

School of Allied Health Summary of Course Fee Proposal

Doctor of Physical Therapy

The Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science in the School of Allied Health is proposing a FY 2010 course fee of \$100 per credit hour for its Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program. To support the costs of the clinical laboratories, students currently pay laboratory fees of \$950 for the three-year program. With the implementation of this course fee, these department fees would be discontinued, and the course fee cost could be included in the student's financial aid package.

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree is a clinical doctorate. KU enrolls approximately 36-40 post-baccalaureate students each year into the program, which is designed for individuals who are entering the profession of physical therapy. KU is one of only two programs in the state of Kansas to offer the physical therapy degree and provide clinicians to serve the state the Kansas, and is one of the few nationally ranked physical therapy programs in the Midwest. US News and World Report annually ranks KU's program in the top 25 PT programs nationwide.

The DPT program consists of 94 hours and 32 courses, of which almost one-third include a clinical laboratory component. As is typical of most physical therapy programs in the United States, the DPT program is taught by a combination of tenure-track faculty, research faculty, and clinical faculty. In addition, clinicians from the community assist on an hourly basis to provide content-specific lectures or clinical laboratory instruction in areas of specialization. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA 's) assist in clinical laboratory courses.

With the proposed course fee, the cost of the KU entry-level DPT degree would increase to \$34,616. Even with this increase, for Kansas residents, the University of Kansas Doctor of Physical Therapy program would continue to be the least expensive program in the Kansas City area.

There is strong student support for the implementation of the proposed course fee. The department Chair met with the representative student body in the DPT program, and found the students very receptive to the fee. Letters of support from the presidents of the DPT classes are available from the School of Allied Health.