Department of Physical Therapy Course Equivalence Policy

Policy Statement

This policy governs the evaluation and acceptance of courses that are presented for either prerequisite equivalence or professional coursework equivalence to the Department of Physical Therapy by students applying to enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

The Department of Physical Therapy wishes to ensure consistency and continuity in the acceptance of courses that are presented for either prerequisite equivalence or professional coursework equivalence to the Department of Physical Therapy by students applying to enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Overview

The Department Chair of Physical Therapy, working with the Admissions Director of Physical Therapy, will make all decisions regarding equivalence of courses for the purpose of prerequisite equivalence and/or professional course equivalence. Persons with questions or concerns about the equivalence of courses for the purpose of prerequisite equivalence should contact the Admissions Director of Physical Therapy. Persons with questions or concerns about professional course equivalence should contact the Department Chair of Physical Therapy.

The student applying for prerequisite or professional course equivalence is responsible for providing the necessary documentation for the review.

Process/Procedures

I. Course Equivalency for Prerequisite Courses

Students with questions or concerns about the equivalence of courses should contact the Department of Physical Therapy via phone at 913-758-4398, or via email at dpt@stmary.edu

1. Coursework for prerequisite equivalence must be equivalent to those courses taught at the University of Saint Mary. The courses must have been taught beyond the level of secondary education. Courses that are remediation of deficiencies from secondary school or from lack of preparation of the student will not be accepted for equivalence. Coursework that is more than 10 years old might not be selected for equivalence.

2. Coursework must have been earned at an institution whose academic integrity has been assured.

For institutions in the United States, such assurance is provided by the institution’s accreditation by one of the U.S. regional accrediting associations: the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the New England Association of Colleges and Schools, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
For institutions outside the United States, such assurance is provided by an approved credentials evaluation service to which applicants submit their educational credentials.

Coursework taken at US institutions that are not regionally accredited may be evaluated for equivalence subject to the satisfaction of the Department Chair of Physical Therapy working with the Director of Admissions in the Department of Physical Therapy. Evaluation will focus on the level of instruction and applicability to the USM prerequisite course.

3. In certain cases, the transfer of credit may be awarded based, in part, on the student's performance on an examination prepared by the Department of Physical Therapy.

II. Equivalency Policy for Courses in the DPT Curriculum

Courses submitted by a student for DPT graduate course equivalency are subject to review as described above. The individual applying for the transfer equivalency is responsible for providing the necessary documentation for the review. Transfer credit, if awarded, is authorized as described above. It should be noted that the Department of Physical Therapy might not allow transfer credit for courses completed in physical therapy educational programs at other institutions and students might have to apply as first-year Doctor of Physical Therapy students with no advanced standing. In certain cases, the transfer of credit may be awarded based, in part, on the student’s performance on an examination prepared by the Department of Physical Therapy.

III. Appeal Process

Transfer credit decisions may be appealed in writing, to include a course syllabus of the disputed course, to the Department Chair of Physical Therapy. If the Department Chair rules against the appeal, the student may appeal in writing, to include a course syllabus of the disputed course, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, who is the final authority.

Department of Physical Therapy Contacts:
   Phone: 913-758-4398
   Email: dpt@stmary.edu

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