

# Physical Therapy

*Physical therapy is an exciting health profession that offers great personal satisfaction and unique professional rewards.*

*The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at St. Ambrose is an entry-level graduate program that prepares physical therapists to meet the demands of clinical practice now and in the future. Building upon St. Ambrose's long history of liberal arts studies, the DPT program is distinguished by a rich environment of academic excellence, top-flight clinical experiences and a sense of community, respect and friendship among students, faculty and staff.*

## Contact us

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 Department Web site at  
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 For general information about  
 St. Ambrose or how to apply:  
 Admissions Office  
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627  
 email: [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu)  
[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Accreditation

The entry-level DPT program at St. Ambrose is accredited through 2010 by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, a division of the American Physical Therapy Association. The curriculum is responsive to evolving trends in healthcare, with annual reviews to keep up with changing health care needs.

## Degrees offered and required credit hours

Applicants choose one of three possible admissions tracks, with Track I designated for high school seniors enrolling at St. Ambrose. Each year up to 15 high school seniors are granted placement in Track I positions, conditionally reserving them a place in the DPT class that will commence with their senior year in college.

Track I students utilize a "3+2.5" plan of study (three years of undergraduate work plus two-and-a-half years in the DPT program). Students accepted into Track I apply their first year DPT courses toward completion of their St. Ambrose undergraduate degree. Acceptance as a Track I student is contingent upon completion of the Track I /Phase A prerequisites. The Track I student will be guaranteed admission into the DPT program if all Phase B requirements are met by January 15 of their junior year. Students who do not meet advancement criteria remain eligible to apply to the program through Track II or Track III.

Students interested in Track I must apply by February 15 during their senior year in high school. For detailed information on prerequisites and other degree requirements, visit [www.sau.edu/pt](http://www.sau.edu/pt).

## Financial assistance

The DPT program uses undergraduate work-study students and a limited number of graduate assistantships are available to students in the program. The majority of students in the DPT program rely primarily on student loans for funding their degree. Some scholarships are available specifically for Physical Therapy students, and students are informed of regional and national scholarship opportunities as they become available. Faculty and staff provide letters of recommendation for eligible students upon request.

## Resources, internships and co-curricular activities

Physical Therapy classes are enriched through the assistance of guest speakers from collaborative disciplines. Students can choose clinical placements from a pool of more than 400 sites, including general and specialized practice settings, and gain 35 weeks of full-time clinical experience during their studies. DPT students at St. Ambrose also have opportunities to conduct clinical research and attend professional meetings.

The Student Physical Therapy Organization at St. Ambrose facilitates ways for Physical Therapy students to meet and enriches their relationship with classmates and professors through professional, social, fundraising, and philanthropic activities. Members also participate in state, regional and national physical therapy conferences.

## Career prospects

Although many of SAU's PT graduates take positions in Iowa, Illinois and surrounding states, our alumni practice throughout the U.S., from Orlando, Fla., to Eugene, Ore., and in such settings as schools, orthopedic and sports clinics, and hospitals.

St. Ambrose Physical Therapy graduates have recently earned a first-time pass rate of 100 percent above the national rate on the National Physical Therapist Examination for licensure.

## About the faculty

**Bryon Ballantyne** PT, PhD, Assistant Professor

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Teaches human gross anatomy and functional anatomy as well as issues in research, evidence-based practice, and assists in kinesiology/biomechanics. His clinical experience is mainly in the area of outpatient orthopaedics. Prof. Ballantyne has received recognition for accomplishments in clinical research and authored several research articles related to motor control and biomechanics of lower extremity injuries.

**John Barr** PT, PhD, Professor

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Teaches in professional development, neuroscience and geriatrics-related courses. He is the author of textbook chapters concerned with TENS, instrumentation and pain management for the elderly. Dr. Barr is a former president of the Iowa Physical Therapy Association and Foundation, and received the Olive Farr Distinguished Service Award from the IPTA and the Lucy Blair Service Award from APTA. He currently is president of the Section on Geriatrics-APTA, on the editorial board of The Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy, and co-editor of the Geriatric Rehabilitation Manual.

