

Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to the Universidad Ana G. Méndez (UAGM)! We're excited to provide you with comprehensive information about our Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. Below, you'll find answers to some of the most commonly asked questions related to the DPT application process. If you have any additional questions or if you can't find the information you need, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Director of Admission at UAGM-Cupey Campus Ms. Iris R. Cruz Fred at iricruz@uagm.edu. We're here to assist you on your journey to becoming a movement system expert as part of our academic community.

Preparation

1. Is the GRE or any other tests required for admission?
Answer: No, we do not require any standardized test as part of the application review process.
2. Do you offer a transitional DPT degree for PTs with a master's or international degree?
Answer: No, we award the professional entry DPT degree to students who have a BS or BA degree and have completed the pre-requisites for the program. Students enroll and complete the full three-year curriculum and all clinical education requirements.
3. Do you offer an associate degree in physical therapy for people interested in being a physical therapist assistant?
Answer: No, we only award the DPT degree to students who enroll and complete the full three-year curriculum and all clinical education requirements.
4. Where can I find the application for UAGM DPT program?
Answer: The application for UAGM DPT program is completed through a central application platform called PTCAS. You can find our information [here](#) and access the application portal through: <https://ptcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
5. Are there any fees for the application?
Answer: PTCAS charges \$165 for the first program you apply to and \$65 for each additional program.
6. Is there any financial assistance for the application process?
Answer: Beginning at the start of the cycle, fee waivers are provided to qualified applicants. For more details, please visit the [PTCAS Application Fees and Fee Waivers Section](#). You can also contact PTCAS customer service 617-612-2040.

Program Requirements

7. Do I have to have all the prerequisite courses completed before I can apply?
Answer: No, you may apply before completing all prerequisite coursework. However,

75% of prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester of the year of application. For example, applicants submitting their application on February 1, 2024, must have 75% of prerequisite courses completed by December 2023. The applicant must have a grade of C or better in all prerequisite courses. All admission offers are contingent on the successful completion of required prerequisite courses before enrolling in the DPT program. We recommend applying after you have completed the majority of the required courses (especially your core science courses) to present a stronger application.

8. Is there a minimum GPA requirement for admission?

Answer: Yes, applicants must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible for admission.

9. My GPA is under the 3.0 minimum. Can I still apply?

Answer: We welcome all applications but do require a 3.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible for admission. Exceptions to that rule are very rare but possible for unique candidates who may have struggled in earlier years of schooling but have proven their academic ability with strong performance in the prerequisite courses and have excellent references, essays, and physical therapy experiences.

10. Should I repeat courses that I made C's in?

Answer: You should only retake courses if you can't possibly improve your GPAs by taking additional coursework in a given subject area. If you retake a course, we will use the highest grade earned to calculate the GPA.

11. I didn't do well early in my scholastic career. Will that count against me?

Answer: When your record is evaluated, all grades earned are noted and also when the courses were taken. Trends of grades over time are important. Your last 60 hours GPA is an important criteria in the admission review process.

12. I graduated a long time ago, will I have to retake any course work?

Answer: We have no time limitations on when prerequisites are completed, so older courses can fulfill the requirements. Retaking courses may be beneficial if you need to refresh your knowledge in a subject to be prepared for the DPT curriculum. The content of coursework completed in chemistry, physics, and physiology more than 10 years prior to the application deadline will be accepted if validated by an appropriate mechanism determined by the Admissions Committee. This may be demonstrated in that the information has been used on a regular basis in your job or life-related activities or by CLEP Exam or credit by examination.

13. Will the courses I've taken at another university transfer to UAGM?

Answer: No, unless you are expecting to earn an undergraduate degree from UAGM, the prerequisite courses earned elsewhere are not entered as part of your academic record at UAGM. Those courses are used only to make admissions decisions to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program and evaluated by the Department of Physical Therapy to determine if they will adequately prepare you for success in this curriculum.

