



Bachelor of Physiotherapy

School of Primary Health Care



Bachelor of Physiotherapy

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT) is a four-year undergraduate course within the School of Primary Health Care, in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. It is part of the health sciences program based at the Monash Peninsula campus.

Monash physiotherapy education is a fully integrated curriculum and includes interdisciplinary studies. Commencing semester one, the curriculum is structured around case-based learning. Conditions for which people typically seek physiotherapy provide the context for integrating learning about biomedical and behavioural sciences and physiotherapy skills.

In the later years of the course, the focus moves from campus-based patient scenarios to learning in a clinical environment. This provides opportunities for students to appreciate the relevance of on-going learning in the context of supervised healthcare delivery.

Monash physiotherapy education facilitates development of skills through small group learning. Other features of this degree are opportunities to experience rural healthcare delivery and Interprofessional Education (IPE). In IPE, students spend some time each semester learning and collaborating with students enrolled in other health science courses including occupational therapy, nursing, ambulance and paramedic studies and social work.

Monash physiotherapy promotes the skills required for clinical and community practice and includes education in health promotion and disease prevention, as well as traditional approaches to healthcare delivery. In recognition that this is a time of exponential growth in knowledge, the course aims to produce graduates with a flexible skill-set who are well equipped to continue learning and advancing their skills throughout their careers.



Physiotherapy students experience group learning.

Career opportunities

A degree in physiotherapy prepares you for a range of career opportunities in metropolitan, rural and remote settings. Physiotherapists may work independently or as part of a team of healthcare professionals. They work in public and private hospitals, health centres, sports medicine clinics, maternity hospitals, rehabilitation centres, aged-care facilities and in private practices, as well as in health promotion, education, management and research.

Physiotherapists practice in many specialised areas:

Animal

Treating animals with musculoskeletal problems.

Aquatic

Treating clients in water.

Cardiorespiratory

Providing healthcare services to people with heart or lung problems, including people in intensive care and following surgery as well as maintenance of cardiovascular fitness.

Education

Teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students of physiotherapy and related disciplines. All Monash graduates are prepared to provide clinical education to undergraduates.

Gerontology

Providing healthcare to older people, including maintaining fitness and maximizing physical ability.

Health and wellbeing

Design, delivery and promotion of age-specific activities for individuals or groups to promote strength, fitness and wellness in the community and prevent functional decline.

Management

Managing healthcare facilities, allied health services, and coordinating other aspects of the healthcare system.

Musculoskeletal

Healthcare delivery in sports physiotherapy, spinal physiotherapy, exercise prescription and rehabilitation following surgery.

Neurology

Healthcare services for people with neurological conditions such as stroke, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis.

Occupational health

Analysis of biomechanics in the workplace, strategic management of risks of injury in the workplace and healthcare services for injured workers.

Paediatrics

Provision of healthcare services to babies, children, adolescents and their families.

Women's health

Promoting the wellbeing of women across the lifespan, including before and after childbirth and strategies for management of incontinence.

Research

Advancing fundamental knowledge and healthcare practices.

www.monash.edu.au/pubs/handbooks/courses/3868.html

Course outline

Duration of the course

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy is a four-year degree offered on a full-time basis.

Campus

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy is offered at the Monash Peninsula campus. One day per week will usually be spent at the Monash Clayton campus in the early years of the course.

Professional registration

Following successful completion of the Bachelor of Physiotherapy, graduates will be eligible for registration by the Physiotherapists Registration Board of Victoria.

Course themes

The four-year physiotherapy curriculum incorporates five themes:

Theme 1: Personal and professional development

This theme focuses on the development of personal attributes and related skills that assist the student in the transition from student to physiotherapist. It includes verbal and written communication skills, ethics and legal issues.

Theme 2: Population, society and health

Theme 2 provides the structure to develop abilities in dealing with broader society and population health and is underpinned by an internationally accepted socio-ecological model of health.

Theme 3: Fundamental knowledge of health science

Theme 3 provides the knowledge and skills that underpin physiotherapy clinical practice. It includes basic biomedical sciences such as anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, pathology and psychology as well as clinical sciences.

Theme 4: Applied practice

Theme 4 develops clinical competencies integral to physiotherapy practice. It focuses on the incorporation of the best available research evidence with the clinical reasoning skills of assessment and care of patients within a range of environments.

Theme 5: Research

Theme 5 focuses on the knowledge and skills that are required to locate, interpret and critically evaluate research relevant to physiotherapy practice.

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy is a challenging course. Students can expect to spend significant time in self-directed learning that supports the course of study. Students will be expected to be fit to undertake the course by accepting responsibility to maintain their health and take adequate rest. Students are also expected to demonstrate respectful and responsible behaviour towards each other and staff from the time of entering the course.

