *The Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education, Version 2000* which states that the preferred prerequisites for admission to a physical therapist education program are:

- the bachelor's degree (the desirable knowledge, skills, and behaviors that a student should bring to a physical therapist professional education are best acquired through an organized undergraduate experience learning experience that culminates with the awarding of the bachelor's degree).
- an academic record that demonstrates a balance of course work in the humanities and social and natural sciences and that includes a selection of at least six courses in the humanities

and social sciences and tiered lecture and lab courses in physics, chemistry, and human anatomy and physiology (vertebrate, mammalian, and human).

To ensure the admission of students who can meet the challenges of the new curriculum, admissions criteria will require either a bachelor's degree or 90 semester hours (including the required prerequisites, university studies program courses, and qualifying for the University Scholars Program) upon application. Students entering without a baccalaureate will be awarded a bachelors degree within the first year of the DPT. The admissions revisions for the DPT were made with an eye toward the availability of the additional prerequisites to rural Kentucky students and students attending community colleges. Historically, greater than 90% of UKPT graduates are Kentucky residents, and this is not expected to change. Recruitment strategies will continue to include recruiting from community colleges and four-year undergraduate institutions across the state, with a particular emphasis on recruitment in educational institutions representing minority and medically underserved populations.

Additionally, a transitional DPT (TDPT) program will be made available and accessible to physical therapists across the state through a combination of on-line and distance learning technologies, combined with intermittent classroom instruction. Distance learning technologies (i.e. interactive television) and on line instruction are relied upon to deliver the current PT curriculum to our satellite program at the Center for Rural Health in Hazard, Kentucky, and this will continue in the new DPT curriculum.

**3. Are more students advancing through the system?**

Enrollment was steady at 60-64 students per year until national trends caused a drop in enrollment in 2001. This triggered a decrease in enrollment for the UKPT graduating classes of 2003 and 2004. This trend has reversed, with a larger class of 2005 and a full complement of students anticipated to graduate in 2006 and 2007. Evidence that the current criteria are appropriate lies in the data collected at program completion regarding retention rate as well as from program GPA, comprehensive final examination scores and successful completion of the national physical therapy certification exam (NPTE). In the past five years, the successful graduation rate has averaged 93.6%, above the national average for each year

**4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?**

**5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?**

The UKPT program serves Kentuckians well. The purpose and mission of the University of Kentucky Physical Therapy (UKPT) Program is foremost to meet the physical therapy needs of Kentucky and society as a whole, by developing competent physical therapy practitioners who are analytical thinkers, educators and professionals. Additionally, the UKPT program is the only program offered at a public institution in Kentucky. Transitioning to the DPT will result in physical therapists who have an increased depth in their knowledge base, enhanced capabilities leading to an expanded role as independent practitioners (which is particularly important in medically underserved areas), and an increased ability to contribute to the public health and wellness issues facing Kentuckians. It will also allow Kentucky to stay abreast with what is rapidly becoming the preferred PT degree at our benchmark institutions and nationally. Furthermore, the financial impact of transitioning to the DPT will be balanced and reasonable. The reader is referred to the introduction of this narrative for specifics on these topics.

The UKPT program is a primary educational institution for training physical therapy practitioners within the Commonwealth. Over 50% of Lexington graduates take jobs in rural areas of Kentucky and approximately 75% of Hazard campus graduates work in rural areas. The quality of the work of our graduates is evident in the surveys of our graduates and their employers/co-workers conducted every three years to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of UKPT graduates. Data analysis for last year's survey revealed that almost all objectives were met or exceeded.

In addition to training practitioners for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the UKPT program contributes substantially to the well-being of Kentuckians through service learning initiatives conducted by both faculty and staff. Current service contributions include participation in the Salvation Army Free Clinic, the Hippotherapy Program at the Kentucky Horse Park, the Sensory Integration Camp at Cardinal Hill Hospital, Hospice, Senior Citizen Centers in both central and eastern Kentucky, and numerous adult day care centers. Such initiatives will be expanded in the new DPT curriculum.

A transition to the new DPT curriculum will contribute positively to preparing Kentuckians for life and work. By preparing Kentuckians to be excellent physical therapy practitioners we are also providing Kentuckians with excellent medical support in the rehabilitation arena. Kentuckians and their communities will share in the increased benefits described by making a transition to the DPT degree.