

Neumann University Program Assessment Plan  
Division of Nursing and Health Sciences: DPT Graduate Program

**Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT)**

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

The Physical Therapy Program at Neumann University seeks to develop practitioners who:

1. have an in-depth knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences, of client examination, testing, assessment, evaluation of examination data, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention relative to patient/client management from the simplest to the most complex of patient conditions
2. apply their knowledge to prevent, identify, assess, correct and /or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunctions
3. function in a clinical team atmosphere, within the family and social contexts, and within a changing health care environment
4. make clinical decisions, prioritize treatment goals, delegate effectively and provide consultation as well as treatment
5. appropriately refer patients/clients to other health care providers/agencies/resources
6. identify and use sound research-based evidence for effective patient care
7. recognize the need to be life-long learners who seek the information and experiences necessary to remain current and influence changes in health care policy, delivery and patient care management procedures
8. recognize the need and requirement to measurably predict patient outcomes and structure their management strategies and procedures to achieve those outcomes safely, effectively, and efficiently
9. identify, respect, and act with consideration for individual differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs in all professional activities.

**Sources of Assessment Data:**

The program uses various sources of data to determine whether the expected student/graduate outcomes are met. Those sources include:

- PT CPI Web indications of clinical education performance
- Cumulative GPA
- Student self-assessment of Professional Abilities
- External student research presentation reviews
- Graduating student exit surveys
- Graduating student focus group meetings
- Comprehensive exam pass rates

**Performance of Graduates**

- FSBPT licensure examination and content reports
- Alumni surveys
- Employer/supervisor surveys
- Alumni focus groups from annual on-campus reunion

**Analysis of actual achievement is reported below for each expected student/graduate outcome.**

Expected outcome:

1. Have an in-depth knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences, of client examination, testing, assessment, evaluation of examination data, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention relative to patient/client management from the simplest to the most complex of patient conditions
2. Apply their knowledge to prevent, identify, assess, correct and /or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunctions.
8. Recognize the need and requirement to measurably predict patient outcomes and structure their management strategies and procedures to achieve those outcomes safely, effectively, and efficiently

Evidence of achievement:

- Students consistently receive a minimum of 80% (3.0) in objective course examination and practical examination testing. The location of competencies and course objectives that reflect these areas of knowledge are in course syllabi.
- 100% ultimate comprehensive exam pass rates for class of 2015.
- Graduates' cumulative GPA in the professional curriculum averages 3.65 (class years 2015 and 2016)
- 100% entry-level clinical performance after Clinical Education 3 for classes of 2015 and 2016 as indicated by PT CPI Web reports
- Graduating student survey and focus group meeting minutes indicate that 96% of graduates from class year 2014 and 92% of graduates from class year 2015 believe that all objectives listed in CAPTE criteria were met or well-met. The objectives believed to be unmet constituted 6% of the 96 objectives listed in the criteria.
- By Clinical Education 2, all students for the classes of 2014 and 2015 are rated at entry-level in their Professional Abilities assessment.
- NPTE pass rate for class of 2015 is 100%
- Aggregate 3-year NPTE pass rate (classes of 2013-2015) is 98%
- 1-year and 3-year alumni survey responses indicate 100% employment rate for all licensed respondents.
- 3-year alumni survey responses (29% return rate for class year 2012) indicate that graduates agree or strongly agree that they were well prepared in these practice skills and knowledge areas.
- 1-year alumni survey responses (38% return rate for class year 2014) indicate that graduates agree or strongly agree that they were well prepared in these practice skills and knowledge areas.
- 3-year employer survey responses (14% return rate for class year 2012) indicate that graduates meet or exceed expectations in examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and prevention skills.
- 1-year employer survey responses (40% return rate for class year 2014) indicate that graduates meet or exceed expectations in examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and prevention skills.

Expected outcome:

9. identify, respect, and act with consideration for individual differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs in all professional activities.

Evidence of achievement:

- Consistent entry-level clinical performance by Clinical Education 3 as indicated by PT CPI Web reports related to these related performance items.
- 3-year employer surveys responses (14% return rate for class year 2012) indicated that graduates meet or exceed expectations in cultural awareness/sensitivity and display humanistic values.
- 1-year employer responses (40% return rate for class years 2013) indicated that graduates meet or exceed expectations in cultural awareness/sensitivity and display humanistic values.

Expected outcome:

3. function in a clinical team atmosphere, within the family and social contexts, and within the context of managed patient care
4. make clinical decisions, prioritize treatment goals, delegate effectively and provide consultation as well as treatment
5. appropriately refer patients/clients to other health care providers/agencies/resources

Evidence of achievement:

- Consistent entry-level clinical performance by Clinical Education 3 as indicated by PT CPI Web reports related to these areas.
- 3-year employer survey responses (14% return rate for class year 2012) indicated that graduates meet or exceed expectations in areas of delegation of responsibilities, clinical decision-making, consultation, appropriate referral to others, and functioning in clinical team settings.
- 1-year employer survey (40% return rate for class year 2014) indicated that graduates meet or exceed expectations in areas of delegation of responsibilities, clinical decision-making, consultation, appropriate referral to others, and functioning in clinical team settings.

Expected Outcome:

6. identify and use sound research-based evidence for effective patient care

Evidence of achievement:

- Completion of final research projects related to evidence-based practice and proposal of a clinical guideline based on research with passing grades according to grading rubrics attached to course syllabi for PT742, PT743, and PT744. Evidence of student achievement is supported by passing appraisals of student presentations from external reviewers.
- 3-year alumni survey responses (29% return rate for class year 2012) indicated that 100% engage in evidence-based practice.

- 1-year alumni survey responses (38% return rate for class years 2014) indicated that 100% engage in evidence-based practice.
- 3-year employer survey responses (14% return rate for class year 2012) indicated that graduates met or exceeded expectations regarding their engagement in evidence-based practice.
- 1-year employer responses (40% return rate for class year 2014) indicated that graduates met or exceeded expectations regarding their engagement in evidence-based practice.

Expected outcome:

7. recognize the need to be life-long learners who seek the information and experiences necessary to remain current and influence changes in health care policy, delivery and patient care management procedures

Evidence of achievement:

- 3-year alumni survey responses (29% return rate for class year 2012) indicated that 33% are members of the APTA, 100% have taken continuing education courses, and 100% are preparing for clinical specialty examinations.
- 1-year alumni survey responses (38% for class year 2014) indicated that 70% are members of the APTA, 90% have taken continuing education courses, and 80% are preparing for clinical specialty examinations.

Analysis of program assessment of student/graduate outcomes:

- Students are performing to program expectations (93% graduation rate)
- Alumni are meeting expected program outcomes for graduate performance. In particular, institution of comprehensive exams has contributed to higher NPTE first time and ultimate pass rate (class of 2015). Graduates are continuing with their life-long learning and are members of the professional organization (exceeds national average)
- Recent (May 2016) alumni focus group sessions on campus included 37 alumni spanning 20 years of program graduates. All alumni indicated that they were well-prepared by Neumann for practice and their careers. All are employed as physical therapists. Forty percent are members of the APTA. One-hundred percent routinely engage in continuing education. All alumni interviewed indicated that they believe that they met the expected program graduate outcomes outlined above.