ABOUT US

MISSION
■ Educate physical therapists and research scientists
■ Conduct research that will expand our knowledge of the biological bases of human movement
■ Advance the clinical practice of physical therapy

DISTINCTIONS
■ Consistently ranked the No. 1 physical therapy program in the nation by the U.S. News & World Report since 2004
■ Home to nine Catherine Worthingham Fellows of the American Physical Therapy Association, the largest concentration on any physical therapy faculty roster in the nation. The Worthingham Fellowship is the highest award bestowed by the physical therapy's national professional organization.
■ 100 percent of faculty members have doctorate degrees, compared to 45 percent of the faculty members of other educational institutions, according to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
■ First program in the nation to directly confer a PhD degree, representing the division's long-held focus on biokinesiology, the integrative study of biological bases of human movement, both normal and disordered

HISTORY
■ Established in 1943 to train physical therapists at the undergraduate level
■ By 1974, the only professional degree offered was a master’s in physical therapy.
■ Second program in the nation to offer the doctor of physical therapy as the entry-level professional degree in physical therapy (1995)
■ First physical therapy program to directly award a PhD degree (1984)
■ Added biokinesiology to its name to reflect its expanding research mission and to promote biokinesiology as the foundation science of physical therapy
■ Launched DPT@USC, an on-campus, online hybrid doctor of physical therapy program in 2018
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Doctor of Physical Therapy — Residential & Hybrid

The doctor of physical therapy degree program prepares graduates for a professional career in physical therapy. DPT students may choose between the residential program or the online/on-campus hybrid degree program.

383 Students (2019-2020 Academic Year)

Residency Programs — Neurologic, Orthopedic, Pediatric and Sports — and Sports Fellowship

The residency and fellowship programs train physical therapists to be advanced practitioners in one of four specialty areas, all of which are recognized by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

20 Residents (2019-2020 Academic Year)

Master’s of Science and Doctorate in Biokinesiology

The master’s of science and doctor of philosophy programs in biokinesiology prepare graduates to become research scientists in the field of biokinesiology.

40 Students (2019-2020 Academic Year)

*All academic degrees conferred by the division are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges/Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities. The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education accredits the doctor of physical therapy program.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

■ 146 faculty members

■ Nationally-recognized faculty members are at the forefront of research; many travel the world over as guest lecturers

■ Nine full-time faculty members have been named Catherine Worthingham Fellows of the American Physical Therapy Association, giving the division the nation’s highest concentration of professional notables. The Worthingham Fellowship is the highest award bestowed by physical therapy’s professional organization.

■ 100 percent of the division’s full-time faculty members have doctorate degrees, compared to the national average of 45 percent, as reported by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

■ Our faculty members conduct research in the areas of musculoskeletal biomechanics, motor behavior and neural control, exercise science and muscle research and motor development.

■ Our faculty members receive external funding of more than $1 million per year from foundations and federal funding agencies, including the National Institutes for Health.

SUPERB PATIENT CARE

■ The division has an extensive practice component (USC Physical Therapy) that provides high-quality physical therapy services to the community and serves as a locus for clinical education and clinical research.

■ USC Physical Therapy (the division’s faculty practice) provides outpatient physical therapy services in three locations on both the USC University Park Campus (Engemann Health Center, 1031 W. 34th St., Suite 450, Los Angeles, CA 90089-3261) and the USC Health Sciences Campus (Health Research Association Building, 1640 Marengo St., Suite 102, Los Angeles, CA 90033)

■ The division provides physical therapy services at Keck Hospital of USC and the USC Norris Hospital.

CONTACTS FOR MEDIA

Yasmine Pezeshkpour
Communications Specialist
ypezeshk@usc.edu

John Hobbs
Communications Manager
john.hobbs@usc.edu