



EVIDENCE
IN MOTION

Postprofessional DPT (Transition)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is EIM offering a Postprofessional DPT diploma program?

EIM supports APTA's Vision 2020, that physical therapy will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy. As the PT scope of practice evolves, the knowledge gap between Bachelor and Master's program curricular requirements continues to expand. EIM feels strongly that postprofessional DPT programs provide physical therapists with a structured mechanism to bridge this gap, update their knowledge with evidence-based patient management principles, and prepare themselves for the future of our PT profession.

Is there a standardized curriculum for all postprofessional DPT program?

Although there are no external accreditation standards for the postprofessional or transitional DPT, institutions offering this program do have guidance through APTA's Preferred Curricular Guide for Postprofessional DPT programs. Each institution offering a postprofessional DPT program decides the degree to which they will follow this guideline. EIM fully supports the Preferred Curricular Guide and has used this standard as the basis upon which to establish the curricula for the postprofessional DPT. Many postprofessional DPT programs market their program as being "endorsed" by APTA based upon their compliance with the Preferred Curricular Guide. Nonetheless, the variation among curricula and credit requirements across various postprofessional DPT programs is immense and depends on the program and the extent to which programs grant equivalency credits for work experience, transfer credits, etc.

EIM's Postprofessional DPT offering combines a variety of clinical management and business courses to create a unique and dynamic learning experience for each participant. Many of our programs, include the four 4-credit hour clinical management courses, our 2-credit hour musculoskeletal imaging and medical screening courses, and our 1-credit hour pharmacology/clinical lab tests and evidence based practice courses, are also key components of EIM's APTA credentialed orthopaedic residency and fellowship programs. Additionally, EIM includes a 2-credit hour course in business management and marketing principles for the physical therapist (US program only). The nine courses within the EIM

postprofessional DPT program are comprised of 28 credit hours of didactic work and 64 hours of lab instruction and hands-on practice.

As stated previously, the Preferred Curricular Guide served as the foundation for EIM's Postprofessional DPT. Rather than adding stand-alone courses to address every content area, the following topics are integrated within and throughout the postprofessional DPT curriculum: 1) physical therapy care for patients across the lifespan, 2) health and wellness principles; 3) differential diagnosis concepts involving the neurologic system, cardio-pulmonary system, and other body systems; 4) ethics and professionalism; 5) teaching and learning. Our program is specifically designed for physical therapists who practice or have an interest in the management of patients with movement system disorders. You will find a complete list of our Postprofessional DPT offerings at www.evidenceinmotion.com

Doesn't your postprofessional DPT program have to be "accredited"?

The postprofessional DPT is certainly one of the most misunderstood concepts within our own profession. Accreditation requirements from external organizations are dependent upon the degrees/certifications being offered. As an example, EIM is primarily focused on post-professional programs including certification tracks, residencies, fellowships, and executive management. EIM's Orthopaedic and Sports Residencies and Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship are both credentialed by APTA as approved residency and fellowship programs, respectively. Additionally, the Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship Program is recognized by the AAOMPT (American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists, <http://www.aaompt.org/>) and therefore falls under the standards of both the AAOMPT and the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT, <http://www.ifompt.com/>).

Postprofessional DPT programs do not have external accreditation requirements. There is no postprofessional DPT program in the country accredited under a unifying organization like CAPTE or an equivalent. In other words, no larger entity has accreditation rights or the means to "bless" the programs. As long as the institution that provides the curriculum has the ability through state or regional licensing to offer post graduate diplomas, they can offer a postprofessional DPT. Federal organizations through regional accreditation to universities do not regulate the postprofessional DPT. They credential academic institutions/universities or colleges and give them the ability to offer degrees from an accredited university. This volunteer process affords an institution the right to have their students obtain Title IV funds (financial aid).

In addition to formal credentialing and recognition of EIM programs by the APTA and AAOMPT, EIM is licensed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by the State Board for Proprietary Education. Also, the EIM Institute of Health Profession's

Postprofessional DPT Program is one of several programs recognized and listed on the APTA website

(<http://www.apta.org/PostprofessionalDegree/TransitionDPTPrograms/>)

If you'd like further details surrounding accreditation and the postprofessional DPT, take a look at this blog post titled "Transitional DPT Truths" and the associated comments –

(<http://www.evidenceinmotion.com/about/blog/2009/08/transitional-dpt-truths-and-confessions/>)

Are there other universities offering the postprofessional DPT degree who are not regionally accredited?

