

TRINE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Student Handbook 2025 - 2026

Mission

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Trine University, by providing high-quality, professionally focused, physical therapy education, enables its graduates and faculty to make a positive impact on the healthcare needs of their communities through service, leadership, and scholarship.

The University reserves the right to change and make exceptions to the provisions of this handbook at any time and to apply any change or to make an exception applicable to any student without regard to the date of admission, application, or enrollment.

This handbook is neither a contract nor an offer to enter a contract.

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Introduction

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Mission Statement

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Trine University, by providing high-quality, professionally focused physical therapy education, enables its graduates and faculty to make a positive impact on the healthcare needs of their communities through service, leadership, and scholarship.

Vision Statement

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Trine University will be recognized as a premier provider of physical therapy education, adding value to the lives of its graduates and community members.

Philosophy

Physical therapists have an obligation to their patients, communities, and profession, to promote and maintain high moral, ethical, and clinical practice standards. Doctor of Physical Therapy have a responsibility to promote evidence-based practice and to expand, evolve and refine the profession's knowledge base. Students of physical therapy must assume the responsibility of learning while faculty members must create and nurture an environment that motivates learning through active involvement. For this reason, the Trine Doctor of Physical Therapy Program endorses learning activities that bring real-world challenges into the classroom, and students to the real world of physical therapy practice. We place a high value on faculty members who, as role models and mentors, help students to cultivate self-awareness, interpersonal skills, professional behaviors, and passions for service and lifelong learning.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." ~ W.B. Yeats

Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Upon completion of all requirements of the Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, students will be prepared for entry-level physical therapy practice in a variety of settings to make a positive impact on the healthcare needs of their communities through service, leadership, and scholarship.

Goal 2: Graduates of the Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will be engaged in ethical, competent, and professionally rewarding physical therapy practice.

Goal 3: Faculty of the Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will advance the profession and inform their teaching through service, leadership, and scholarship.

Goal 4: Faculty of the Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will demonstrate a commitment to the utilization of best practices in education, continuous professional development, and the promotion of evidence-based approaches to physical therapy practice.

Goal 5: The Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will continually assess, develop, and improve the curriculum.

Goal 6: The Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will demonstrate a commitment to the physical therapy profession by facilitating collaborative activities for continuous professional growth in its communities.

Curriculum

The DPT Curriculum is available on the Trine DPT website:

[Trine University DPT Curriculum](#)

The DPT Program Course Descriptions are available in the [Trine University course catalog](#).

Trine University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, www.ncahlc.org. Telephone: 312-263-0456.

Graduation from a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states. The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Trine University is accredited by CAPTE, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. Telephone: 703-706-3245.

Admissions

Admission Policies

The Program's application is available online. Prospective students are expected to submit their applications online along with other documentation as noted. All applications are reviewed by faculty, and decisions are conveyed to the applicant in writing under the signature of the Program Director.

Admission Requirements

- Graduate Admission Requirements may be found on the Trine DPT Website: [Trine University Graduate Admission Requirements](#)
- Undergraduate Freshmen Admission Requirements for Trine University DPT 3+3 Path may be found at: [Trine University Undergraduate Freshmen Admission Requirements](#)
- The President of Trine University reserves the right to have executive authority over any admission decisions.
- If accepted, students who wish to postpone their start in the program must reenter the competitive admission process.
- A student who has received an offer of admission and submitted a deposit may request to delay their entry until the following year. If the request is approved, the deposit will be retained, and another one will not be required for the following year. A new application and deposit will be required if the student delays entry more than two admission cycles.

Conditional Admission

Please refer to the Graduate Information section of the current [Trine University Course Catalog](#).

Transfer of Credit

It is not anticipated that many students would have credits to transfer into the DPT Program, except under unusual circumstances. Students should refer to the University Handbook and Course Catalog for institutional policy on the transfer of credits and consult with the DPT Program Director. All potential DPT Program transfer credits for the DPT Program must be submitted for approval prior to enrollment in the DPT Program. Students must provide transcripts and a course syllabus or catalog with a course description so a determination can be made regarding the specific transfer credit request. All credit transfers will be evaluated by the DPT Admissions Committee and the DPT Program Director. The DPT Program does not permit testing out of courses or credit by examination.

Technical Standards

Trine University does not discriminate based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, or age in the administration of any of its educational programs, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs, or employment. However, students are informed that the process of becoming a physical therapist requires the completion of a graduate education program, which is intellectually, as well as physically, challenging. The candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner and understand that reasonable accommodation does not mean that students with disabilities are exempt from certain tasks.

Student Compliance with Technical Standards

Graduates of Trine University's DPT program are prepared to serve as primary providers of physical therapy care. The program is a complex and intensive course of study that places specific demands on students that closely resemble the physical and intellectual challenges graduates of the program will encounter as practicing physical therapists. In order to function as clinical physical therapists, individuals must be able to meet certain physical, emotional, intellectual, and communication expectations for performance.

The purpose of technical standards is to delineate the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective skills and abilities deemed essential for matriculation into, continuation in, and graduation from the educational program. Technical standards are necessary to create specific expectations for student performance in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical education environments. Students are to familiarize themselves with these essential functions and determine whether or not they are able to perform the specified tasks. Technical standards must be met with or without reasonable accommodations consistent with The Americans with Disability Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

- **Psychomotor Skills**

Gross and fine motor skills are required to meet the responsibilities of a physical therapist student in a wide variety of educational and clinical settings. A student must be able to perform motor movements required to provide general and emergency care to all patients. These demands include reasonable endurance, strength, equilibrium, and precision. A student must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, diagnostic maneuvers and procedures, and other diagnostic manual maneuvers in a safe and effective manner. A student must be able to execute general motor movement such as transferring/transporting, gait

training, positioning of patients, physically restraining adults and children who lack motor control, and manual mobilizing techniques.

- **Observation**

Observation is an essential component of evaluation and assessment for a physical therapist student. In general, this requires functional use of vision, hearing, and somatic sensation, including the ability to perceive position, pressure, movement, weight, and vibration. A student must demonstrate the following observational skills: examination of non-verbal patient communication, skin integrity, radiographic findings, graphic representations of data, changes in body position/movement, and gauges on equipment. In the classroom, a student must be able to observe and participate in laboratory dissection of cadavers independently, the microscopic analysis of tissues, and lecture and laboratory demonstrations in all courses.

- **Communication**

A student must demonstrate effective and sensitive verbal, nonverbal, and written communication. This is necessary to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, assess nonverbal communication, and effectively and efficiently transmit information to patients, fellow students, faculty, and staff, and all members of the health care team.

- **Intellectual, Conceptual, and Integrative Abilities**

To effectively solve problems, a student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information in a timely manner. A student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and the spatial relationships of structures. A student must be able to synthesize knowledge and integrate relevant aspects of the patient history and examination findings to develop an accurate physical therapy diagnosis and determine an effective treatment plan within reasonable time constraints imposed by the needs of the patient, the facility, and the standards of care.