**Sandra Cassady** PT, PhD, FAACVPR, Professor, Program Director

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Program director and teaches cardiopulmonary physical therapy, exercise physiology and part of the research curriculum. She is past editor of The Cardiopulmonary Journal and past associate editor of the Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy. Prof. Cassady has written numerous articles, chapters and abstracts on topics related to cardiopulmonary physical therapy. She has received several professional awards for teaching, research and professional service. She is a fellow of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation and served on the board of directors for this national organization.

**Barbara Ehrmann** PT, MPT, MBA, Adjunct Instructor

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Coordinates lectures in pathology and medical management, and assists in human gross anatomy and functional anatomy. Her clinical experiences include inpatient care, outpatient care and industrial medicine settings. She serves as a member of the Advisory Board of Iowa Physical Therapy Association's Southeast District.

**Kevin Farrell** PT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT, Professor

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Chair of the Post-Professional Programs, including both the Transition DPT Program and Orthopaedic Clinical Residency Program. Teaches kinesiology/biomechanics, applied anatomy, and orthopaedics. Dr. Farrell is a board certified orthopaedic clinical specialist and a Fellow in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists. He continues in part-time clinical practice and has interest in research related to manual therapy and ergonomic risk factors.

**Lynn Frank** PT, MPT, NCS, ACCE, Assistant Professor

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Collaborates in implementing individual student plans for clinical education, assists with neuromuscular therapeutics, and coordinates the course on management of the medically complex patient. Her clinical experiences include acute care and rehabilitation as well as pediatric consultation. She is a board certified neurologic clinical specialist, is certified in neurodevelopmental treatment for adults with hemiplegia, and is a credentialed trainer for APTA's Clinical Instructor Credentialing program.

**Susan Hartung** PT, MA, ACCE, Adjunct Assistant Professor

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Assists students with individualized plans for clinical education. Her clinical experiences include acute care in metropolitan tertiary care center, adult neurological rehabilitation, pediatrics in schools, and overseas teaching and practice. She is an APTA credentialed clinical instructor and serves as a member of the Iowa Consortium for Clinical Education.

**Kathie Lampe** PT, MPT, CWS, FCCWS, Assistant Professor

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Teaches PT procedures, physical agents, patient care issues, and the integument course. She is a certified wound specialist and has authored abstracts, articles, book reviews, and a book chapter on wound evaluation. She also practices in an area clinic.

**Mark Levsen** PT, MA, OCS, FAAOMPT, Assistant Professor

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Teaches Musculoskeletal Therapeutics I and II, Orthotics and Prosthetics, and Differential Diagnosis. He currently practices part-time in orthopaedic physical therapy settings. A clinical specialist in sports and orthopaedics, he is a Fellow in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists.

**Michael Puthoff** PT, PhD, Assistant Professor

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Teaches cardiopulmonary therapeutics, exercise physiology, PT procedures, and presents on topics in geriatrics. His research interest includes measuring function in older adults and the benefits of exercise and physical activity for older adults. His clinical practice includes work in nursing homes and in the outpatient setting focusing on older adults with chronic health conditions. He is a member of the Iowa Physical Therapy Association Board of Directors and a two time recipient of the American Physical Therapy Association Section on Geriatrics Adopt-A-Doc award.

**Nora Riley** PT, MA, NCS, Assistant Professor

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Teaches neuromuscular therapeutics. Her clinical practice focuses on neurological disorders including stroke, brain injury, balance and dizziness disorders, multiple sclerosis, and spinal cord injury. She is board certified in neurologic PT, has a certificate of competency in evaluation and treatment of vestibular disorders, and is certified in neurodevelopmental treatment for adults with hemiplegia.