



College of Health Professions
Department of Physical Therapy
Residency in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy

Three Models of the Residency in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy:

1. You may apply to the residency program, and if accepted, become an employee of Mercer University's Department of Physical Therapy and you are placed in a clinic in Georgia. We have developed relationships with clinics in metro Atlanta and other regions of Georgia. These clinics are our clinical partners where you will provide your clinical services. Benefits include a competitive salary, health insurance, 10 paid days off, and five conference/service-learning days.
2. You may apply to the advanced clinical training (residency) program, and if accepted become an employee of a clinical partner in Georgia. Benefits include a competitive salary, health insurance, and a minimum of 10 paid days off work, and five conference/service-learning days.
3. You may apply to the advanced clinical training program as a currently employed physical therapist of a clinical facility in a non-physician owned practice. Identified below are the requirements of the clinical facility and clinical mentor for this model:

Clinical Facility Requirements

Participation in the residency requires employment in a **non-physician owned** clinical environment in the state of Georgia that has a diverse population of patients with musculoskeletal dysfunctions. Employment is arranged by the resident and must be maintained for the completion of the program. A description of the clinical environment where you will be working must be provided. Include information about the patient population as it relates to orthopaedic specialization. The Director of Postprofessional Education will provide the appropriate form that must be completed.

Clinical Mentor Requirements

Licensed physical therapist with five years' experience in a musculoskeletal setting or certified clinical specialist in orthopaedics. Graduates from an orthopaedic residency program can also serve as a clinical mentor. The mentor must be able to provide 3 hours of 1:1 clinical mentoring per week (minimum of 150 hours total) for the resident.

Professional Responsibilities Associated with the Residency in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy

The physical therapist (resident) will engage in full-time direct patient care. The didactic program is delivered through weekend intensive courses on the Mercer University Atlanta campus. A minimum of 150 hours of one-to-one mentoring will be provided by a qualified clinical mentor. The residency program also includes a core curriculum consisting of an intraprofessional foundational course, teaching Mercer Doctor of Physical Therapy students, engaging in service-learning activities, and self-directed learning in assigned and individually selected topics. Additionally, the orthopaedic physical therapy resident will engage in established and/or developing clinical research activities, case studies, or case series with an anticipated dissemination product. The resident should expect a total workload of 50-60 hours per week. Membership in the American Physical Therapy Association and the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy is required.

Delivery Model of Didactic/Laboratory Components of the Program

The Residency is divided into three Blocks. The resident receives both formative feedback and summative feedback during each Block. Residents will have two performance examinations on live patients and two clinical skills tests along with quizzes, mid-term and final examinations.

The Foundations of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice is delivered on campus and through the University's electronic learning management system during the first Block of the residency. Pharmacology, Diagnostic Imaging, and Clinical Applications for Orthopaedic Basic Science are delivered in an independent study format and completed by the end of the first Block.

The Spine and Extremity courses each require eight, on-campus, weekend intensives. They typically are held on Friday from 1:00-6:30pm and Saturday 8:00am-6:30pm. Mercer Residency faculty and fellows-in-training teach these courses. Additionally, each resident is required to present a minimum of 10 patient cases, and attend/participate in a minimum of 25 hours in a grand rounds discussion format. These are held on Friday mornings of the weekend intensives and in the early evening via electronic communication.

Residency in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Curriculum

Clinical Practice Hours	1500 hours (Minimum)
Clinical Mentoring Hours 1:1	125 hours (Minimum)
Grand Rounds	25 hours

Didactic/ Clinical Skills Courses **Contact Hours**

Foundations of Advanced Clinical Practice	45
Foundations of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice	60
Myofascial pain and dysfunction	4
Orthopaedic examination	5
*Diagnostic Imaging	12
*Pharmacology	12
*Clinical Applications for Orthopaedic Basic Science	12
Clinical Reasoning and Pain Sciences	15
Orthopaedic Examination, Evaluation and Management: Spine	75
Cervical and Craniomandibular	20
Thoracic Spine and Rib Cage	20
Lumbar Spine and Pelvis	20
Exercise Prescription for Spinal Conditions	15
Orthopaedic Examination, Evaluation and Management: Extremity	75
Foot and Ankle	20
Knee	20
Shoulder	20
Elbow / Wrist/ Hand	15
Myofascial Pain and Dysfunction: TrP Dry Needling	60
Principles, Lumbar, Hip and Thigh	20
Lower leg, Foot and Shoulder, Neck	20
Brachium, Forearm and Foot	20
Practice Management/Health Care Policy and Professional Issues	15
Clinical Instructor Credentialing	15
Self-Directed Learning - Independent Study Courses	30
Teaching Entry-Level DPT Students	15
Service-Learning	15

There are 353 total hours of classroom (didactic and laboratory) learning experiences that are scheduled. Teaching 15 hours in the DPT curriculum, and engagement in service-learning for 15 hours are both coordinated with the Director of Postprofessional Education (DPPE).

There are 106 hours dedicated to independent study courses. Thirty-six hours are pre-selected (see courses above*), and 30 Self-Directed Learning hours to be determined by the resident in consultation with their clinical mentor. The Director of Postprofessional Education must approve Self-Directed Learning plans.

Residents must demonstrate mastery (80%) on written mid-term and final examinations, several quizzes, and two practical examinations on current patients.

Additionally, Residents are also required to engage in a research project, case study or case series, or other scholarly pursuits to add to the body of physical therapy knowledge.

The total minimum number of hours in the residency program is 1853 hours.