- **Affective, Behavioral, and Social Capabilities**

Empathy, compassion, integrity, honesty, concern for others, effective interpersonal skills, interest, commitment, and motivation are all required personal characteristics that a student must have. A student must possess adequate mental and emotional health necessary for the full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities; the exercise of good judgment, academic honesty, maintenance of patient confidentiality, and the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients and course assignments; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and others. A student must also be able to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical situations. A student is expected to be able to accept and reflect upon appropriate suggestions and criticisms and, if necessary, respond by modifying personal behaviors. A student should also conduct him/herself at all times in a manner consistent with the American Physical Therapy Association Code of Ethics and Guide for Professional Conduct.

Academic Standards

Grading

Academic Grievances and Incomplete Grade Policy

The awarding of grades is the prerogative of the classroom instructor in accordance with Trine University policies. Please refer to [Trine University Course Catalog](#) for information regarding academic grievances, incomplete grades, in-progress grades, and course repeat policies.

Grading System

A	Excellent	4.0	94% and above
B+	Very Good	3.5	88-93%
B	Good	3.0	82-87%
C+	Above Average	2.5	76-81%
C	Average (lowest passing grade)	2.0	70-75%
F	Failure	0.0	69% or below
S	Satisfactory	not figured into GPA	
U	Unsatisfactory	not figured into GPA	
I	Incomplete	not figured into GPA	
IP	In Progress (grade deferred)	not figured into GPA	
W	Withdrawal before completion of 80% of the semester		
WP	Withdrawal after completion of 80% of the semester, with passing work at the time of withdrawal		

Final Course Written Examination Policy

Many courses throughout the curriculum culminate with a final written examination. It is the policy of the Trine DPT Program that all students must achieve a minimum acceptable score (established by the course instructor) on each final written examination, in order to ensure competency regarding the course objectives. Students who do not achieve the minimum acceptable score are required to complete a remediation activity developed by the course instructor.

Lab Practical Remediation Policy

Multiple courses throughout the curriculum include hands-on lab practical examinations or skills checks to ensure competency and safety with the application of various physical therapy skills, assessments, interventions, and techniques. Although each professor determines the minimum passing grade for their practical examinations in their courses, if a practical examination is not passed, remediation will be required. Students will be allowed up to two remediations per exam. If a student does not pass the second remediation, a failure will be given for the course.

Progression Through the Curriculum

The curriculum follows a prescribed sequence of courses. The students in each class are expected to enroll full-time and to take the courses in the same order. At the discretion of the

faculty, a student may enroll part-time if unusual circumstances prevent them from proceeding with the same schedule as their classmates. The entire faculty must approve part-time status.

Comprehensive Examinations

Comprehensive written and practical examinations assess knowledge and competency in a given patient evaluation, treatment, and/or assessment skill. These comprehensive examinations are requirements of the curriculum and will be administered by the faculty at designated points throughout the curriculum. In addition, as an assessment concerning the actual performance of the skill, all comprehensive practical examinations will include assessment of communication skills, any required adaptations, appropriate professional behaviors, and decision-making skills. All comprehensive practical examinations **MUST** also include an assessment of critical safety. Safety must be weighed such that a student who is unsafe during the comprehensive practical examinations will not pass the examination. Students must achieve a passing grade as listed in the designated DPT course syllabi. If the student is unable to pass his/her comprehensive written or practical examination, he/she will receive an unsatisfactory grade in the course for that semester and be required to retake the course.

Retention Policies

Academic Requirements

Students admitted to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program are required to meet the criteria of the Program as follows:

- Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 each semester
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Earn a grade of S in all courses graded S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory)
- Earn a grade of C or better in all courses graded A through F
- Earn no more than 8 credit hours below a B

Academic Probation and Dismissal

A student will be placed on **academic probation** under this condition:

- Earning a semester GPA below 3.0 once

A student will be **academically dismissed** under any of these conditions:

- Earning a grade below a C in any course graded A through F
- Earning more than 8 credit hours below a B
- Earning a grade of U in any course graded S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory)
- Earning a semester GPA below 3.0 twice.
- Attaining a cumulative GPA below 3.0 for three consecutive semesters

A dismissed student may apply for readmission by immediately contacting the DPT Program Director and Associate Program Director. For consideration for readmission, a dismissed student must: 1.) complete a readmission form and 2.) provide a written statement which fully explains reasons for not meeting academic standards and outlines his/her plan for future success if readmitted. This plan must be discussed with the Program

Director and Associate Program Director prior to submission to the Trine University Graduate Council.

If a student is dismissed due to earning more than 8 credit hours below a grade of B, the student must retake a course in which he/she earned a C+ or below to continue in the DPT program. A student will only be allowed to replace a grade of C+ or lower for one course in the DPT program. If a student fails to improve his/her grade in that course to a B or higher, the student will be academically dismissed. The student may also elect or be required to audit additional courses to best ensure success in the program.

The Trine University Graduate Council will determine the outcome of the readmission request. If re-admitted, the student will be required to sign a Student Success Agreement, which outlines the plan for re-admission, including courses that will be re-taken for a grade and any courses that will be audited.

If any additional coursework is repeated, and a student has already replaced one grade or chooses to retake a course but not replace the grade, the "N" designation will appear on the student's transcript following the grade earned, indicating the grade will not be calculated into the cumulative GPA.

Remediation

Students who have completed the first five semesters of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program and have received at least nine but no more than twelve credit hours with a grade of C or C+ may be allowed to continue in the DPT program, contingent on meeting all the following criteria:

The student has:

- a. not been dismissed from the program.
- b. not withdrawn from a course or the program for academic concerns.
- c. not been required to sign a learning contract due to concerns about professional behavior or academic integrity.
- d. passed the program's comprehensive exams.
- e. demonstrated an appropriate level of competence by completing an individualized remediation plan developed by the student success committee and approved by a vote of the core faculty.

Students must submit a letter to the program director requesting the opportunity to remediate. The director will provide guidance on the letter's content. If the remediation request is approved, the student success committee will develop a remediation plan that must be approved by a majority vote of the core faculty. The plan must be completed in one semester. Failure to do so satisfactorily will result in dismissal from the program.

Students should consider the leave of absence policy as an option to retake classes prior to being placed on academic probation. Because of the full-time cohort nature of the DPT Program, a dismissal or a leave of absence may have significant financial implications. Students are encouraged to talk with their advisor and the DPT Program Director/Associate Program Director to help form their best plan.

Planned Academic Leave

Trine University has a Planned Academic Leave program (PAL) for students not on academic probation who need some time away from campus and do not wish to have their enrollment interrupted. Students who plan to return to Trine University within one calendar year may apply for a PAL. This program provides the student with on-campus benefits during the leave period. Details and application forms are available in the Office of Student Success and Retention.

