

Doctor of Physical Therapy Admission FAQs

APPLICATION PROCESS

When should I have my materials in to PTCAS in order to meet Chatham's application deadline?

Applications must be e-submitted to PTCAS by October 1, and must be complete and include all other Chatham admission requirements by October 15.

However, it is highly recommended that you submit your application to PTCAS on or before September 15. PTCAS's verification process occurs once an applicant e-submits the application and all official transcripts have been received. Verification involves some processing time, so it is in your best interest to submit all materials as early as possible to ensure your complete, verified application is available for us to review.

What are the interviews and when are they conducted?

Interviews are typically conducted on a Saturday in November for half a day. The session includes an introduction, overview of the program and problem-based learning, and a facility tour. Students must also complete an oral interview and a written portion which includes 2-3 essay questions. Interviews are by invitation only.

Is there a supplemental application for Chatham's DPT program in addition to the PTCAS application?

No, Chatham does not require a supplemental application. All documents, including transcripts, must be sent to PTCAS.

Will you review my application before it is completed?

An application will not be reviewed by the DPT program until it is a complete, verified application by PTCAS. It is your responsibility to contact PTCAS directly to verify receipt of application materials as well as the current status of your application.

PREREQUISITES

Do I need to have all of the prerequisites complete in order to apply?

No, you may have prerequisite courses still in progress; however, applicants need to have completed 60% (24 credits) of the prerequisites by August 31 of the application year in order to be considered for invite to interview day. All prerequisites must be completed prior to matriculation if admitted into the program.

May I take prerequisite courses at a community college?

Yes, you may take or retake prerequisites at a community college or any other accredited school. Online courses are also permitted. If you are unsure whether courses meet our criteria and have a course description, you may e-mail it to Chatham's Office of Graduate Admissions at graduate@chatham.edu.

If I have retaken a prerequisite class, does Chatham look at the higher grade or the average of both?

Chatham takes the better grade for your prerequisite GPA; PTCAS uses both grades for the overall GPA.

How long are prerequisite courses acceptable?

Chatham will not accept a course that is more than ten years old to fulfill a prerequisite.

ONCE ADMITTED

If I am admitted, how do I secure my seat in the program?

There is a financial commitment of a non-refundable deposit of \$700 to secure a seat.

Can I transfer credits to reduce the number of courses I must take?

Because of the integrated nature of the program, no advanced standing or transfer of credits is granted. Each class is an integral part of the academic experience and is necessary for a complete education.

When do classes start?

Chatham's DPT program is a cohort that commences each year at the end of August.

Can the program be done as a part-time student?

Chatham's DPT program is completed as a full-time, cohort program only. All students complete their course of study in 28 months (7 terms). The program begins in the fall (August) and classes graduate in December after completion of the program.

Do I need to purchase a laptop for the program?

Each student will be required to have a laptop computer. Specifications will be provided to admitted students.



Is University housing available to DPT students?

Chatham is currently not able to provide on-campus housing options for graduate students. However, there are a variety of local housing options that are within walking distance or a short bus ride on the Pittsburgh Port Authority (free with your Chatham ID).

CHATHAM'S PT PROGRAM

What distinguishes Chatham from other PT programs nationally?

1. Chatham's DPT program is an innovative leader in problem-based learning (PBL), a dynamic small group learning process that emphasizes active learning, critical thinking, and clinical decision-making.
2. The PT faculty are accomplished teachers, scholars, practitioners, and leaders within the profession.
3. Licensure pass rates are above the national level.

How can I learn more about problem-based learning?

You can review the PBL video and information found at chatham.edu/dpt > Problem-Based Learning. Additionally, you can register to observe a live PBL session using the admission event website.

How many applicants does Chatham receive for the DPT program and how many seats are available per incoming class?

Last year, Chatham had more than 400 applicants for 40 seats.

What is the profile of a successful applicant?

On average, admitted applicants have an overall GPA of 3.63 and a prerequisite GPA of 3.64.

What can I do to make myself a competitive candidate for the DPT program at Chatham?

- Exceed Chatham's overall and prerequisite GPA minimum requirements. The admitted student profile can be viewed at chatham.edu/dpt.
- Shadow, volunteer, or work in a PT setting.
- Understand the role of a PT and be able to articulate your understanding as related to your personal, academic, and professional strengths and goals.
- Brush up on your writing skills and be able to answer questions in a clear and concise manner within an allotted timeframe.

How do Chatham DPT graduates perform?

- 94% Graduation Rate
- 100% Licensure Examination Pass Rate
- 100% Employment Rate (within six months of graduation)

What is the job market for PTs?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov) occupation outlook: "Employment of physical therapists is projected to grow 36% from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations."

LOCATION

Chatham is uniquely situated on a 39-acre campus in Shadyside that is designated as an arboretum, providing a serene environment in the center of a thriving urban educational and medical center in the east end of Pittsburgh. The DPT program is housed at Chatham Eastside, a "green LEED-rated" facility located at the intersection of Penn and Fifth avenues, just a few blocks from the Shadyside location.

LEARN MORE

Attend a graduate open house to connect with DPT faculty and current students. You can register at chatham.edu/gradopenhouse. For questions, call 412-365-1825 or e-mail graduate@chatham.edu.