



Doctor of Physical Therapy at Elon University

[www.elon.edu/dpt](http://www.elon.edu/dpt)



A Philosophy of Patient-

## Transforming Inquisitive Students into Well Prepared Professionals

Combine your passion for science with your dedication to helping others. Enroll in Elon's Doctor of Physical Therapy program and in three years you'll graduate empowered to take your place in an expanding field with excellent career opportunities.

Join a community of learners and enjoy working with peers, professors, local physical therapists and health care professionals from across the state as you problem-solve the best care for patients.

### A Fully Accredited Program

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Elon University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314; telephone number: 703-706-3245; e-mail: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: [capteonline.org](http://capteonline.org).

## A Philosophy of Patient-Centered Care

Elon's Doctor of Physical Therapy program is built on solid principles of science and research. At the same time, we recognize a quality physical therapist is much more than just an academic expert. That's why compassion, respect and communication are deliberately integrated into instruction. The result is an effective full-time program that treats the patient as a whole person. Key features of the program include:

**Innovative Modular Curriculum**—Say good-bye to the semester system. Elon's bold modular curriculum integrates hands-on clinical practicums into a strong physical and social science foundation. Modules range from four to 24 weeks and are driven by course content.



**Professional Partnership**—Elon and the Alamance Regional Medical Center began a partnership in 1997 when the university launched a master's program in physical therapy. In 2003, Elon debuted an innovative DPT program aligning with the profession's Vision 2020 to educate all physical therapists at the DPT level. Today, students work with Alamance Regional therapists, many of whom serve as adjunct faculty members.

**Accessible Faculty**—Elon professors are skilled instructors who frequently collaborate with students on course-related research projects outside of the classroom. A low student-to-faculty ratio encourages students to work closely with their professors.

**Focus on Service**—Service is one of Elon's deepest values and DPT students have the opportunity to engage with those who need their help through classroom projects and organized volunteer work.

**Proven Success**—The job market for physical therapists continues to expand and Elon alumni have a variety of careers from which to choose. At Elon, 96 percent of students pass the licensure exam on their first attempt, which is above the national average. In addition, 100 percent of students find employment in the field of physical therapy after they graduate.

*Brittany Clodfelter DPT'08 worked in a variety of clinical settings while at Elon. After graduation, she pursued her interest in geriatrics and is employed at a High Point, N.C. retirement community.*



## **A Progressive Curriculum: The Benefits of Modular Learning**

Elon's three-year modular curriculum builds from one discipline to the next and offers ample opportunities to apply classroom knowledge in clinical settings. Graduates are well versed in all aspects of the profession and report leaving Elon with a clear vision of their professional trajectory. Elon's DPT program begins in January, which means graduates enter the job market at a different time than most schools. The curriculum is responsive to changes in the field to provide students the best possible professional experience. Visit [elton.edu/dpt](https://elton.edu/dpt) for updates.

### **Early Clinical Experience**

Elon DPT students spend 48 weeks working in clinical practice, which is above the national average. The university has contacts in more than 400 patient-care settings in 38 states, including 204 in North Carolina. The program culminates with a 24-week internship.

# Progressive Curriculum

YEAR ONE
<b>Module I (4 weeks)</b>
Psychosocial Aspects of Health Care
Today's Health Care Systems
Principles of Teaching and Learning
Human Anatomy I
<b>Module II (12 weeks)</b>
Human Anatomy I (continued)
Human Physiology and Pathophysiology I
Physical Therapy Science I & II
Research Design I
Clinical Seminar I
<b>Module III (12 weeks)</b>
Human Anatomy II
Human Physiology and Pathophysiology II
Physical Therapy Science III
Human Motor Development
Clinical Seminar II
Foundations of Biomechanics and Musculoskeletal Management

<b>Module IV (16 weeks)</b>
Biomechanics and Management of Musculoskeletal Dysfunction I-III
Clinical Seminar III
Clinical Imaging
Therapeutic Pharmacokinetics
Research Design II
YEAR TWO
<b>Module V (8 weeks)</b>
Clinical Practicum I
<b>Module VI (16 weeks)</b>
Neuroscience
Management of Neuromuscular Disorders
Clinical Seminar IV
<b>Module VII (8 weeks)</b>
Clinical Practicum II
<b>Module VIII (8 weeks)</b>
Clinical Practicum III
YEAR THREE
<b>Module IX (12 weeks)</b>