Withdrawal and Administrative Dismissal

Please refer to the Graduate Information section of the current [Trine University Course Catalog](#) for all information regarding Academic or Medical Withdrawal and Administrative Dismissal.

Medical Withdrawal

As a result of medical necessity, a student may be withdrawn from a class or classes. Such requests are made through the Dean of Students in conjunction with the coordinator for health services. Such withdrawals will only be granted based on appropriate medical documentation. Once approved by the Dean of Students, the student is withdrawn from all applicable classes and is assigned a grade of "W." The student's grade point average is not affected. Where appropriate and with an instructor's permission, a student could receive a grade of "I" (Incomplete).

A student who is in good academic standing and requests a leave of absence, such as the case for medical reasons, can be reinstated at the same course level. The faculty must approve the leave, and the student must be reinstated within one year. Before returning to the Program, the student must complete all additional requirements. Proof of compliance with these additional requirements must be submitted prior to resuming courses. The student must notify the DPT Program Director in writing of his/her continued intention to return to the program at least two months prior to re-enrollment. In addition, the student is required to pay all fees required of incoming students by the stated deadline. A student who withdraws from any required course without requesting and/or receiving a leave of absence from the program will be considered as a withdrawal from the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Any student requiring leave longer than one academic year will be required to submit a request for an extension to the original leave of absence at least one month prior to the end of the initial request. Failure to request a continuation of the leave of absence will be considered as withdrawal from the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Attendance

Classroom attendance is analogous to being present at your clinical practice site. If you are not attending, notify the DPT Program Director and the course instructor as soon as possible. Please refer to the [Trine University Student Handbook](#) for additional information. You should expect communication from your instructor(s) before class begins regarding how to engage with course content if the campus is closed due to weather or other adverse events. Your instructor may lecture via Zoom, upload content to Moodle (videos, recorded lectures, or other forms of instruction), or reschedule hands-on labs and exams once in-person classes have resumed. Students with clinical education experiences will defer to their supervising clinical instructors regarding the policies and procedures for weather-related emergencies at their respective sites. Based on your faculty communications, you will be expected to participate in your course(s) according to the revised plans they lay out for you. Please check your Trine email for updates from your instructor. For absences longer than three days, and for missed quizzes, exams, or assignments, refer to **Changes in Health Status** in the **Miscellaneous Policies** section (page 25 of this handbook).

Assessment

The academic assessment process at Trine University is designed to measure the abilities and knowledge of students graduating from all degree programs. It also measures student satisfaction with the program. Sometimes students will be asked to reply to surveys or questionnaires that rate the quality of instruction, the level of satisfaction with career preparation, and the overall satisfaction with the Trine experience. Occasionally, anonymous samples of student course work will be used in an assessment process.

Trine University is committed to providing quality educational experiences for our students. The information gathered through the assessment process provides information for continual improvement of our programs.

Graduation

Graduation Requirements

An “Intent to Graduate” form is filed through the Registrar’s office at the beginning of the DPT Program. This form will include an expected graduation date and other information pertinent to graduation. All degree requirements must be completed within five years.

Students are required to follow the plan of study for the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Students must be in compliance with the conditions and requirements for graduation as set forth by the University.

Standards of Conduct

APTA Code of Ethics and Core Values

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has adopted [Code of Ethics and Core Values](#) for all physical therapists. It is the responsibility of the student to uphold this code and these values in all situations. Failure to uphold the APTA Code of Ethics and Core Values could result in the failure of a course or clinical experience.

The APTA is the professional organization for physical therapists in the United States. There are many resources and benefits to being a member, both as a student and professional. As a student, you may attend the state and national conferences and student conclave at discounted rates.

Trine University DPT students are expected to become APTA members. Students are highly encouraged to participate in the state chapter and national activities. Students with questions are encouraged to visit the APTA website (www.apta.org) and speak with their advisors for more information.

Professional Behaviors

Professional behavior is, without exception, required. It is expected that all students demonstrate behaviors consistent with those of healthcare professionals. It is required that all students exhibit these behaviors in the classroom and laboratory settings during site visits, CARE courses, clinical internships, and service-learning activities. Failure to demonstrate these behaviors could result in failure of a course or clinical experience.

Professional behaviors include the following:

1. Critical Thinking - The ability to question logically; identify, generate, and evaluate elements of logical argument; recognize and differentiate facts, appropriate or faulty inferences, and assumptions; and distinguish relevant from irrelevant information. The ability to appropriately utilize, analyze, and critically evaluate scientific evidence to develop a logical argument and to identify and determine the impact of bias on the decision-making process.
2. Communication - The ability to communicate effectively (i.e., verbal, non-verbal, reading, writing, and listening) for varied audiences and purposes.
3. Problem Solving – The ability to recognize and define problems, analyze data, develop and implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes.
4. Interpersonal Skills – The ability to interact effectively with patients, families, colleagues, other health care professionals, and the community in a culturally aware manner.
5. Responsibility – The ability to be accountable for the outcomes of personal and professional actions and to follow through on commitments that encompass the profession within the scope of work, community, and social responsibilities.
6. Professionalism – The ability to exhibit appropriate professional conduct and to represent the profession effectively while promoting the growth/development of the Physical Therapy profession.
7. Use of Constructive Feedback – The ability to seek out and identify quality sources of feedback, reflect on and integrate the feedback, and provide meaningful feedback to others.
8. Effective Use of Time and Resources – The ability to manage time and resources effectively to obtain the maximum possible benefit.
9. Stress Management—The ability to identify sources of stress and develop and implement effective coping behaviors; this applies to interactions with self,

patients/clients and their families, members of the healthcare team, and in work/life scenarios.

10. Commitment to Learning – The ability to self-direct learning to include the identification of needs and sources of learning; and to continually seek and apply new knowledge, behaviors, and skills.

All Trine University DPT Students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate safe performance of activities, sensitivity to individuals, appreciation for alternate points of view, respectful communication, concern for self, cooperation with others, and acceptance of personal and corporate responsibility for the coursework.
2. Show respect for facilities and equipment in the School of Health Science and in the clinical education settings.
3. Present an appropriate personal appearance in classrooms, laboratories, and Clinical Education settings and at public meetings where their identity as physical therapy students is apparent. Please refer to the Dress Code for details.

Professional behaviors are evaluated by self-assessment, clinical instructors, peers, and faculty. Written clinical instructor comments and instructor observation of student performance provide the basis for counseling on professional behavior. It is expected that most cases of professional misbehavior can be successfully corrected by sensitive discussion and counseling between the faculty and the student. A plan for remediation will be developed and implemented.

Dress Code

Classroom dress code is analogous to wearing attire that most represents to your patient that you are a professional. In some cases, it is specifically directed as a condition of employment. Students are expected to appear professional and neat at all times while on campus. Because we share the space with patients, clinicians, health care administrators, and distinguished visitors, it is important for students in a professional education program to be sensitive to their professional image and the reactions of others.

