

**JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**  
**GUARANTEED ENTRY PROGRAM (GEP)**  
**ODU DOCTOR of PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

This program is designed for highly qualified students attending James Madison University wishing to enter ODU's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program. Students who qualify with the requirements of this agreement will be guaranteed a position in the DPT Program at ODU to the class following completion of a baccalaureate degree.

- Have completed all prerequisite science courses at JMU -- Advanced Placement courses from high school that are accepted by JMU will also be accepted as prerequisites -- earn a minimum grade of B in science courses with a cumulative science GPA of 3.5 or above. *Prerequisite courses include 8 credits of biology with lab, 8 credits of anatomy and physiology with lab, 8 credits of physics with lab, and 8 credits of chemistry with lab, general psychology, and statistics.*
- Planned graduation from JMU with a baccalaureate degree and a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Completed the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) with scores of at least 150 each for verbal and quantitative sections, and a writing score of at least 4. Scores should be sent to ODU Graduate Admissions.
- Submit 3 letters of recommendation, with at least one from a physical therapist, and one from the pre-PT advisor or advisory committee.
- Completed 40 hours of volunteer time in a physical therapy setting. These hours must be completed in at least TWO (2) **distinctly different** PT clinics or settings (treating different patient populations). Volunteer hours must be under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist
- Essay question #1: "Why are you interested in the DPT program at Old Dominion University?" (limited to 750 words)
- Essay question #2: answer the essay question provided to your advisor from the ODU admission committee (limited to 4500 characters)

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, 2026.

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## Application Procedures

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

- By August/September of the application year, student will 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.
- Please send the following materials directly to the DPT program at:  
**Program in Physical Therapy**  
**ATTN: Guaranteed Entry Program (GEP)**  
**Old Dominion University**  
**Room 2152; Health Sciences Building**  
**Norfolk, VA 23529**
  - Official Transcripts from JMU or any school attended other than JMU.
  - The completed GEP application
  - Three letters of recommendation, including one from your undergraduate advisor or advisory committee recommending you 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 August 1 of each year)

The above materials are due to ODU by **September 15** for admission into the class starting the following June. GEP applicants will be notified of admissions status within 2-3 weeks. It is not necessary for you to apply through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). However, if you are not accepted in the GEP, you may still apply to ODU DPT through PTCAS ; application deadline is the beginning of November.

Questions about the ODU GEP can be sent to Dr. Beth Jamali [bjamali@odu.edu](mailto:bjamali@odu.edu); (757) 683-4381.

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Applicant Full Name
Address
E-mail
Phone
Race/Ethnicity (optional)
Military service? Yes ___/No ___ Branch/Rank:
Undergraduate Major
Undergraduate Cumulative GPA _____
Prerequisite GPA _____
Courses include 8 credits of biology with lab, 8 credits of physics with lab, 8 credits of chemistry with lab, 8 credits of anatomy and physiology with lab, general psychology, statistics.
GRE scores V _____ Q _____ Writing _____
If you took the GREs more than one time, please include all scores. Official GRE scores must be sent to ODU.
<b>Volunteer Experiences</b>
# hours _____ Facility _____ Patient type _____ Therapist you worked with _____ Contact info for therapist and/or facility _____
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**Reference Information:** Please have references use the graduate recommendation form located on the ODU website and enclosed in a sealed envelope with signature across the seal. Submit all recommendations with your GEP application.

<http://www.odu.edu/content/dam/odu/offices/graduate-admissions/docs/recommendation-for-graduate-admissions.pdf>

1. Reference #1 – Physical Therapist \_\_\_\_\_  
Facility name \_\_\_\_\_  
Facility address & phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Licensed PT? yes \_\_\_\_; no \_\_\_\_  
Physical therapist institution graduated from: \_\_\_\_\_  
State(s) in which licensed: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Reference #2 – Undergraduate Program Advisor \_\_\_\_\_  
Address & phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Reference #3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address & phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
In what capacity do you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever the recipient of any action by any college or university for a conduct violation?

No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please explain.

I certify that I have read and understand the application instructions and all information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

JMU Advisor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

JMU Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**ESSAY QUESTION #1:** (limit to 750 words) Explain why are you interested in applying to the DPT program at Old Dominion University?

**(PTCAS) ESSAY QUESTION #2:** (limit to 4500 characters)

\*\*Check with advisor in August for new PTCAS essay question. PTCAS Essay question subject to change each year.