Principles of Electrotherapeutic Examination and Intervention
Physiology of Exercise
Management of Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction
Prosthetics and Orthotics
Directed Research I
Management of Integumentary Disorders
<b>Module X (4 weeks)</b>
Clinical Decision Making with Complex Patient (Client)
Management of the Pediatric Client
<b>Module XI (4 weeks)</b>
Principles of Administration and Management
Geriatric Health and Wellness
<b>Module XII (6 weeks)</b>
Advanced Clinical Practice Selective Tracks
<b>Module XIII (24 weeks)</b>
Internship
Directed Research II
<b>Module XIV (1 week)</b>
Electives



# Community Partnership



## Community Partnership. Shared Compassion.

Elon and Alamance Regional began a partnership in 1997 when the university launched the master's program in physical therapy. In 2003, Elon transitioned to a doctoral program. Students gain valuable, local clinical experience as several Alamance Regional therapists serve as adjunct faculty members. In 2006, Elon and Alamance Regional celebrated the opening of the Center for Fitness & Human Movement Studies on the Alamance Regional campus. The center allows Elon students and faculty to work with Alamance Regional staff on joint research studies and provides expanded clinical education opportunities for Elon.

The 4,300-square-foot Center for Fitness & Human Movement Studies features:

**Biomechanics Laboratory**—used to study abnormal gait in adult and pediatric patients

**Metabolic Testing Laboratory**—used to evaluate aerobic fitness in patients and athletes

**Vestibular Rehabilitation Center**—used to evaluate and treat individuals who have balance disorders

**Electrophysiology Laboratory**—used to evaluate muscle and brain activity during therapy and sports activities

**Ultrasound Imaging**—used to visualize the abdominal, paraspinal or pelvic floor muscles to aid in rehabilitation.

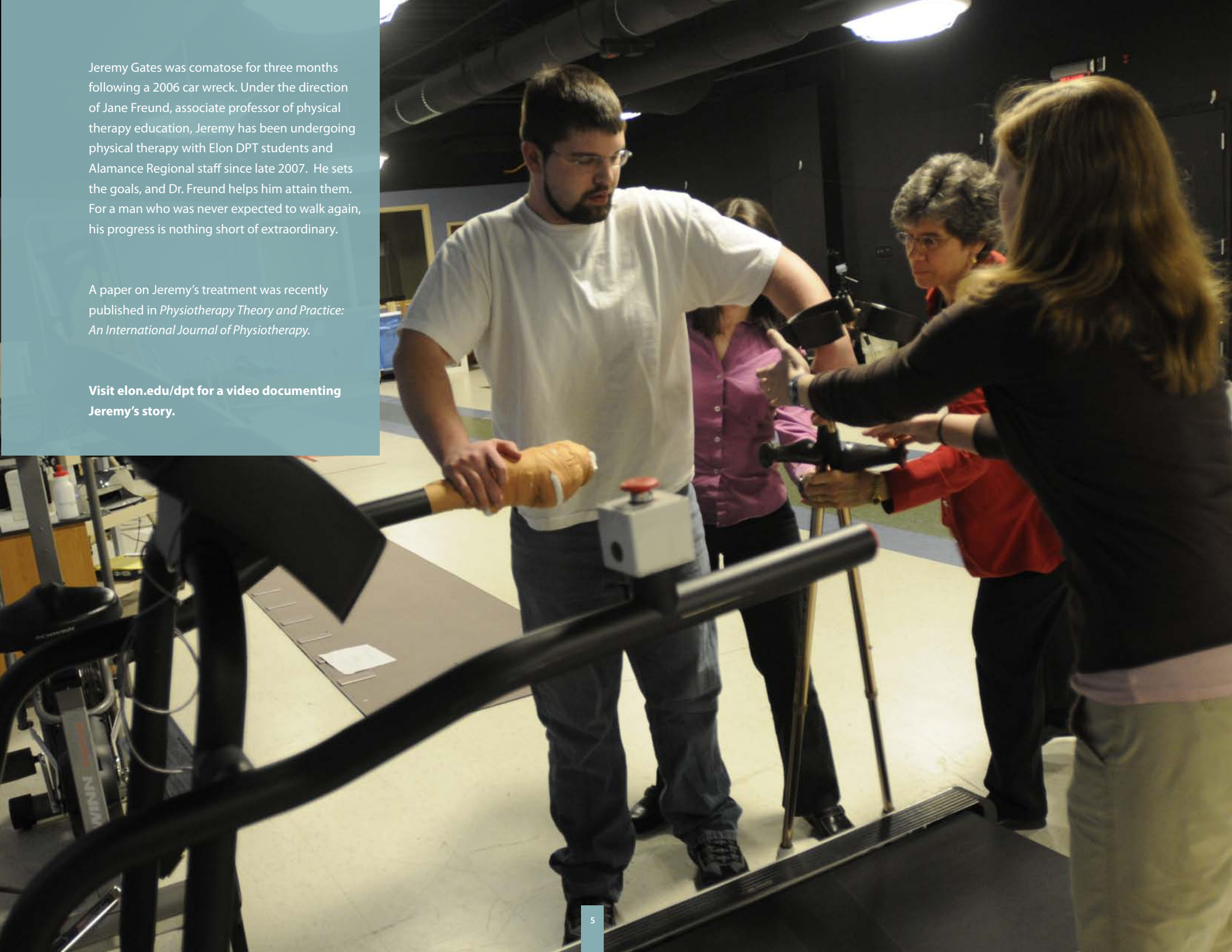
On campus, the Department of Physical Therapy is housed in the fully equipped 17,000-square-foot McMichael Science Center, which features three skills laboratories – two set up as musculoskeletal clinics and one as a rehabilitation area. In 2011, the department will expand to Danieley East, a 31,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility. Learn more at [elon.edu/dpt](http://elon.edu/dpt).