Examples of unacceptable garments include, but are not limited to: blue jeans, tattered jeans or any clothing with holes (even if artfully created), hats, overly casual clothing or revealing clothing including shorts, and sweatpants. If you have questions about presenting a professional appearance, please ask a member of the faculty.

It will be necessary to have lab clothes available for all labs that will require students to practice evaluation procedures and treatment techniques. Clothing must permit freedom of movement as well as visual inspection and palpation of body structures for assessment of posture, movement, and performance of special tests. For information on appropriate lab attire refer to course syllabi. Please note that lab clothing is not appropriate outside of the lab areas. The areas where lab clothing is permitted are the labs, the hallway directly outside of the labs, restrooms, lockers, and the student lounge.

Students will follow the dress code of the facility where they will be performing their clinical education experiences.

Laboratory and Classroom Use

The faculty members in the DPT Program encourage students to use every opportunity to practice competencies in all aspects of physical therapy. However, special concern must be given to the safety of students and/or equipment when any equipment or exercise techniques are used outside of class. For student safety, it is strongly recommended that students come in groups of a least two persons if they arrive or remain after dark. The following procedures and precautions must be practiced for the use of laboratory, classroom, and/or equipment outside of class:

- Students may not utilize any equipment other than equipment relating to past or current study, or for approved research endeavors.
- Students may only practice on one another. Students can serve as a "check system" for each other, thereby minimizing accidents relating to errors.
- Students will clean up after themselves and leave their spaces neat and organized so that they can be readily used by others.
- Under no circumstances is treatment to be provided for a pathological condition except for approved research endeavors or other specified occasions. This must adhere to the scope of physical therapy practice in the State of Indiana. For example, a licensed physical therapist must be available to supervise.
- If a student thinks a situation exists that may be exempt from one or more of the rules noted above, the circumstances must be described, and approval must be obtained prior to exercising the exemption. Approval will be granted by the responsible faculty member and by the DPT Program Director.

Use of Electronic Devices and Social Media

Appropriate conduct in every teaching environment in the DPT Program promotes an environment of academic achievement and integrity. Disruptive classroom behavior that interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning is prohibited. Disruptive behavior includes inappropriate use of technology in the classroom.

Examples include, but are not limited to: ringing cell phones, text messaging, watching videos, playing computer games, accessing email, instant messaging, or surfing the internet on your computer. Students who participate in disruptive behaviors will be asked to leave the classroom. Students are expected to follow these simple regulations to avoid the inappropriate use of technology in the classroom:

1. All cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate mode while in class and be stored away from the study space.
2. If expecting a critical health or family-related call, please inform the instructor prior to start of class. Please sit in the last row of the class in order to avoid disturbing other classmates.
3. Laptop computers, iPads, etc., are to be used for notetaking only, unless specifically addressed by the instructor of record.
4. If electronic devices are improperly used, a verbal warning will be issued first, followed by a request from the instructor for the student to leave the class.

Best Practices That DPT Students Are Expected to Follow

1. Take responsibility and use good judgment. Students are responsible for the material they share through social media. Be courteous, respectful, and thoughtful about how others may perceive or be affected by what you share. Libel laws are in effect even when your social media accounts are set to “private.”
2. Think before you post. Anything you post is highly likely to be permanently connected to you and your reputation through the Internet and email archives.
3. Protect your own privacy. Privacy settings are not absolute, and once on the Internet, content is likely to remain there permanently.
4. When interacting with other students, faculty, clinical instructors, or patients on the internet, maintain appropriate boundaries in accordance with professional and ethical guidelines just as you would in any other context.
5. When students see unprofessional content posted by colleagues, bring the appropriateness of that content to the individual's attention. If the behavior violates professional norms and the individual does not take appropriate action to resolve the situation, the student should report the matter to a DPT faculty member.
6. Maintain clear lines between professional and personal social media activities.
7. Avoid using the university's name to promote or endorse any product, cause, religious view, political party, candidate, etc.
8. Avoid using the university's name in connection with comments, photos, videos or images that could be interpreted or perceived as slurs, demeaning, inflammatory, illegal, unduly suggestive, sexual innuendos, inappropriate, or otherwise contrary to the University's mission.
9. Never post content that represents a breach of confidentiality.
10. When in doubt, do not post.

Activities That May Be Grounds for Dismissal from the DPT Program

1. Publishing, discussing, or sharing in any way the health information of other individuals. Be aware that the removal of an individual's name or the use of a pseudonym does not constitute proper de-identification of protected health information. Inclusion of data such as age, gender, race, diagnosis, date of evaluation, or type of treatment or posting of patient stories and/or pictures (such as a before/after photograph of a patient having surgery, a photograph of a patient participating in physical therapy, or a photograph of the contents of a patient's room) may still allow the reader to recognize the identity of a specific individual.
2. Sharing or posting any photos or videos of human cadaveric material (including anatomical specimens) is strictly prohibited, regardless of intent or platform. This includes personal social media, messaging apps, or educational forums. Cadavers are donated for the purpose of learning and should always be treated with dignity and respect.
3. Claiming to be an official representative or spokesperson for Trine University or its entities, including the Doctor of Physical Therapy program.
4. Assuming the identity of another person or otherwise attempting to obscure one's own identity as a means to circumvent the prohibited activities outlined in this policy.

Unprofessional Behavior That May be the Basis for Disciplinary Action

1. Using vulgar language.

2. Using language or photographs that imply disrespect for any individual or group, including but not limited to age, race, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.
3. Publishing or sharing in any way personal photographs or photographs of oneself or others that may reasonably be interpreted as condoning irresponsible use of alcohol, the use of recreational drugs, illegal activities, or sexual promiscuity.
4. Publishing, discussing, or sharing in any way potentially inflammatory or unflattering material on another individual's website (e.g., on the "wall" of that individual's Facebook site).

Laptop Computer Policy

All Trine University DPT students are required to have or purchase a laptop computer for use in the classroom and during clinical education experiences. To maintain test security and integrity when testing occurs at a distance, students will be required to install Respondus Lockdown Browser software. Laptops must also have a webcam, as professors may also choose to employ Respondus Monitor, a feature that builds upon the Lockdown Browser technology by using a webcam to record students during an exam.

Please refer to the following website page if you have questions regarding minimum specifications for computers: [What Computer Should I Buy?](#)

Community Standards

University Community Standards apply to all students and student organizations. Please refer to the [Trine University Student Handbook](#) for specific details of each behavior.

