

# A DEGREE OF PURPOSE

The Stefani Doctor of Physical Therapy Program



If physical therapy is your calling, the doctor of physical therapy degree is the industry standard for practicing physical therapists. With a large and expanding aging population, physical therapy is a high demand field and provides a way to help people overcome or manage impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities. Our DPT program will give you the didactic, psychomotor, and behavioral attributes that you need to be a successful physical therapist. Fundamental to our curriculum is a core set of values that gives clarity to the choices you make and experience as a practicing DPT.

USM will train you to become a competent practicing physical therapist by developing your God-given potential while inspiring you to serve the needs of others. In keeping with the spirit of our founders, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, we recognize society's ever-growing need for more and better-trained health care professionals—and we work to meet that need through dynamic, hands-on programs designed to help our students excel.

USM's DPT program is a continuous nine-semester program, incorporating 117 credit-hours with 32 weeks of clinical internship. The DPT program is heavily value-driven, and faculty members use the core values during class as guideposts to the most appropriate application of the material to be of the greatest benefit to patients and clients.

**“Upon graduation from the USM DPT program, our students will have the skills, knowledge, and values necessary to become entry-level physical therapy professionals who are fully perceptive and responsive to the needs of patients, clients, colleagues, and the larger community.”**

—Dr. Mark Horacek, USM DPT Program Director

Graduates of USM's DPT program will practice physical therapy at entry-level competencies consistent with the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice and the American Physical Therapy Association's Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, and Guide for Professional Conduct. USM graduates will also be committed to life-long learning, service to others, and excellence.

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Effective May 2, 2012, the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Saint Mary has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org)). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program is progressing toward accreditation.

## DEPARTMENT CHAIR – MARK HORACEK, P.T., M.S., PH.D.

Professor, Department Chair, and Program Director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Dr. Horacek graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical center with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Therapy. He has been in the academy or in the clinical setting for a combined total of 34 years. For about 29 of those years he has been in academics. He holds both a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Anatomy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and completed postdoctoral training in endocrinology and reproductive physiology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

Dr. Horacek was one of the founding members of the very first DPT program in the country at Creighton University; he founded the physical therapy department and program at Missouri State University, and was a department head at Winston Salem State University. He is now working as the founding Department Chair of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at University of Saint Mary.

Dr. Horacek has published many full-length research articles in leading research journals as well as many abstracts. He has presented research findings at national meetings and is a licensed physical therapist in Kansas. Dr. Horacek enjoys working with faculty and students and sees the program as a community of people striving for excellence in education, clinical practice, and service to others. This community makes explicit a set of core values that guides the community in making the very best decisions about students, faculty, patients, and clients.

Dr. Horacek believes that the faculty in the program are among the best in the country and he cherishes the interactions he has with faculty, staff, and students. He believes that the University of Saint Mary is a wonderful place to expand your God-given potential and to become something better than you were before.

You may email Dr. Horacek at [horacek03@stmary.edu](mailto:horacek03@stmary.edu) if you have any questions about the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Saint Mary.

Learn more about the USM DPT at  
[www.stmary.edu/DPT](http://www.stmary.edu/DPT)