



**NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE**

Doctor of  
Physical Therapy

### Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a developing program?
  - A developing program is one that has not yet received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The North Central College Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will apply for Candidacy status on June 1, 2022 and be notified in late Fall, 2022 whether they have achieved Candidacy status. If yes, students will be enrolled in January of 2023. If Candidacy status is not granted, students who planned to enroll in January of 2023 will be notified of this decision and be offered admission into the charter class when Candidacy is achieved. The program is working closely with a consultant with 30+ years of experience with CAPTE to help ensure success on the Candidacy application for a January 2023 start.
  - The program will apply for initial accreditation status in the Fall of 2024, with a decision prior to graduate of the Charter class in May of 2025. All students enrolled in the program during the Candidacy phase are considered graduates of an accredited program regardless of the outcome of the initial accreditation decision.
- Does North Central College offer a freshman direct entry option?
  - The short answer is no, but there is an equivalent option! Our philosophy is that we want undergraduate students to be undergraduate students, to take the classes they want to take, do the activities they want to do, and explore themselves and the world like every undergraduate should do. We each only get to be an undergraduate once and it is the time of life to be and do what we want to do to learn more about ourselves, the world, and our future! What we offer instead is the [NCC DPT Guarantee](#). Any North Central College student or graduate who meets the requirements of our NCC DPT Guarantee will be guaranteed admission to the program. With this option, undergraduate students can still explore all they wish to explore as undergraduates while still keeping their eye on the prize of automatic entry into the DPT program at North Central College.
- Is the GRE required?
  - The GRE is not required for application to the North Central College DPT program. There is little evidence to suggest performance on the GRE predicts success as a physical therapist. However, an applicant may choose to submit GRE scores along with a statement of why their GRE is as, or more representative of academic success than their GPA. The faculty of the DPT program recognize we all have different experiences that may affect our GPA. Should an applicant feel their GRE is an indicator of their ability to succeed, we welcome them to submit their GRE with an explanation of why they believe it is an indicator of their ability to succeed in the DPT program.
- Is the North Central College DPT Program using PTCAS?

- Yes, the North Central College DPT program is using [PTCAS](#).
- Is the application process different for North Central College students vs. applicants from other institutions?
  - No, the application process is not different for North Central College students. The faculty of the North Central College DPT Program believe North Central College students should all experience the same opportunities as part of the DPT educational experience and that begins with the application process. Completing an application for PT school is part of the journey to becoming an excellent physical therapist and can be a time of important self-reflection. This experience is equally valuable to all students, regardless of where they achieve their undergraduate degree.
- Does North Central College do interviews?
  - The faculty of the North Central College DPT Program have decided to not do interviews. There is no clear evidence in physical therapy that an interview predicts success as a physical therapist. Additionally, although we know someone can perhaps represent themselves well in an interview, we also know that nervousness, anxiety, and implicit bias can affect the interview experience. Rather than completing a formal interview, the DPT faculty have decided to use the [CASPer test](#) as a way to further explore affective characteristics of applicants. The program will also provide applicants with the opportunity to engage with faculty and future colleagues while starting to set the course for their education at North Central College through on-campus and/or virtual activities hosted by DPT faculty. Information about these opportunities can be found on the How to Apply tab.
- Why has the North Central College DPT program decided to use the [CASPer Test](#)?
  - The faculty of the North Central College DPT program have decided to use the CASPer test to gain insight to our applicants on traits beyond grades. We strongly believe there is more to an applicant than their test scores. The CASPer Test will provide insight into the applicants in the areas of collaboration, communication, empathy, equity, ethics, motivation, problem solving, professionalism, resilience, and self-awareness.
- How many students are admitted into the program each year?
  - Our anticipated class size each year is 48 students. We believe this size cohort is small enough for faculty, staff, and students to still get to know each other well, yet large enough to have diversity of thought, culture, body structure, and personality to enhance learning opportunities.
- Will you accept Pass/No Pass grades for prerequisites?
  - Typically, the DPT Program will not accept Pass/No Pass grades for prerequisites. However, we have altered our policy for courses taken Pass/No Pass due to the pandemic. We encourage applicants who have questions specific to their personal situation to reach out to Graduate Admissions at 630-637-5555 or [northcentralpt@noctrl.edu](mailto:northcentralpt@noctrl.edu)