Academic Misconduct

The University prohibits all forms of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct refers to, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- Copying another person's work and claiming it as your own, or submitting the same paper in two different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructor (plagiarism);
- Using the work of a group of students when the assignment requires individual work;
- Using artificial intelligence (AI) tools for assignments, quizzes, exams, or other coursework without prior authorization from the instructor, and/or failing to appropriately acknowledge AI-assisted work.
- Requesting or purchasing materials from outside sources that are not consistent with the expectations of the assignment or assessment.
- Looking at or attempting to look at an examination before it is administered;
- Using materials during an examination that are not permitted;
- Allowing another student to take your examination for you;
- Intentionally impeding the academic work of others;
- Using any electronic device to transmit portions of questions or answers on an examination to other students;
- Using any electronic device to improperly store information for an exam;
- Knowingly furnishing false information to the University;
- Assisting other students in any of the acts listed above.

Moreover, a student is expected to submit his/her own work and to identify any portion of the work that has been borrowed from others in any form.

An ignorant act of plagiarism on final versions and minor projects, such as attributing or citing inadequately, will be considered a failure to master an essential course skill and is considered Academic Misconduct. A deliberate act of plagiarism, such as having someone else do your work or submitting someone else's work as your own (e.g., from the Internet, fraternity file, etc., including homework and in-class exercises), is also Academic Misconduct and will result in more serious penalties.

In situations of Academic Misconduct, instructors have the authority to award a failing grade on the assignment in question or a failing grade for the course. Upon approval by the appropriate Dean, Academic Misconduct may also result in expulsion from the University

Disciplinary Structure

Learning to live as productive members of a university community is a developmental process that starts as a freshman and continues throughout the college experience. The primary goals of educational discipline are to educate students in the understanding of community and to help them assume and demonstrate responsibility as members of a civilized society. The primary principle upon which the disciplinary program is based is that actions have consequences. Educational discipline is different from law enforcement. The goal is education and restoration.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Sanctions for misconduct may include but are not limited to fines, loss of privilege or participation in any university activities, sports, academic organizations, service learning activities, or integrated clinical experiences or trips for a set period of time, restitution, university service hours, educational/service activities, dismissal, and/or expulsion.

Please refer to the [Trine University Student Handbook](#) for more information regarding the Disciplinary Process.

Clinical Education

Clinical Education Summary

Clinical education is an essential part of the Trine University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. The physical therapists and health care facilities participating in clinical education are carefully screened and share the DPT Program's mission to have a positive impact on the healthcare needs of their communities through service, leadership, and scholarship.

Clinical Education consists of two parts: The Clinical Application and Reflection Experience (CARE courses) and full-time clinical education experiences. CARE courses are integrated clinical courses and are scheduled during the first five semesters of the program. Four full-time clinical education experiences exist in the last three semesters: one in the sixth semester, two in the seventh semester, and one in the eighth semester.

Each type of clinical education experience exposes students to differences in patient problems, acuity, and complexity; clinical skill development; interactions with other health care professionals; practice issues; documentation; and culture. Students must complete their clinical education experiences in three practice areas (acute care, outpatient, and post-acute care) that span four practice patterns (musculoskeletal, neurological,

cardiovascular/pulmonary, and integumentary). Students may also participate in more specialized patient care areas, including, but not limited to, home health, sports medicine, pediatrics, burn hospitals, or occupational health.

Students participating in clinical education experiences are still part of the University and are expected to meet all the tuition obligations and academic requirements of a student. Students must adhere to the schedule assigned to them by their clinical education experience site, including holiday and work schedules.

Assignment to Clinical Rotations

Clinical education experience placement decisions are made under the supervision of the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) based on mandatory course requirements, the individual learning needs of the student, student preferences, and site availability. Students are only placed at sites in which there is an active clinical education experience agreement. Students may suggest new sites and work directly with the DCE to obtain clinical education experience agreements.

Students are encouraged to actively engage with the DCE about placement decisions. The Director of Clinical Education will make the final placement decisions.

During full-time clinical education experiences, students are required to attend and participate in clinic/patient care a minimum of 32 hours per week. Students will work the schedule of their CI(s) unless instructed otherwise. Students must report any absences to the DCE. The DCE will work with the CI, site, and student regarding make-up time. Students should contact the DCE with any circumstances that require additional consideration.

Evaluation for Clinical Education

Evaluation is a necessary and useful tool in education. To bring value, it should be done in an honest, continuous, shared process, and the results should be acted upon. To be effective, the atmosphere must be open, allow for discussion, and provide an opportunity to learn or practice areas of deficiency. Evaluation is a part of didactic learning on a regular basis and must occur in the clinical experience as well.

Evaluation refers not only to evaluating the student's skills, but also refers to evaluation of the curriculum, the faculty, and the clinical facility. All aspects of the evaluative process should include student input.

CARE Courses

Students will be assessed at the conclusion of each Clinical Application Reflection Experience (CARE) course using the Clinical Internship Evaluation Tool (CIET). This assessment will be provided to the students and CARE clinical faculty by the Director of Integrated Clinical Education (DICE). Students are to be assessed by the CARE clinical instructor, a peer, and themselves. Final grades are assigned by the course instructor based on completion of assigned work and assessments. Grades for the CARE course series are on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Further information about each course can be found in the course syllabus. Students are also required to complete an evaluation of each clinical

education experience for the CARE courses. All CARE clinical instructors will be reviewed annually by the DICE.

Full-Time Clinical Education Experiences

Students will be evaluated at least once on any clinical education experience less than six weeks in length and at least twice during each clinical education experience of six or more weeks. The Clinical Instructor (CI) will assess and review the student's progress once in the middle and at the end of the clinical education experience. The student will provide feedback, along with the CI, during a scheduled site visit, telephone conversation, or email with the DCE or another faculty member during each clinical education experience. The student may, at any time during a clinical education experience, request additional feedback from either the clinical or academic faculty. It is recommended that formative evaluations be done on a daily and weekly basis in relation to specific patient care areas or in other areas as needed.

Students on full-time clinical education experiences will be assessed using the Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI). The CPI can be found at [Clinical Performance Instrument](#). The student must be competent at the entry-level in each category by the end of the final full-time clinical education experience prior to graduation. If any problems/questions/comments arise regarding the evaluation process, please do not hesitate to call the DCE or to address the matter during a site visit or a midterm phone call.

The student is responsible for submitting the CPI, the student's evaluation of a clinical education experience, and any written assignments or reflections as indicated by the course syllabi at the conclusion of each clinical education experience. Final grades for all clinical education experiences are on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis and are assigned by the DCE as per the course syllabi. Failure to complete the CPI, student's evaluation of a clinical education experience, or any written assignments or reflections could result in an unsatisfactory grade in the course, which would require the student to repeat the course.

Trine University DPT program requires that CIs have a minimum of one year of clinical experience prior to mentoring a full-time student. All clinical sites and clinical instructors will be evaluated by the student using the student's evaluation of a clinical education experience. If the need arises, the DCE will also perform informal assessments of the clinical sites and/or clinical instructors.

