Welcome to the Marion Campus

The Emory & Henry College Marion Campus is located 16 miles north of the main campus in Emory, Virginia, on the grounds of the former Smyth County Community Hospital. The building that houses the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program includes offices, classrooms and laboratories, including an anatomy lab. It is adjacent to a multi-story facility that will house future programs in the health sciences as well as student housing. Just down the street is the Marion Lifetime Wellness Center, which provides fitness equipment and recreational opportunities for E&H health science students as well as other members of the community. Emory & Henry received financial support from the Smyth County Community Foundation, the Town of Marion, Smyth County, the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission. Other important partners in the project have been Mountain States Health Alliance, Smyth County Community Hospital and the Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County.

The Landscape

The Town of Marion boasts historic sites such as the Frances Marion Hotel, The Lincoln Theatre and Marion Downtown!, a certified Virginia Main Street Community, which is home to art galleries and unique restaurants and shops. The Artwalk, Music on the Porch, a concert series and farmers market are highlights of the summer months. Marion also has its own nationally syndicated television series: Song of the Mountains is both a live stage show at The Lincoln Theatre and a continuing series on Public Television (PBS).

Surrounding the town is a host of outdoor recreational opportunities including Hungry Mother State Park featuring a 108-acre lake with facilities for swimming, camping and hiking, and such amenities as a restaurant, convention center and rental cabins. The Hungry Mother Arts & Crafts Festival brings tourists from all over the East in mid-July. The nearby Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, one of the largest public recreation areas in the Eastern United States, encompasses 150,000 acres and is one of the most bio-diverse regions in America. It is named for Mount Rogers, the highest peak in Virginia at 5,729 feet and includes 78 miles of the Appalachian Trail.
The Emory & Henry Commitment

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program is a new graduate discipline housed on the Emory & Henry College campus in Marion, Va. The three-year program consists of 116 credit hours of coursework including three full-time internships at affiliated clinical sites. Upon the completion of the Program, graduates will be awarded the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

The mission of the Program is to prepare competent, caring and knowledgeable physical therapists who practice ethically and effectively and who are prepared to demonstrate intellectual engagement with local, national and international professional communities.

In the tradition of Emory & Henry College, the DPT Program strives for excellence in educating practitioners who become critical thinkers and are proficient in meeting the challenges of the health care environment and needs of patients locally and across the nation.

DPT Program

The DPT degree is a post-baccalaureate degree that indicates an individual’s successful completion of a doctoral-level physical therapy program.

Students enter the DPT Program with a bachelor’s degree that includes the completion of 47 credit hours of prerequisite coursework. The coursework in the professional program is organized into curricular themes, with the emphasis in the first year on the basic and foundational sciences, introductory clinical skills, and applied clinical sciences. The emphasis in the second and third years is on advanced integration of clinical skills and critical inquiry necessary to prepare knowledgeable and competent physical therapists. Threaded throughout the curriculum are courses in professional issue where learning experiences, including service-learning, foster the development of the characteristics essential to assuming the role of a competent and caring professional. The clinical internship experiences allow students to engage in physical therapy practice under the supervision and guidance of experienced and credentialed practitioners.

Clinical Settings

Our unique location in picturesque Southwest Virginia affords abundant opportunities for small-community healthcare practice, while our clinical affiliations with healthcare settings nationwide allow students to explore a variety of physical therapy practice settings across the nation. Additionally, the program emphasis on service learning is an excellent opportunity for students to enhance their learning through providing clinical services at local, national and international settings.

Admissions Requirements

Admission to the DPT Program requires having earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75, 3.0 in the prerequisite courses (listed below), at least 40 observation hours under a licensed physical therapist and completion of the Graduate Record Examination, taken within five years prior to being admitted. An updated resume and three letters of recommendation from three professionals must also be submitted. Details of the admission process are elaborated in the application packet available from the Admissions Office.

Recommended GRE Scores:

- For GRE taken before Aug. 1, 2011: combined score of 1000 for Verbal and Quantitative sections and a 3.5 on the analytical writing.
- For GRE taken on or after Aug. 1, 2011: combined score of 300 for Verbal and Quantitative sections and a 3.5 on the analytical writing.

The prerequisite courses are shown in the table below. Applicants should have successfully completed all of the prerequisites, either as part of their baccalaureate degree or independently, prior to being admitted into the Program.

**Pre-calculus or above; if pre-calculus is a two-part course, both parts must be completed**

Career Opportunities

Employment of physical therapists is expected to grow much faster than the average for all other occupations through 2014, and was identified as an “Excellent Career” in 2006 by U.S. News & World Report. The demand for physical therapists should continue to rise as a result of growth in the number of individuals with disabilities or functional limitations. Physical therapists held about 155,000 jobs in 2005. About 60% of physical therapists were employed in hospitals or private practice. Other jobs were in home health agencies, outpatient rehabilitation centers, private practice offices and clinics of physicians and nursing homes. Many physical therapists are self-employed, while others teach in academic institutions or conduct research.

About Physical Therapy

Physical therapists (PTs) work with patients who have impairments, limitations, disabilities or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease or other causes. Their role includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis and interventions toward achieving the highest functional outcomes for each patient or client.

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Cover photos and photos on this page were taken at Lebanon Physical Therapy, Lebanon, Virginia.