14. Does it matter where I went to school?

Answer: No, if you attended an accredited academic institution. Courses from any regionally accredited institution are acceptable for the prerequisites.

Because there is no measure of the quality of education experiences offered in each program of each university, all programs are regarded as equal. We recognize community college courses are often the best option, especially for applicants who are changing careers or in need of a few courses that were not offered at their degree institution. Completing some of the prerequisites, especially the core sciences, at a four-year institution will strengthen your application and better prepare you for the rigor of the DPT curriculum at UAGM. Online courses are acceptable except for the laboratory component for the Anatomy course. Lab work in Anatomy must be completed in an actual laboratory setting.

15. Will my high school AP credits fulfill the prerequisites?

Answer: Yes, AP credit(s) may satisfy prerequisites if the credit can be confirmed via your college or university transcript or other official documentation. This may be important for the language prerequisites.

16. Should I take Anatomy through the Kinesiology department or through the Biology or Anatomy department?

Answer: Taking an Anatomy course through the Biology or Anatomy department will best prepare you for the DPT curriculum.

17. What is the best major?

Answer: No specific major is required. Students have entered with degrees in psychology, biology, exercise science, chemistry, religion, music, philosophy, rehabilitation counseling, ornamental horticulture, and agriculture to name only a few. This DPT program and the profession will be stronger and more enriched by being made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds. You should major in whatever area of study you enjoy most. Allow yourself to explore a wide range of different interests early in your college career. When you find something you enjoy, chances are you will do well in it. Let your own curiosity be your guide.

18. Do I need to be bilingual to be accepted into the program?

Answer: While students are not expected to be fully bilingual, they should possess at least basic reading, writing and conversational skills in both English and Spanish to effectively navigate the program's requirements. Once students enroll in the program, they will have access to tutoring services and language exchange experiences to support students in improving their language skills. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the language expectations for the program, please contact Dra. Carmen Ramos, the DPT faculty Admissions Coordinator, at camramos@uaqm.edu.

19. Are there any pre-requisites specific for language (Spanish/English)?

Answer: Yes, the language prerequisites of English and Spanish vary depending on

the primary language use for instruction at the institutions where you attended college for your undergraduate degree.

- 2 semesters of English (for students who hold degrees from institutions where Spanish is the primary language of instruction)
- 2 semesters Spanish (for students who hold degrees from institutions where English is the primary language of instruction)
- 2 semesters of English **and** Spanish (for students who hold degrees from institutions where is the primary language of instruction is NOT English nor Spanish)

If an applicant believes they can demonstrate language proficiency through other mechanisms (i.e., AP tests, work experience, etc.), please contact Dra. Carmen Ramos, the DPT Admissions Coordinator, at camramos@uagm.edu.

Program Details

20. If I am accepted into the DPT program at UAGM, can I specialize in sports medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics, or any other area?

Answer: All entry-level DPT curriculums are designed to prepare you as a generalist in physical therapy. You will be prepared to practice in any area of physical therapist practice. If you wish to specialize following graduation, you may do so, either by taking continuing education courses or by enrolling in a post-professional residency program at UAGM or one of the many other colleges and universities offering such programs to prepare you to sit for your post DPT specialization examination.

21. Do residents of Puerto Rico get preferential treatment?

Answer: If, during the final evaluation of candidates, two prospective students are equally qualified, the local candidate from Puerto Rico will be offered the position as a means for the Department to meet its mission of improving access to physical therapist care on the island. All applicants however are welcome to apply for admission.

Observation Hours

22. How many hours of PT-related observation are required?

Answer: We do not have a minimum of observation hours required; however, we encourage you to experience physical therapy in a variety of environments. You need to have explored as many aspects of the field as you can to get a feel for the profession. Is the profession really what you thought it was before you started experiencing it? Do you like the PT's you've met? Would you look forward to going to work every day?