All clinical education faculty members are encouraged to assess the DPT faculty and program during midterm phone calls, site visits, and written/electronic communications.

Remediation of Clinical Education Experiences

Remediation provides a second opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of knowledge, professional behaviors, and outcomes of a clinical education course (CARE courses or full-time clinical experiences). It is initiated when the student's clinical instructor, course instructor, or Site Coordinator of Clinical Education (SCCE) identifies a student who is at risk for failing a clinical education course. Remediation is intended to address the specific deficiencies of concern such that the student can remain on track, where applicable, in the curriculum.

The course instructor, in consultation with the faculty and appropriate supervising clinical education faculty at the clinical site, will develop a plan of remediation. The nature, timing, and expectations of the remediation are individualized through a Learning Plan to address the deficiencies of the student. Remediation may include, but is not limited to, additional clinical hours in the same clinical setting, additional clinical hours in a different setting, completion of mock case scenarios, a demonstration of specific examination or intervention skills, or a combination thereof. Students may not appeal a course remediation plan.

For students failing remediation, the course instructor will submit an Unsatisfactory (U) grade for the course, and the student will be dismissed from the program. If a student is unable to complete the assigned remediation due to extraordinary circumstances, the student will receive an Incomplete (I) for the course. The student is required to complete the assigned remediation and earn a Satisfactory (S) grade before progressing to the next clinical education course in the curriculum.

Each student is allowed a remediation attempt for a maximum of two CARE courses and one full-time clinical education course during the length of the program. Remediation is not permitted for the same course twice.

Requirements for Clinical Education

Communication

It is the DCE's responsibility to send the course syllabi, instructions for the clinical instructor, CPI training materials, and verification and/or a certificate of liability insurance to the clinical site approximately six weeks prior to the start of the clinical education experience.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the clinical site 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the clinical education experience to determine information regarding location, parking, clinic hours, dress code, etc. The student must submit to the site required up-to-date health information along with verification of health insurance, immunizations, background check, OSHA training, HIPAA training, CPR certification, and any additional information the site requests.

Certificate of Liability Insurance

All students are provided professional liability insurance through Trine University. Professional liability insurance covers activities completed as physical therapy students in the classroom, laboratory, educational experiences, and clinical education experiences. A student's professional liability insurance does not cover the student in activities outside the domain of the DPT Program (e.g., while employed as a PT aide) or during unsupervised practice of psychomotor skills. Proof of professional liability insurance by clinical sites is available upon request from the DCE.

Health Insurance

Students will be expected to show proof of coverage for personal health insurance before the start of the program and maintain coverage throughout the professional program. Students are required to submit a copy of their health insurance card annually to the Program. Copies of insurance cards will become part of the students' clinical education file.

Annual Physical Examination

A physical examination is required before the start of the program, and then annually thereafter, to ensure the student meets the technical standards, vaccines, and titers that are required for clinical education that are outlined in this handbook.

Immunizations

The DPT program policy is that students must comply with the following items before program entry (as applicable) and for the duration of enrollment in the program. Failure to do so may affect participation in clinical experiences and may prevent progression within the program. The DPT program follows the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Vaccine Recommendations for Healthcare Workers, except when the contractually stipulated requirements of affiliated healthcare institutions are stricter.

Titers (blood draw to evaluate the level of antibodies an individual has) are required to assess immunity to the conditions listed below. Vaccinations alone do not meet the CDC Vaccine Recommendations for Healthcare Workers. DPT students must provide documentation of the following titers. If any of these titers are negative or equivocal, students must complete revaccination as described by the CDC Vaccine Recommendations for Healthcare Workers.

1. Hepatitis B
2. Measles (Rubeola)
3. Mumps
4. Rubella
5. Varicella

Vaccinations

To allow participation in clinical experiences in most affiliated healthcare institutions, DPT students must provide documentation of the following:

1. Revaccination following a negative or equivocal titer for Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, or Varicella as noted above.
2. Maintain TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular, Pertussis) vaccination throughout the program.
3. Annual influenza vaccine

Annual Screenings

DPT students must complete annual TB screening, annual student physical exam, and other items as required by affiliated healthcare institutions.

Annual TB Screen:

- Option 1 - TB Blood Draw (also called the interferon-gamma release assays or IRGAs): There currently are two types of IRGAs used in the US: QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) and T-SPOT®. TB test (T-Spot). Either of these tests is acceptable.

NOTE: Advantage – This option only requires one trip to the lab or physician's office.

Disadvantage – More expensive.

- Option 2 – Multiple Step PPD/TB Screen:

- *Step 1: Have a skin surface test performed*
- *Step 2: Return between 48 and 72 hours after administration to have this test read*
- *Step 3: Wait 1-3 weeks (10-14 days preferred)*
- *Step 4: Have a second skin surface test performed*
- *Step 5: Return between 48 and 72 hours after administration to have this test read*

NOTE: Advantage – Less expensive.

Disadvantage – Requires four trips to the lab or physician's office. (If you miss a test or reading, the whole process may need to be repeated.)

Medical Contraindication/Waivers

If there is a medical contraindication to any required immunization(s), verification from the primary healthcare provider must accompany the health record. When any medical contraindication exists, a waiver must be signed by the student to acknowledge that inadvertent exposure might occur and to release the clinical site and university from liability in the event of exposure. Appropriate waiver form(s), obtained from the Program, must be signed and on file with the Program.

If a student, for whatever reason, elects to waive an immunization requirement(s), placement in a clinical setting cannot be guaranteed. This may affect the student's ability to progress within the program or complete graduation requirements.

Background Check

The purpose of the background check policy is to:

1. Promote and protect patient/client safety as well as the well-being of the campus community.
2. Comply with the mandates of clinical sites that require student background checks as a condition of their written contracts with the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, Trine University, as stipulated by the Joint Commission.
3. Promote early self-identification of students who may be at risk for not meeting Physical Therapy licensure eligibility requirements in some states due to a felony conviction.
 - Students with an identified history of criminal activity may be at risk for not being able to successfully complete the required clinical education requirements of the DPT Program. Successful completion of all designated clinical education experiences is a graduation requirement for a DPT degree.
 - In order to ensure that a student with a history of a felony conviction is eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE), the at-risk student will need to seek clarifying information directly from the licensure board of the state in which he/she wishes to practice.

Please see the following website for contact information for the PT licensure agency for each state: <http://www.fsbpt.org>.

All incoming physical therapy students are required to submit to and receive a criminal background check as a condition of enrollment at the student's expense. Instructions for obtaining the initial background screening will be provided to the student at program orientation.