- Although the program does not typically accept Pass/No Pass grades for prerequisites, our curriculum is based on a Pass/No Pass approach to assessment. We recognize the value of this type of assessment to the overall learning process. Therefore, if an applicant has graduated from an institution that does not use a typical A-F grading system for undergraduate grades, we encourage that applicant to reach out to Graduate Admissions at 630-637-5555 or [northcentralpt@noctrl.edu](mailto:northcentralpt@noctrl.edu) to further discuss the application process.
- Are observation hours required for application to the DPT program?
  - We do not require observation hours to apply to the DPT program at North Central College. The faculty feel applicants who have completed observation hours, worked as a rehabilitation aide, or have had other physical therapy experience are likely to be better prepared to answer application questions and feel more connected to their future profession at the start of their educational training. However, faculty also recognize it is not feasible for all applicants to have the same opportunities to observe, work in a physical therapy setting, or have other physical therapy experiences. Therefore, we have made the decision to not require such hours. Instead, have provided links on our Resource page to assist applicants with learning more about physical therapy through alternative methods.
- Does the North Central College DPT Program accept baccalaureate degrees from international universities?
  - Unfortunately, we are not accepting baccalaureate degrees from international universities during the 2021-2022 application cycle. This decision may change with future cycles.
- Can I still apply if my prerequisite classes were taken greater than 5 years ago?
  - Yes, we do not have an expiration date on prerequisite courses.
- Does North Central College have a gross anatomy/dissection class?
  - No, North Central College will not be teaching anatomy using the traditional gross anatomy dissection model. Rather, the DPT Program will be using Anatontage tables and models to teach anatomy. Gross anatomy dissection has historically been an important component of DPT education. However, as physical therapists, we do not engage in surgery, and thus, the skill of dissection itself is not necessary to the development of excellent clinicians, educators, scholars, and leaders. Additionally, by using technology to teach anatomy, we are better able to integrate the content throughout the 2.5 years of the curriculum, rather than isolated to one semester.
- How will graduates of North Central College's DPT Program be better prepared to be practicing clinicians?
  - We have created a curriculum that is unique and designed to develop excellent clinicians, educators, scholars, and leaders dedicated to serving society as movement system experts. Our focus is on the liberal arts and movement science, a unique combination. We also approaching learning a different way, using a Pass/No Pass

approach to learning that will allow us to really focus on what matters, helping students succeed at becoming the physical therapist they want to be. The focus will be on competence in all expected areas rather than on grades. We also are using technology to provide more flexibility to learning for students, while also helping students be prepared to use that same technology in the clinic as is expected of current and future health care workers. The program is a traditional in-person program, but we are leveraging technology in the learning process in a positive way. A review of website content may provide additional insight into the uniqueness of our program in preparing physical therapists of the future. We also encourage prospective applicants to reach out with questions at Graduate Admissions at 630-637-5555 or [northcentralpt@noctrl.edu](mailto:northcentralpt@noctrl.edu)

- How will the DPT program at North Central College better prepare students to pass the NPTE licensure exam?
  - North Central College faculty are dedicated to assisting our graduates in being successful in passing the licensure exam. Faculty will cover the content we expect is important for success on the board exam. Students will use computerized testing that more closely mimics the testing environment of the NPTE licensure exam. We also will work with cohorts to set up a licensure prep course as desired and provided additional direction on how else to feel most prepared. These are all concrete things the program is dedicated to doing to assist with licensure success. HOWEVER, the faculty of the North Central College DPT program also see the licensure exam as the floor of our expectations, not the ceiling. Although we expect our students to be well prepared to pass the board exam, we also expect them to be prepared to do much more. To use driving as an analogy, the minimum you need to drive is a license. But if you want to win the Indy 500, you need to be far more prepared than what is expected of you on the Illinois driver's exam. We see education the same way. We will help our students to pass the exam, but we want them to be so much more than what the licensure exam represents. We want our students to be excellent clinicians, scholars, educators and leaders dedicated to serving society as movement system experts!