If physical therapy is your calling, the doctor of physical therapy degree is the industry standard for practicing physical therapists. With a large and expanding aging population, physical therapy is a high demand field and provides a way to help people overcome or manage impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities. Our DPT program will give you the didactic, psychomotor, and behavioral attributes that you need to be a successful physical therapist. Fundamental to our curriculum is a core set of values that gives clarity to the choices you make and experience as a practicing DPT.

USM will train you to become a competent practicing physical therapist by developing your God-given potential while inspiring you to serve the needs of others. In keeping with the spirit of our founders, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, we recognize society's ever-growing need for more and better-trained health care professionals—and we work to meet that need through dynamic, hands-on programs designed to help our students excel.

USM's DPT program is a continuous nine-semester program, incorporating 117 credit-hours with 32 weeks of clinical internship. The DPT program is heavily value-driven, and faculty members use the core values during class as guideposts to the most appropriate application of the material to be of the greatest benefit to patients and clients.

"Upon graduation from the USM DPT program, our students will have the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to become entry-level physical therapy professionals who are fully perceptive and responsive to the needs of patients, clients, colleagues, and the larger community."

—Dr. Mark Horacek, USM DPT Program Director

Graduates of USM’s DPT program will practice physical therapy at entry-level competencies consistent with the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice and the American Physical Therapy Association’s Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, and Guide for Professional Conduct. USM graduates will also be committed to life-long learning, service to others, and excellence.

Effective May 2, 2012, the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Saint Mary has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program is progressing toward accreditation.

You may email Dr. Horacek at horacek03@stmary.edu if you have any questions about the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Saint Mary.

Learn more about the USM DPT at www.stmary.edu/DPT