Clinical education across all years of the course is compulsory. In the third- and fourth-years of study, the majority of time is spent in clinical education. Some flexibility may be required of students, both in terms of hours worked at clinics, and scheduling of clinical education.

All students can expect to experience education in a rural environment during the course. Some students will have additional rural education of 4, 12 or 15 weeks in years three and four. Students should take these matters into consideration when considering casual employment.



Students of physiotherapy on the Peninsula campus study anatomy on the Clayton campus.

Course structure

Years one and two

During the early years of the course, education in the biomedical and behavioural sciences (anatomy, biomechanics, kinesiology, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, psychology, radiology, sociology), foundations of physiotherapy practice and research are provided on-campus in the context of a patient-centred approach to learning.

All students participate in an interdisciplinary rural attachment in year one and an interdisciplinary program in year two to gain knowledge and insight into rural interdisciplinary health issues.

In addition, students will complete their First Aid Certificate as part of their studies.

Years three and four

On-campus learning continues in the early weeks of year three. The focus then changes to learning in the clinical setting. Clinical education aims to develop knowledge and practical experience in the delivery of physiotherapy services under the supervision of experienced physiotherapists.

Clinical education

Clinical education becomes increasingly challenging from year two to year four. Students undertake clinical education in the public and private sector in rural and metropolitan locations in both the Victorian and Tasmanian healthcare systems.

Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

An honours program embedded in the second, third and fourth years of the course commenced in 2007. Students enrolled in honours receive individualised tuition from an academic supervisor. Honours students are assessed by coursework and a 10,000–12,000 word thesis. Applicants will be invited to apply for honours based on their academic achievement after year one.

Admission process

Course prerequisites

Admission to the Bachelor of Physiotherapy requires the following prerequisites: VCE units 3 and 4 – a study score of at least 30 in English (ESL) or 25 in English (any) and in any two of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods, Physics or Specialist Mathematics. International Baccalaureate (IB) – English and any two of Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Physics, or Further Mathematics at a minimum of grade four at standard level.

Non-school leavers must also meet these requirements either at year 12 level or equivalent university studies. Successful completion of two semesters (semester one and two) of tertiary studies in the prerequisite VCE subjects at a recognised tertiary institution would be considered comparable to VCE success in those subjects.

Additional requirements for entry

Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT)

All applicants must sit the UMAT in order to be eligible for selection for physiotherapy. Application procedures, examination dates and venue details can be found at:

Phone: +61 3 9277 5673
Fax: +61 3 9277 5757
Email: umat@acer.edu.au
Web: www.acer.edu.au/umat

Domestic students apply through VTAC (www.vtac.edu.au).

All students participate in interviews as part of the admissions process. Interviews are held in November/December of the year prior to entry.

University-wide undergraduate admissions application procedure:

www.monash.edu.au/study/local
www.monash.edu.au/study/international

Physiotherapy domestic admissions application procedure:

www.monash.edu.au/study/coursefinder/course/3868/domestic-requirements.html

Physiotherapy international admissions application procedure:

www.monash.edu.au/study/coursefinder/course/3868/international-requirements.html

Health requirements and police checks

Students will be required to comply with the Faculty Immunisation and Infection Risk Policy, recommendations and procedures, to enable them to proceed through the course with an acceptably low-level of risk and meet health service requirements.

It is recommended that all students accept responsibility for having up-to-date immunisations before commencing the course. Recommended immunisations include diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and hepatitis B.

Prospective students are provided with detailed written information and, as appropriate, counselling about the effect that HIV or hepatitis B infection may have on the ability of healthcare workers to practice their profession.

A satisfactory Police Check and Working With Children Check is required for each student.

Credit provision or recognition of prior learning

Applicants applying for advanced standing must clearly demonstrate to the selection committee that the content of their previous studies is at least equivalent to the Monash Bachelor of Physiotherapy course components for which they are seeking exemption.

Due to the integrated nature of the curriculum, it is unlikely recognition of prior learning will be approved.

Additional information

Prospective students are advised that there may be additional costs associated with the course for text books and course support material, uniforms for clinical attachments, travel, accommodation, living costs associated with rural clinical attachments, a Police Check and precautionary procedures (such as immunisations) that are required prior to commencing the course.

Unsolicited written or electronic information – for example, letters to the physiotherapy selection officer, **will not** be considered in the selection process and are strongly discouraged.



Students in the Bachelor of Physiotherapy study with experienced clinicians in state-of-the-art teaching laboratories.

Further information

Physiotherapy

School of Primary Health Care
Monash University
PO Box 527
Frankston, Victoria 3199
Australia

Telephone: +61 3 9904 4466
Fax: +61 3 9904 4812
Email: physiotherapy@med.monash.edu.au
Web: www.med.monash.edu.au/physiotherapy

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