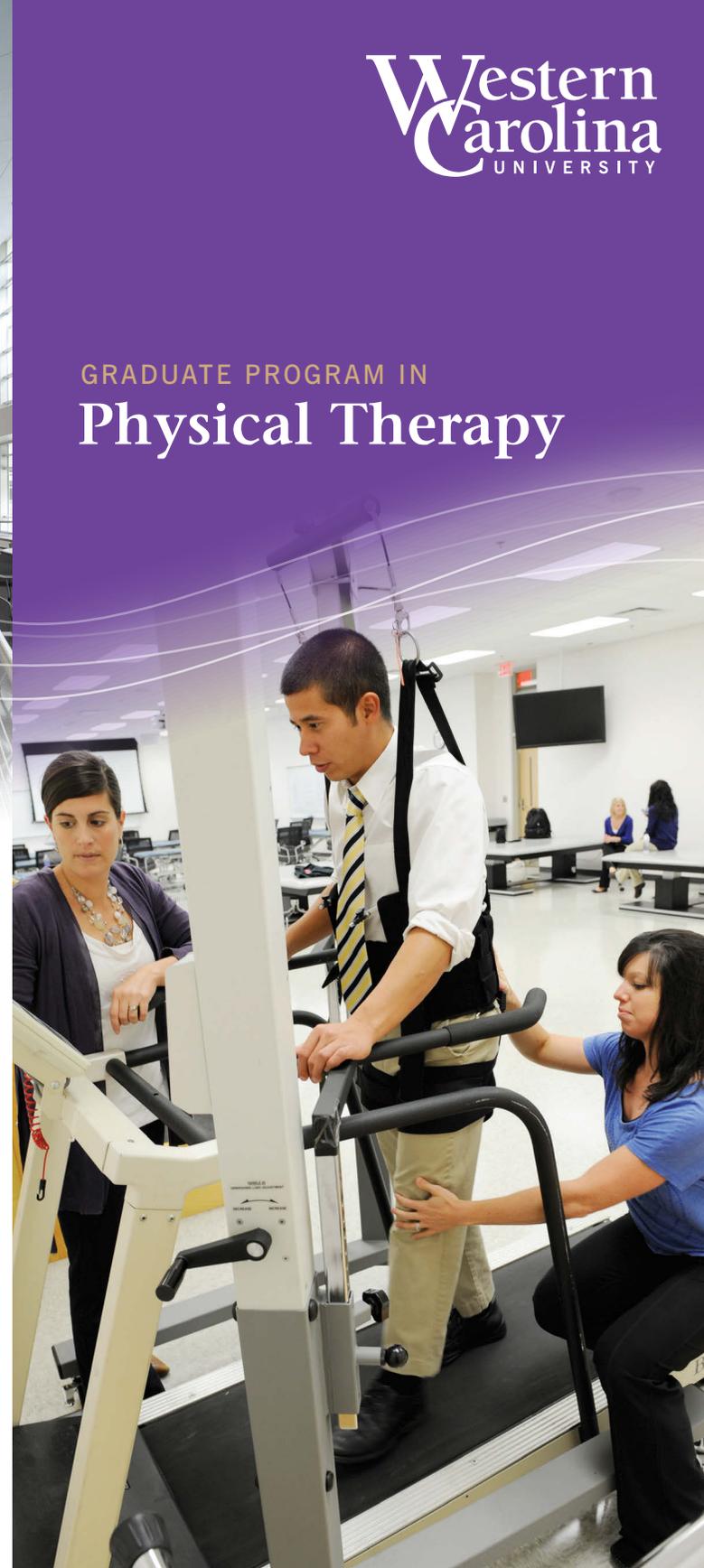




GRADUATE PROGRAM IN
Physical Therapy



WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
College of Health and Human Sciences

The College of Health and Human Sciences is committed to providing high quality educational programs for talented and motivated students. Our graduates are prepared in a dynamic learning environment that promotes inter-professional collaboration, evidence-based practice, scholarship and community engagement. Our expert faculty are passionate about their professions and facilitating a student-centered focus in the classroom. Great faculty, state-of-the-art resources and a beautiful mountain setting combine to provide an exceptional educational experience. We look forward to meeting you to talk about your future at Western Carolina University!

For more information about Western Carolina University's Physical Therapy Department, contact **Linda Donaldson** at 828.227.2290 or donaldson@wcu.edu.

or about the College of Health and Human Sciences visit our website at: chhs.wcu.edu

I take pride in being a 3rd generation Western Carolina University graduate. In my family alone, Western has led the education of a teacher, social worker, industrial technologist, mathematician, and now a physical therapist. Specifically, WCU has given me opportunities that I might not have been awarded at a larger institution. Being a catamount involves more than just receiving an education; it is a lifelong commitment to serving the people of our rural community.

Blake Queen, DPT Class of 2014

Our mission is "to promote the advancement of health, wellness, and rehabilitation through education, research and service... in a student-focused environment with a faculty whose primary role is to prepare compassionate, competent doctors of physical therapy who uphold the highest professional standards across the continuum of care."

The university's designation as a community engaged institution creates an ideal frame for our program's long term commitment to service-learning.

Karen Lunnen, Department Head



WHAT IS PHYSICAL THERAPY?

Physical therapy is a health profession whose primary purpose is the promotion of optimal human health and function through the application of scientific principles to prevent, assess, correct, or alleviate acute or prolonged movement dysfunction.

On clinical rotations my instructors routinely remind me of how fortunate I am to be a Catamount. They say that students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Western Carolina University are some of the best student clinicians in North Carolina and beyond.

Matthew George, DPT Class of 2015



What do Physical Therapists do?

- Diagnose movement dysfunction that interferes with quality of life in people of all ages.
- Design treatment plans to restore and optimize function and prevent disability.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and injury prevention by developing fitness- and wellness-oriented programs.
- Practice in varied settings including:
 - o rehabilitation centers
 - o hospitals
 - o home health agencies
 - o outpatient clinics
 - o sports and fitness facilities
 - o work settings
 - o nursing homes
 - o schools/children's centers
- Are effective problem solvers, excellent communicators, adaptable, and compassionate.



What is special about Physical Therapy at WCU?

- The new Health and Human Sciences Building provides state of the art facilities and equipment in an open design to enhance teaching and learning.
- Clinical services in the building provide opportunities for application of knowledge and skills with an emphasis on inter-professional collaboration.
- Rewarding community engagement experiences are integrated throughout the curriculum.
- Faculty with exceptional credentials focus on excellent teaching.
- Research is supported by faculty expertise and state of the art equipment including a Human Movement Science Laboratory and Balance and Fall Prevention Clinic.

The competitive applicant to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Western Carolina University has completed an undergraduate degree and required pre-requisite courses; has a high grade point average and high scores on Graduate Record Examination; and has volunteer or paid experience in diverse physical therapy settings.

The 33-month long program provides a strong background in the basic and clinical sciences and four full-time clinical practicum experiences (34 weeks total) at sites throughout the country.

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