

GUARANTEED ENTRY PROGRAM (GEP)

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY DOCTOR of PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

The Guaranteed Entry Program (GEP) is designed for highly qualified students who intend to pursue admission to Old Dominion University's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program. Students who meet all requirements outlined below will be guaranteed a position in the DPT program for the cohort immediately following completion of their baccalaureate degree.

Application Link: https://odu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Htwq6de5AJeTf8

Academic and Application Requirements

- Completion of all prerequisite science courses at Degree Granting Institution (Advanced Placement courses accepted by ODU will also be accepted), with a minimum grade of B in each course and a cumulative science GPA of 3.5 or higher
 - Prerequisites include:
 - 8 credits of Biology with lab
 - 8 credits of Anatomy and Physiology with lab
 - 8 credits of Physics with lab
 - 8 credits of Chemistry with lab
 - General Psychology
 - Statistics
- Planned graduation from Degree Granting Institution with a baccalaureate degree and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5
- Submission of three (3) letters of recommendation, including:
 - At least one from a licensed physical therapist
 - One from a pre-PT advisor or advisory committee
- Completion of 40 hours of volunteer experience in physical therapy settings, under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist
 - Hours must be completed in at least two (2) distinct clinical settings representing different patient populations
- Submission of required essay and completion of additional statements: (maximum 750 words per response)
 - Essay: Prompt provided in the application
 - Additional statements related to the holistic admissions process (must respond to a minimum of 3)

GUARANTEED ENTRY PROGRAM (GEP)

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY DOCTOR of PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Old Dominion University employs a holistic admissions process aligned with its strategic priorities, including academic excellence, workforce readiness, community engagement, leadership, wellness, and inclusion. We value applicants who show consistent involvement, meaningful engagement, and reflection on their experiences, rather than simply the number of activities.

Applicants must show involvement in a **minimum of three (3)** of the following areas:

- **Preparation for professional practice**, including work experiences that develop responsibility, accountability, and career readiness
- **Commitment to service and community engagement**, including volunteering in healthcare settings, community organizations, or outreach initiatives
 - Applicants may include volunteer service, healthcare outreach, community engagement, service through religious/community organizations, nonprofit work, health education, or other experiences focused on serving others.
- **Leadership and collaboration**, through roles such as mentoring, team leadership, or coordinating group efforts
 - Applicants may include formal or informal leadership roles such as mentoring, supervising, coaching, organizing events, leading teams, training others, serving as an officer, or coordinating group efforts.
- **Teamwork and sustained involvement in extracurricular, team, or performance activities**, including athletics, performing arts, research teams, or other group-based activities
 - Applicants may include athletics, performing arts, student organizations, research teams, employment teams, cultural organizations, clubs, or other sustained group-based activities.
- **Lived experiences** that shape perspective and foster resilience and empathy, including caregiving responsibilities, financial or personal challenges, and cultural or linguistic diversity.
 - Applicants may describe lived experiences that shaped their perspective, resilience, empathy, or understanding of others. This may include caregiving responsibilities, financial or personal challenges, cultural or linguistic experiences, family responsibilities, or other meaningful life experiences. Applicants should share only what they are comfortable disclosing.

GUARANTEED ENTRY PROGRAM (GEP)

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY DOCTOR of PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

- **Service-oriented experiences**, including military service or family backgrounds, that foster adaptability and a commitment to serving others.
 - Applicants may include military service, ROTC, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, emergency response, caregiving in a military family, family service background, or other service-oriented experiences that fostered adaptability and commitment to serving others.

The ODU DPT Admissions committee reserves the right to withdraw guaranteed entry on the basis of applicant character in the case of conviction, violation of honor code, disciplinary action by the University, or negative references.

This agreement will be honored through June 2029.

Application Procedures

Students meeting the requirements for guaranteed entry to ODU's DPT program should follow these procedures for application.

- No later than early August of the application year, the student should meet with his or her undergraduate advisor to notify them of the intention to apply to the GEP. The advisor can then check to make sure that requirements are met and notify ODU's DPT Admission Directors to anticipate the application.
- Complete online application for graduate school via **ODU DPT Guaranteed Entry Program** <https://olddominion.tfaforms.net/217859> .The application fee is waived via this mechanism. Please note this is a specific mechanism for the DPT GEP program only; do **NOT** complete the main University Graduate School application form – there is no choice for the DPT Program.

The online link includes access to:

- A full GEP application
- Directions for submitting three letters of recommendation, including one from the student's undergraduate advisor or advisory committee recommending them for Guaranteed Entry, and one from a physical therapist.
- Essay questions provided by ODU Admissions Committee to the school advisor (this will be provided to the advisors by July 1st of each year)
- Directions for submitting unofficial transcripts from Degree Granting Institution (ODU students do NOT need to submit transcripts from ODU) or any school attended other than Degree Granting Institution.

GUARANTEED ENTRY PROGRAM (GEP)

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY DOCTOR of PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

The completed application is due by **August 15th** for admission into the class starting the following May. GEP applicants will be notified of admissions status within 2-3 weeks. It is not necessary for the student to apply through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). However, if the student is not accepted in the GEP, they may still apply to ODU DPT through PTCAS; application deadline through PTCAS is the beginning of October.

Questions about the ODU GEP can be sent to Dr. Lucas Johnson lwjohnso@odu.edu; (757) 683-5567.