

# 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?

For full consideration, students should ensure their application is submitted to PTCAS by September 15 in order to allow time for PTCAS verification and allow time for Chatham's admissions committee review and interview invitation. The priority PTCAS submission deadline is October 2. All applications submitted after October 2 may be reviewed and invited to interview on a space available basis.

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?

Virtual half-day interviews are conducted in late October and early November each year. The session includes an introduction, overview of the program and problem-based learning, an oral interview with faculty and/or alumni, and a written essay. 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 6 of 11 pre-requisites by August 31 of the application year to be eligible to interview. 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](mailto: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 offers housing to graduate students in the College of Health Sciences at Centre Avenue Suites, a healthcare living and learning community. Located at 5245 Centre Avenue, this

residential option offers over 40 furnished one-bedroom suites. Centre Avenue Suites is located near UPMC Shadyside Hospital and other convenient healthcare, grocery, dining, and retail locations.

## 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](http://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?

On average, Chatham receives more than 400 applicants for 40 seats.

### What is the profile of a successful applicant?

On average, admitted applicants have an overall GPA of 3.66 and a prerequisite GPA of 3.55.

### 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](http://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](http://www.bls.gov)) occupation outlook: "Employment of physical therapists is projected to grow 17% from 2021 to 2031, 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](http://chatham.edu/gradopenhouse). For questions, call 412-365-1825 or e-mail [graduate@chatham.edu](mailto:graduate@chatham.edu).