Being licensed through the Kentucky State Board as a Proprietary Educational Organization is similar to requirements that other privately owned educational institutions must complete prior to become degree granting. As an example, the University of St. Augustine (USA) does not have institutional accreditation from one of the traditional regional accreditation governing bodies. Rather, USA is institutionally accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), which is a nationally recognized accrediting agency authorized by the U.S. Department of Education, and is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Some universities have also offered postprofessional DPT programs for several years without having a regular DPT program although they are an accredited university but not accredited by CAPTE. For instance, Rocky Mountain University has had a postprofessional DPT program for some time but only launched its entry to practice DPT program in 2010.

Is EIM's Postprofessional DPT endorsed by APTA?

The EIM Institute of Health Profession's Postprofessional DPT program is listed on the APTA website at

<http://www.apta.org/PostprofessionalDegree/TransitionDPTPrograms/>

(Onsite/Distance Tab listed under the state of Kentucky) along with other institutions who offer the postprofessional DPT.

Why doesn't the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) get involved in accrediting postprofessional DPT programs?

Obtaining a postprofessional DPT is not a requirement for licensure, which is the domain of CAPTE. Since the postprofessional DPT serves as a "bridge" providing licensed PT professionals with a bachelor or master level degree a pathway to a doctorate designation, it is, by its nature, a relatively short term or interim offering (short term meaning 10 – 20 years). While there are a good number of PT's who have taken the postprofessional DPT throughout the U.S., we believe that many more would undertake such a program if it was done in accordance with APTA's

preferred curriculum model and through hybrid training that combines online delivery with some weekend intensives in a mode that is very work/life balance friendly.

Does having a postprofessional DPT from a regionally accredited university make me more qualified to teach in an entry-level physical therapy academic program?

The DPT degree, whether entry-level or postprofessional, was never intended as an advanced academic degree in preparation for teaching as ranked faculty in a physical therapy educational program. Therefore, that is not the purpose of the EIM Postprofessional DPT which was designed to be a clinically oriented degree. Typically, academic institutions seek ranked faculty members who have “terminal doctoral degrees”, such as a PhD, DSc, etc. Individuals desiring an advanced academic degree that prepares them for teaching on a physical therapy faculty should pursue the appropriate degree (ie, PhD, DSc, etc.) based on feedback from their target institution. While some institutions with a clinical faculty appointment track recognized the postprofessional DPT for academic purposes, most require that it come from a regionally accredited institution.

Individuals who would like to teach for a first-professional DPT program should be proactive in discussing EIM’s Postprofessional DPT program with their prospective institution to determine if the institution will accept this DPT program as a “valid” DPT degree.

What if I would like to complete one of EIM’s other programs, such as the Orthopaedic Residency, Sports Residency, or Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship, and would still like to complete a postprofessional DPT?

No problem. EIM’s programs have an integrated design, meaning that they share curricula and, therefore, can be completed concurrently. This correlation between programs also enables participants the ability to transition from one program to another, creating a uniquely tailored and flexible learning experience.

What is the future of the postprofessional DPT in the US?

The number of individuals applying for most postprofessional DPT programs is on the decline, which has led to less number of institutes offering the program. In the future, there will be no need for the postprofessional DPT programs, which will be a terrific day for the profession. Additional answers to frequently asked questions about the postprofessional DPT can be found on the APTA website page about postprofessional DPT programs (<http://www.apta.org/PostprofessionalDegree/>).

Testimonials

Steve Anderson, previous President of the Private Practice Section of the APTA and CEO, Therapeutic Associates

The classes are first class; they demand involvement and learning and have the expectations and intensity that you would expect in a postgraduate level program. The only difference is that there is not a University affiliation, which in my opinion only adds bureaucracy and cost.

I'm proud to be a part of this class and feel it is of exceptional value for our PPS members and any private practice PT. I will wear my DPT proudly and hope it will be an example for others to follow an old guy like me, if I can do it, so can others!

I commend those involved in EIM for having the foresight to develop a wonderful program designed especially for someone like me who no longer treats patients but is every bit a physical therapist as when I was in the clinical setting while having passion for the profession and working hard to improve our lot in the healthcare system.

I'm a huge advocate of the program and will sing its praises to all who want to listen.

Stephen E. Anderson, PT, CEO
Therapeutic Associate
Seattle, WA

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