The DPT Program will track each student to ensure compliance and to verify the presence of a negative criminal record. If a background check identifies a history of criminal behavior, the student may be prohibited from participating in clinical education courses. Cases will be evaluated on an individual basis by the DCE with consultation from the DPT Program Director and/or other University administrative personnel. Any criminal activity in question must be disclosed to the clinical site prior to placement. Clinical sites have the right to refuse placement for any student possessing a history of criminal activity. All information gathered in the process of criminal background checks is strictly confidential. Information may not be revealed to any other party without written permission from the student. Students will be provided with the results of the background check and, unless otherwise required by the clinical site, will be responsible for sharing this information with the assigned clinical site(s) upon request.

OSHA Training

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has defined requirements that specify the protective measures all healthcare personnel are required to perform to prevent the spread of communicable disease. All students will participate in Blood-borne Pathogens Training prior to participating in clinical and/or patient-related activities; training is provided by the DPT Program.

HIPAA Training

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) defines a set of uniform standards relating to the security, privacy, and confidentiality of patient health-related data. All students must participate in HIPAA training prior to participation in clinical and/or patient-related activities; training is provided by the DPT Program. This training orients the student to concepts of confidentiality, appropriate access of information, and appropriate release of information procedures for protected health information. Students must pass a post-test and receive a certificate of completion to meet this requirement. Students may not participate in any clinical or patient-related activity unless certification is current.

Substance Abuse Testing

Students are required to consent to and pass a substance abuse test prior to being placed on clinical education experiences, including CARE courses. All DPT students are required to complete a ten-panel drug screen annually. Some full-time clinical education experiences have additional testing requirements.

CPR Certification

All entry-level students in the DPT Program are required to obtain and maintain certification. The DPT Program will provide this certification for students as part of the CARE course series curriculum. Students whose certification lapses are responsible for recertification at their own expense. Students may not participate in any clinical or patient-related activity unless this certification is current.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Students participating in part-time clinical education courses who are required to participate in patient care activities that require N95 masks or another specialty PPE will be fit-tested at the clinical education site. The clinical site is responsible for providing the student with the appropriate size and type of mask to maintain patient and student safety. If such testing and/or appropriate PPE cannot be provided to the student by the clinical site, then the student is exempt from participating in the care of that patient.

Students participating in full-time clinical education courses who are required to participate in patient care activities that require N95 masks or another specialty PPE will follow the clinical site's requirements with regard to testing and the obtainment of PPE. This may include the student being fit tested prior to arriving at the clinical site at the expense of the student or once he/she arrive at the clinical education site. The student may be responsible for arriving with the required PPE, or the clinical site may provide the student with the appropriate size and type of mask to maintain patient and student safety. The DCE will assist students with fit testing and PPE requirements specific to each clinical site.

General Information and Support

Affirmative Action Statement

Trine University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, or age in the administration of any of its educational programs, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs, or in employment.

Details and contact information may be found at: [Trine University Title IX](#).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Trine University is committed to the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities and to improving the accessibility of all campus programs and activities. Any student who wishes to request an accommodation or who has questions about the accommodation process should contact our ADA coordinator directly. Details and contact information may be found on the [Trine University Website](#). In addition, the University prohibits retaliation against individuals for engaging in activities protected by the ADA or by Section 504.

Academic Support

Academic Support Services aims to assist all students in becoming efficient, self-confident, and independent learners. Additional information on academic support services can be found at [Trine University Academic Support Services](#).

Adverse Weather

The safety of Trine University students, faculty, and staff is the priority during an adverse weather event. Adverse weather is defined as any weather condition that would make it necessary to delay or suspend classes and services. When adverse weather occurs, the Dean of Brooks College of Health Professions will make the decision whether to suspend or delay classes. Notification will be via email and/or text alerts to phones. In the event the Fort Wayne campus is closed for live classes due to an inclement weather emergency, then CARE is also canceled for the day. Students will schedule make-up hours with their respective CARE clinical instructors at a mutually agreeable time. Students at full-time clinical education experiences will defer to their supervising clinical instructors regarding the policies and procedures for weather-related emergencies at their respective sites.

Additional information and a link to sign up for text alerts may be found here: [Trine University Alerts](#).

Release of Student Information (FERPA)

To ensure compliance with the federal government's Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Trine University has policies and procedures that govern the release of information from student academic records, which can be found here: [Trine University Office of the Registrar](#). Students should also refer to the [FERPA information on the Trine University website](#) for further details.

Payment of Educational Costs

Payment of tuition and fees is due at the Business Office on the date indicated on the student's bill. Students with outstanding financial obligations to the University will not be permitted to register for any subsequent semester or receive a transcript or diploma until the obligation is fulfilled. Students maintaining a balance owed to the University will be assessed late fees and will be responsible for collection and/or attorney costs if such efforts should become necessary. More information can be found in the [Trine University Course Catalog](#).

Miscellaneous Policies

Student Information Form

Every student is required to provide and maintain proper demographic information. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the [Trine University Registrar](#) of any changes made during his/her course of study.

Changes in Health Status:

Each student will notify the DPT Program Director regarding any changes in health status or limitations that may affect the student's ability to complete the course requirements and clinical education experiences, including any requirements of psychomotor skills or physical activity. The Director will notify faculty and any other applicable parties (i.e., clinical instructors, student services, etc.) of this change in status.

In the event of an illness or injury lasting longer than three days, the student will use the following guidelines:

1. The DPT Program Director must receive documentation from the student's medical provider verifying the medical necessity of the time away and explaining any restrictions and plans for re-examination.
2. When restrictions are lifted, the student will provide the DPT Program Director with a written statement from a physician that s/he has been approved to return to and participate in all required classroom, laboratory, and clinical activities.

Chronic Health Condition Not Requiring Accommodations:

It is the policy of the DPT Program that a student is solely responsible for notifying an instructor and faculty advisor of his/her inability to participate in a classroom, laboratory, or clinical activity that may be potentially harmful due to a pre-existing physical condition, acute or chronic, that places them at risk for injury.

Health Risks

Students will be informed of health risks that they may encounter throughout the educational program and will follow the OSHA regulations and standards. Students are also required to sign the Assumption of Risk/Release of Liability Form. This form must be completed prior to students being able to participate in laboratory and clinical experiences.

Procedure for Student Injury in the Classroom or During a Clinical Education Experience

1. Notify the course instructor or supervising clinical instructor immediately.
2. The faculty member and/or supervising clinical personnel will assess the extent of injury to determine if the student can remain in the classroom or clinical area.
3. If the student requires medical care, the faculty member and/or supervising clinical personnel will assist the student in obtaining appropriate care.
4. The student, faculty member, and/or supervising clinical personnel must complete necessary paperwork according to the format and timeline required by the University and/or clinical agency. An incident report must be submitted to the program director within 24 hours.
5. The faculty member and/or supervising clinical personnel have the right to not allow the student to participate in class based on the extent of the injury.
6. Students are responsible for carrying personal health insurance and for medical expenses incurred as a result of an incident or accident that occurs on campus or in off-campus education experiences.

