

Clemson University (Clemson) – Medical University of South Carolina
(MUSC)

Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree

Student Intent to Participate Form

Part A – Description and requirements

Program purpose and description: Clemson and MUSC (through its College of Health Professions) have developed the *Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree* program aimed at reducing students' overall educational cost from undergraduate education through graduate school while retaining the most talented students in South Carolina. Clemson students, meeting all program requirements, may apply for admittance to MUSC's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree after completing 90 semester hours of undergraduate education at Clemson. Admission to the DPT program is not guaranteed; admissions decisions will be made solely by MUSC. If admitted into the DPT program, Clemson accelerated students are held to the same standards and progress guidelines as all other students in the DPT program. After successful completion of the first year of the DPT coursework (as defined by MUSC's academic standards), Clemson University will award the student an earned baccalaureate degree subject to students satisfying all applicable requirements outlined in the Clemson University Undergraduate Announcements and completion of the formal application for graduation.

Student eligibility requirements – per MUSC:

- a. Clemson students must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) following completion of their sophomore year.
- b. There is no minimum score on the GRE, but competitive scores on each section are the 60th percentile. Students are encouraged to repeat the GRE if a section score is below the 60th percentile. MUSC's DPT admissions committee will consider the highest GRE score submitted for each section. There is no penalty or negative connotation associated with multiple GRE attempts.
- c. Student's unadjusted GPA at the time of application, and until matriculation if accepted into the DPT program, must be ≥ 3.0 . The average GPA for students accepted into the program is 3.6 on a 4.0 scale.
- d. Students must complete a minimum of 90 semester credit hours at Clemson (not including any AP credits, IB credits or transfer credits) prior to matriculating at MUSC.
- e. *Required courses:* All General Education requirements must be completed prior to matriculating at MUSC. In addition, students should complete two semesters of the following courses: Chemistry for science majors, Physics for science majors, and Biology for science majors. Also, a minimum of one semester course each of Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, General Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and Statistics is required.

- f. The DPT program requires a minimum of 40 hours of observation with a licensed physical therapist. These experiences may be attained through participation in a formal Clemson internship (or similar), volunteer, or work experience.

Application process

All students in this accelerated program must complete a DPT program application, through the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS), between July 1st following their sophomore year and prior to November 15th of their junior year. Transcripts from all colleges attended must be submitted through PTCAS. Applicants will also submit two references through PTCAS: one from a physical therapist who supervised the student's clinical observations and one from a professor (or advisor) familiar with the student's academic accomplishments. Applicant interviews may be required in the future.

All students in this accelerated program must additionally complete a supplemental application, available through MUSC Office of Enrollment Management, between July 1st following their sophomore year and prior to November 15th of their junior year. Following submission of the supplemental application, he/she will be requested to complete additional information as required by the MUSC Office of Enrollment Management.

Successful applicants will be informed by March and will start the program at the end of May following their junior year.

Student responsibilities – per Clemson:

- a. The student must complete this *Intent-to-Participate* form and file it with the Clemson University Registrar's Office in room 104 Sikes Hall. Student should also notify their academic advisor that the student has submitted this Intent-to-Participate form.
- b. If after filing this *Intent-to-Participate* form the student decides to withdraw from the program or attend another college or university, the student must notify the Registrar's Office that he/she is withdrawing from this program.
- c. Be responsible for understanding and following the requirements for the Clemson and MUSC degrees, and the specific requirements for their intended major at Clemson University.
- d. Meet all eligibility requirements for the accelerated pathway program as outlined above.
- e. Follow all MUSC application for admission processes and timelines.
- f. If the student is accepted to MUSC and completes the first year of study at MUSC, a formal application for Clemson graduation must be completed; a certified MUSC transcript fully documenting completion of the first year of the DPT program will need to be sent to Clemson at student's cost.
- g. Graduation from Clemson is not guaranteed and is subject to the student meeting all applicable requirements of the Clemson University Undergraduate Announcements and successful completion of the formal application for graduation with the Registrar's Office. If all of these requirements are met, a

degree will be awarded no earlier than the August graduation after completion of the first year of the DPT program.

- h. If a student is admitted to MUSC but leaves MUSC before successfully completing the first year of the DPT program, the student may seek to transfer completed MUSC credits on a course-by-course basis using Clemson's credit transfer processes. There is no guarantee that any credits will be transferred.

Part B – Request and Advisor Acknowledgement

Student request: By signing below, I _____ ; CU identification # _____ - indicate my intent to participate in the *Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree* program. I understand that I must meet and maintain all student eligibility requirements in order to participate. I understand that admission to MUSC and graduation from Clemson University is not guaranteed.

Part C – FERPA Permission

I agree that Clemson University has my permission to share this *Intent to Participate* form, my name and contact information, my GPA and other academic records with MUSC as part of my participation in the program and for program evaluation purposes. I understand that I can request a copy of records provided to MUSC by contacting the Clemson University Registrar's Office. This FERPA permission remains in place until I revoke this permission in writing.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

Student's Academic Advisor Acknowledgement:

I understand that the student identified above desires to participate in the *Accelerated Pathway to the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree* program. He/she must meet all program requirements.

Academic Advisor's Name:

Advisor's Signature:

Date: