About our MScPT Program

Discover the endless opportunities that the profession of Physiotherapy has to offer. Physiotherapy is a diverse and interesting career that involves the study of physical function of the human body in health and disease. The MSc Physiotherapy program educates physiotherapists who excel in their profession through advanced education and research training in the rehabilitation sciences.

The MSc Physiotherapy degree is an intensive 25-month program consisting of 66 academic weeks (four full terms) and 30 weeks of clinical placements (five six-week placements). The degree prepares students with the professional education and experience necessary to apply for a license to practice physiotherapy. Basic science content is integrated with physiotherapy-specific course content across eight academic modules focusing on the following themes: clinical reasoning and best practices; professionalism, leadership and collaboration; ethical reasoning and cultural sensitivity; innovation and entrepreneurship; therapeutic exercise; health promotion and secondary prevention; and communication.

Clinical education is an integral part of physiotherapy academics. Site visits and clinical placements are taken at a variety of facilities throughout the program and can start as early as September of your first year. The main purpose of the clinical placements is to provide the student with an opportunity, under professional supervision, to practice the assessment and treatment skills and to utilize the knowledge acquired during the academic modules.

Essential Skills and Attributes.

If you are considering a career in Physiotherapy, please review the Essential Skills and Attributes webpage found under the Admissions tab of our website. A downloadable PDF is linked at the bottom of the page.

Enrolment

Enrolment in the program is currently limited to 62 students. The School of Physiotherapy at Dalhousie is the only school serving Atlantic Canada. As such, a provincial quota system is in place with a specified number of seats allocated annually for residents of New Brunswick (15), Prince Edward Island (2), Newfoundland and Labrador (10) and Nova Scotia (16). In addition, there are also 19 discretionary seats, which may be offered to Atlantic Canadians, applicants who reside outside of the Atlantic Provinces and inter-national applicants. If you are unclear about your residency status, please check the Residency Guidelines on our website (found under the Admissions tab, MSc Physiotherapy).

Affirmative Action Policy

The School of Physiotherapy is committed to increasing the admission of and number of graduates from underrepresented groups: Aboriginal peoples, African Canadians and Persons with (dis)Abilities.

Admission prerequisites are required for all applicants. However, applicants who apply under the Affirmative Action Policy are considered on the basis of their qualifications for graduate study in physiotherapy rather than in relation to other candidates.

The School of Physiotherapy encourages applicants who wish to apply under the Affirmative Action Policy to indicate so on the Graduate Application Form and their Supplementary Application Form.

For More Information

Please visit the Programs and Admissions tabs of our website at www.dal.ca/physiotherapy for more information about our various programs and their admissions processes, including:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Admissions Package (new packaged posted by November!)
- Clinical Education & Course Descriptions
- Program Overview
**Must Haves for Admission**

Applicants must hold a four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent in any field of study from a recognized academic institution.

The School encourages applicants from diverse academic backgrounds to consider physiotherapy and apply for the program. There are pre-requisite courses that must be attained in Physiology, Anatomy, Statistics, Physics, Life Sciences and Humanities/Arts and Social Sciences.

The GPA required for admission is determined from the last 60 credit hours of the undergraduate degree. The minimum GPA is 3.3 or letter grade of B+.

A minimum of forty hours of non-paid community volunteering experience (not necessarily in the area of physiotherapy) in the last two years is required.

**Immunization Requirements**

The immunization requirements are detailed in the School of Physiotherapy Supplementary Application Form (found in our Admissions package). Applicants must sign a Statement of Compliance regarding these requirements.

Before participating in site visits or clinical placements, students must be appropriately immunized as follows:

- Diphtheria-tetanus
- Rubella
- Measles
- Hepatitis B
- Mumps
- Varicella
- Tuberculosis skin tests

A recent satisfactory criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector survey, and a valid CPR certificate are also required.

**Prerequisite Courses**

To be completed during an undergraduate degree and/or prior to admission:

- **“Human” Physiology (6 credit hours)**
  - Equivalent to PHYL 1010.06
- **“Human” Anatomy (3 credit hours)**
  - Equivalent to ANAT 1010.03 Anatomy must cover gross anatomy of the human musculoskeletal, visceral and neurological systems
- **Statistics (3 credit hours)**
  - Examples include Statistics, Research Methods, Research Design
- **Languages/Humanities/Social Science (6 credit hours)**
  - Examples include Sociology, Economics, Psychology, History, Fine Arts, English, Classical Studies, Music, Dance, Film Studies, Philosophy, Religion, Anthropology, Political Science. At least 3 credit hours must be in Psychology
- **Life Sciences (3 credit hours)**
  - Examples include Biology, Chemistry, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Neuroscience, Biomedical Engineering

The admissions committee strongly recommends that one or more courses in Physics and/or Biomechanics of Human Movement be taken in preparation for studies in Physiotherapy at Dalhousie University

To determine equivalent courses from other universities, go to Dalhousie Online: Transfer Credit Equivalencies OR contact the appropriate Dalhousie Department.

(See [www.dalonline.dal.ca](http://www.dalonline.dal.ca))

**Admissions Requirements**

Before you begin your application it is very important to first view the MSc Physiotherapy Admissions video found under the Admissions tab on our website. All the information to assist with your application can be found on this video.

All applicants for graduate programs at Dalhousie must submit to the Registrar’s Office the Graduate Application Form (online or print, found at [www.dal.ca/admissions](http://www.dal.ca/admissions) under Graduate Studies), along with the application fee ($100.00).

The School of Physiotherapy must receive the following:

1. Completed School Supplementary Application Form (posted in our Admissions Package)
2. Two official transcripts from ALL universities attended sent directly to the School of Physiotherapy from the Registrar of the home institution
3. Two Academic Confidential Reference Letters. A work reference from someone who may comment objectively on your goals may be included in addition to the two required academic references.
4. English Language Competency test results (if applicable, see [Graduate Studies Admissions Requirements](http://www.dal.ca/admissions))
5. Proof of registration of outstanding prerequisite courses.

**Note:** Our Admissions Package is posted by November each year, and the application deadline is January 31st.

**Contact Us:**

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[www.dal.ca/physiotherapy](http://www.dal.ca/physiotherapy)