Program Schedule

23. Can I attend the DPT program part-time?

Answer: No, the entry-level professional curriculum is a full-time program and designed to be completed in 3 years.

24. Can I attend the DPT program online?

Answer: No, the program is designed to be in person to ensure hands-on training and interaction with faculty and peers, that are integral components of our curriculum.

25. Is the DPT program offered in the evening or at night?

Answer: No, the program is specifically designed to be held during daytime hours.

26. Can I work while I'm in the DPT program?

Answer: Working while pursuing your degree is a difficult task. There is very little time available outside of class and study time. We understand that students may have financial responsibilities that they need to meet. We strongly encourage applicants to reach out so that they can have clear understanding of the possibilities related to financial aid at UAGM.

27. When does the program start, and when would I graduate?

Answer: The program begins each August, usually starting the first week. The program is designed to be completed in 3 years, including 2 summers. You will graduate in June of your third academic year.

Educational Costs

28. How much does it cost to obtain a PT degree at UAGM?

Answer: For information regarding tuition rates at UAGM, please check the prospective student section on the DPT [website](#) or reach out to the [Office of Financial Assistance](#). Cost of attendance is subject to change at the beginning of each academic year.

29. Are there scholarships available?

Answer: There are scholarships available through the Department of Physical Therapy. Additionally, you can contact the Financial Aid Office to inquire about other opportunities.

30. What about work-study possibilities?

UAGM offers work-study to DPT students, students are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office. Positions involve less than 10 hours per week and are scheduled around the student's class schedule. Applications are competitive and completed at the beginning of each academic year.

The Department of Physical Therapy offers a peer tutoring service for 1st and 2nd year students. Second and third year DPT students may apply to be teaching assistants for select courses.

Housing

31. Where do students live?

Answer: Students live in apartments in the local area. Contact the [Quality of Life Office](#) for further information.

32. Can you help me find a roommate?

Answer: Students seeking roommates can ask that their name and contact information be placed on a list that is distributed to the whole class. Students then contact one another about arrangements.

Job Opportunities

33. What are the prospects for employment upon graduation?

Answer: Graduates easily find employment. When students approach graduation, we will provide support related to employment and job opportunities. The populations requiring physical therapy services are increasing and will continue to grow. For the latest information on how health care reform is affecting the profession of physical therapy, please visit the website for the American Physical Therapy Association (<https://jobs.apta.org/>).

34. Can I own a private practice clinic?

Answer: Yes, there are opportunities for those wishing to open their own practice. Visit The American Physical Therapy Association's private practice section for more information.

Clinical Practice

35. When do I go to clinic?

Answer: Students participate in integrated clinical education experiences during their first two years in the program. During the third year of the program, students complete three full-time clinical education experiences during two semesters for a total of 32 weeks.

36. Where are the clinics located?

Answer: Integrated clinical education experiences are in Puerto Rico with most of them located in Puerto Rico's metropolitan areas. The full-time clinical experiences occur in clinical settings in Puerto Rico. Limited opportunities for clinical experiences in the continental United States will be available, students interested in these opportunities should contact the Director of Clinical Experiences.

37. Who decides where I will go for clinic?

Answer: The faculty assigns students for the integrated clinical experiences. For full-time clinical education experiences, students provide input on their desired clinics along with their personal learning goals, interests, and needs to the Director of Clinical Education (DCE). This information is considered when the DCE matches students to available clinical placements.

38. Are room and board provided at the far away clinical sites?

Answer: The costs of room and board are the responsibility of the student. In rare occasions, clinical sites can offer varying degrees of assistance to students.

PT License

39. Do I have to be licensed to practice PT?

Answer: Yes, all states in the US and Puerto Rico require Physical Therapists to be licensed to practice.

40. Is there a licensure examination?

Answer: Yes, there is. It is a national examination used by all states and Puerto Rico. The exam is under the authority of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Graduates may take the exam by appointment at any of the designated testing sites.