

Information Concerning Financial Assistance with the Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at The University of Scranton

Avenues to Obtain Financial Assistance/Supplementation While in Graduate School:

- 1) The high credit load of the DPT program typically precludes working more than part-time. Students are able to work either as graduate assistants (GA) in The Department of Physical Therapy or other departments at the University. Students interested in GA opportunities should contact the [College of Graduate and Continuing Education](#) (CGCE) to complete an application. CGCE is located in O'Hara Hall, and the phone numbers are (570) 941-7600 or 1-800-366-4723.
- 2) There are opportunities to have a portion of tuition paid with a commitment to work as a physical therapist upon graduation at a sponsoring establishment. Locally, [Allied Services](#) often provides tuition support with a commitment for employment at Allied Services upon graduation. [United Health Services](#) offers up to \$6,000 per semester and additionally a \$500 stipend for books and course-related expenditures. Interested students should contact [Dr. Peter Leininger](#) (DPT Program Director) or [Dr. Barbara Wagner](#) (Director of Clinical Education) for more information.
- 3) There are additional scholarship, grant, and work/work-study opportunities at the national, state, local and university levels. Interested students can be guided by Drs [Leininger](#) and [Wagner](#), or representatives in the [Financial Aid Office](#). The Financial Aid Office is located in St. Thomas Hall, Room 401, Scranton, PA, 18510 and the phone number is (570) 941-7700.
- 4) Students and parents of students often take advantage of low rate student loans. Information can be found on various internet web sites and by contacting the [Financial Aid Office](#).
Another helpful web site is [The Admissions Office Financial Aid on the Web](#) information site. Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA).
 - a. This will determine your eligibility for satisfied and unsatisfied Stafford loans
 - b. Check with your own bank for low-interest loans

Expected Costs While Attending Graduate School:

- 1) The DPT curriculum is predetermined, 116.5 credits and must be taken in sequence. Tuition is per credit, and there are registration fees each semester (9 total - summer, fall, spring x 3). There is a graduation fee, and other fees that pertain to some but not all graduate students (e.g. living facilities, parking fees, and activity fees). The [Bursar's Office](#) lists tuition and fee schedules.
- 2) Other costs include: books, clinical internships (unpaid), health insurance (required), CPR/First Aid certifications, and travel expenses.

Some General Advice Concerning Strategies to Finance Your DPT Education

In an article “Financing a Doctorate in Physical Therapy” in PT magazine, September 2004, Leon Johnson, Jr, DEd provides some advice.

Practical Advice:

- 1) Do your homework before you start school:
 - a. contact current students/graduates
 - b. familiarize yourself with school’s financial aid policies and procedures
 - c. learn tuition due dates and study payment options
 - d. determine need-based financial aid requirements
 - e. investigate sources of aid (e.g. loan forgiveness, employer reimbursement)
 - f. complete [FAFSA](#) ASAP

- 2) Take time to get your financial picture in focus:
 - obtain copies of your credit report
 - calculate and outline your income and expenses
 - add up all debt for which you currently are responsible (professional financial advisors suggest that loan payments, including automobile and credit cards, should total no more than 36% of your pretax income, *Money* magazine advises that spending more than 10% to 15% of income on unsecured debts, such as credit cards, can lead to financial distress at a later date).

- 3) Develop a household budget
 - prepare budget while investigating DPT/tDPT programs
 - maintain budget while in school

Five Steps to Funding Your DPT or t-DPT

- 1) Identify or create reserves of savings, investments, and available cash that can be specifically targeted for education expenses.

- 2) Prepare and file a [FAFSA](#).

- 3) Investigate scholarships, grants, work/work-study opportunities, and graduate assistantships.

- 4) Consider other investment assets.

- 5) Research other nongovernmental loan options, i.e.
 - a. Alternative/private education loans
 - b. Leveraged loans (e.g. lines of credit, home equity loan)
 - c. Personal unsecured loans (credit cards) **LAST RESORT**

September 2008