

EDUCATION



Since the Division was founded in 1945, USC has been a leader in physical therapy research and education and has been at the forefront of the most significant educational advances of the physical therapy profession. The program today is ranked #1 in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*, and continues to be a center of excellence for clinical practice, education, and research in physical therapy. The Division is also one of the leading programs in the broader domain of biokinesiology – the study of the biological bases of movement.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

• DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT) DEGREE

Prepares physical therapists to become autonomous practitioners, capable of evaluating and treating patients without the need for referral from another practitioner, such as a physician or dentist. DPT students spend a total of 50 weeks in clinical education experiences over their three year curriculum.

• MS IN BOKINESIOLOGY DEGREE

Prepares graduates to be skilled in the design and implementation of basic science and clinical research. Graduates complete a research project under the guidance of an advisor.

• PHD IN BOKINESIOLOGY DEGREE

Prepares graduates to be independent research scientists and academic faculty members prepared to conduct collaborative interdisciplinary research. Graduates complete a dissertation project under the guidance of an advisor.

• RESIDENCY IN NEUROLOGIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

Prepares graduates to contribute to advanced clinical practice, teach clinical skills to others, and add to the ever-growing body of knowledge in neurologic physical therapy.

• RESIDENCY IN ORTHOPEDIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

Prepares graduates to become advanced practitioners who will express their education through excellence in the practice and teaching of clinical skills, who will continue to expand the body of knowledge in their specialty by conducting and publishing clinical research and who will make a lasting contribution to their local and professional community.

• RESIDENCY IN SPORTS PHYSICAL THERAPY

Prepares graduates to become advanced practitioners who will express their education through excellence in the practice of clinical skills, both in the clinic and on the athletic field, who will continue to expand the body of knowledge in sports medicine by conducting and publishing clinical research, and who will make a lasting contribution to their local and professional community.

• RESIDENCY IN PEDIATRIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

Prepares leaders and advanced practitioners of pediatric physical therapy who will express their education through excellence in the practice and teaching of clinical skills, who will continue to expand the body of knowledge in their specialty by conducting and publishing clinical research and who will provide and ensure high-quality, cost-effective, community-based integrated services in the communities they work in within a coordinated, culturally competent, family-centered orientation.