Human Subjects in PT Education and Authorized Access and Use of Information

Patient/clients may be asked to volunteer in laboratory sessions for demonstrations and educational learning experiences. The individual will be informed about the session and sign a consent form, if an adult, or the parent/caregiver, if a child is under 21. The DPT Program will keep the consent form for at least five years. In compliance with HIPAA, patients/clients may request that this information be destroyed or kept confidential or may request this information at a later date. The Program will release this information directly to the patient/client or parent. The patient/client retains the right to refuse treatment by a student.

Request for Physical Therapy Services from Faculty

As educators, academic and clinical faculty may not provide professional physical therapy services for students or volunteers. The rationale behind this policy is to avoid potential conflicts of interest as described in the APTA Code of Ethics. Faculty may provide emergency care and offer suggestions/advice regarding an appropriate external healthcare provider with whom the individual may wish to consult. In certain instances, a faculty member may demonstrate examination and/or treatment interventions to a student or volunteer during a class session for educational purposes.

Student Representatives on Committees

The DPT Program values its students' input and, therefore, reserves spots for them on various committees. Students may be asked to serve on other committees/task forces, including those for the School and University, as the need arises.

Employment

Enrollment in the DPT Program is a full-time responsibility, and employment during the academic year is not recommended. For students who do choose to be employed while enrolled in the program, academic activities and requirements must always take precedence over employment activities. Missing classes for employment is not acceptable. Students should be aware that the physical therapy educational program does require occasional evening and/or Saturday classes or events.

If a student chooses to be employed in a healthcare setting, the following guidelines should be utilized:

1. DPT students employed in health care settings must not represent themselves in any way as physical therapists or as physical therapist assistants (unless duly licensed as such).
2. DPT students representing themselves as having any degree of expertise in physical therapy are in violation of state licensure laws. Such claims may result in the denial of eligibility for licensure after graduation from PT school. Refer to Indiana State licensure laws.
3. DPT students employed in a health care setting must not represent themselves as official representatives of the DPT Program.
4. DPT student liability insurance only covers students during classroom activities and during assigned clinical education experiences.
5. DPT students are advised to carefully read the job descriptions pertaining to unlicensed personnel and should not undertake responsibilities outside this description or the law relative to employment in a physical therapy setting, even if the client or employer requests one to do so.

Hazardous Materials

All chemicals and potentially hazardous materials are clearly labeled. In the Human Anatomy lab, students are provided instructions on proper procedures for safely handling materials that could include toxic chemicals. Safety considerations with regard to hazardous materials include the use of safety glasses, lab attire, and gloves, and accessibility to sinks and eye wash areas. Students are expected to adhere to the University Lab Safety Policy Manual. A copy of the manual is kept in the Anatomy lab and on the DPT Student Resources Moodle page.

Equipment Calibration and Maintenance

All equipment will be checked annually in April for safety and calibration by a certified repairman. The program administrative assistant maintains the schedule and requests the annual review. Each faculty member and student has the responsibility to report any damaged or defective equipment as soon as possible to the program administrative assistant or director. Any equipment that is found to be faulty will be immediately removed from use and labeled as defective. The equipment will be repaired as soon as feasible and appropriately labeled with the date of repair. Equipment will be repaired by the authorized service provider when appropriate or in-house if feasible. The program administrative assistant will maintain records of equipment checks and maintenance and report to the faculty as warranted.

Filing a Complaint

To provide high-quality educational experiences, the DPT Program recognizes the importance of receiving and being open to the merits of any complaint made against the program, the students, or faculty and/or staff. Student complaints involving grades, inequitable treatment, or other situations will be handled by the institution as indicated in the [Trine University Course Catalog](#). Visiting students will operate under the same handbook. Students may access the complaint form through MyPortal:
<https://myportal.trine.edu/ICS/Student/>

“Concerns” are issues that may be solved by informal means; “complaints” are issues that cannot be solved informally. Students are urged to have a direct and informal approach for settling concerns. Students are encouraged to voice concerns with the support, involvement, and/or intervention of university personnel. If concerns are not handled in a satisfactory manner, then students are urged to file a “Notice of Complaint.” The Formal Complaint Form tab is located on the students’ MyPortal page, along with all similar student information. It is convenient for all students, located in a place specifically designed for student information. Further information instructs students not to use the site for Title IX allegations and redirects them to the appropriate page.

Any complaints of sexual harassment must be handled in accordance with [Trine University's Title IX policy](#) and should be referred to the Director of Human Resources. Complaints concerning any violation of Title IX should refer to [Trine University Title IX](#).

Filing a Complaint Outside of Due Process

Complaints outside the realm of due process, such as those from professional practice education sites, employers of graduates, and the public, will be handled according to the following procedure. Retaliation against the complainant in any form is prohibited. The complaint must be submitted in writing to the Dean of the College of Health Professions and include:

- Name of the complainant (clinical education site, employer, or member of the public who initiated the complaint)

- Name of the complaine (individual against whom the complaint is voiced) and role in the incident (unprofessional behavior, inappropriate treatment of a client, or inappropriate verbal exchange between the complaine and other involved individuals).
- Date and location of incident.
- Provide a detailed description of the incident, complete with the names of all individuals involved.
- Detailed description of all actions immediately following the incident.

Complaints should be addressed to:

Dean of the Brooks College of Health Professions
Trine University
One University Avenue
Angola, Indiana 46703

Upon receipt of the complaint, the Dean will take the following steps:

- Make a judgment about the complaint to determine if it is valid.
- If warranted, make verbal contact with the complainant to ensure the appropriate action is taken to address the incident.
- Establish a meeting with the complainant, if appropriate.

Careful assessment of the situation will be made, requiring a pertinent review of all the necessary information. After assessment of the situation, the Dean will respond in writing to the complainant outlining the corrective action(s) to be taken, if warranted. If the situation remains unresolved at this level, the Vice President for Academic Affairs will be notified and will attempt to resolve the dispute. Documentation of complaints, follow-up action, and outcome will be kept on file for a period of five years in the office of the Dean.

If the Dean is the object of the complaint, the Vice President for Academic Affairs will attempt to resolve the dispute. Students maintain their right to due process by filing all complaints and grievances against the program, faculty, or staff through procedures outlined in the [Trine University Student Handbook](#)

Filing a Complaint about the Program to CAPTE

Physical therapy education programs in the United States are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), which works in conjunction with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to maintain the standards of the profession. Students, parents, patients, faculty, and other stakeholders may submit a complaint regarding the DPT Program to CAPTE. CAPTE has a mechanism to consider formal complaints about physical therapy education programs that allege a program is not in compliance with one or more of CAPTE's Evaluative Criteria or has violated any of CAPTE's expectations related to academic integrity. Trine University prohibits retaliation against the complainant in any form.

To contact CAPTE, call 703-706-3245 or e-mail accreditation@apta.org.

Further information can be found on CAPTE's website: <http://www.capteonline.org/Complaints>.