# Shared Compassion

Jeremy Gates was comatose for three months following a 2006 car wreck. Under the direction of Jane Freund, associate professor of physical therapy education, Jeremy has been undergoing physical therapy with Elon DPT students and Alamance Regional staff since late 2007. He sets the goals, and Dr. Freund helps him attain them. For a man who was never expected to walk again, his progress is nothing short of extraordinary.

A paper on Jeremy's treatment was recently published in *Physiotherapy Theory and Practice: An International Journal of Physiotherapy*.

Visit [elon.edu/dpt](http://elon.edu/dpt) for a video documenting Jeremy's story.





## Accessible and Engaged Faculty

Elon DPT students work side-by-side with accomplished professors who are passionate about their work and are dedicated to helping students achieve professional goals.

One hundred percent of the 13 full-time faculty members hold doctoral degrees.

The faculty includes experienced, board-certified specialists in three key areas of the profession: neurology, orthopedics and geriatrics. Their research covers a wide range of topics and most continue in clinical practice to stay current in the field. Several hold national or state leadership positions in the American Physical Therapy Association.

DPT faculty members are active researchers who frequently partner with students and alumni. Recent presentations, research and professional activities include:

- Associate professors of physical therapy Bill Andrews and Susan Chinworth worked with DPT students to publish an article in the *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*.
- Marianne Janssen, director of clinical education for the DPT program, spent four weeks in the South American nation of Suriname reviewing the physical therapy curriculum and assisting Anton de Kom University professors in preparing the curriculum for a master's level program. She has returned twice to continue her work.
- Professors, students and alumni collaborated on poster presentations for the annual North Carolina Physical Therapy Association meeting.
- Students and professors collaborated on poster presentations presented at the national American Physical Therapy Combined Sections meeting.



# AccessibleFaculty



## Focus on Service

The Elon community is nationally recognized for its dedication to service. DPT faculty and students live that commitment everyday through their work with patients who might not otherwise have access to care and their ongoing efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle.

- Faculty and students work with local third graders to assemble model skeletons in small groups while discussing the various bones and joints in the human body. Partnerships with local educators increase awareness around various health topics.
- DPT students travel to Romania to work with Wheels for the World, an organization that provides wheelchairs for individuals with disabilities.
- Elon, Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill's DPT programs work together to organize BikeAbility, a free event for individuals with disabilities. Physical therapists and volunteers helped fit children and young adults for helmets and adapted bicycles.
- Elon DPT students work annually to help host the Special Olympics on campus. Elon hosted the first state games in 1972 and has since worked with the nonprofit to provide a day of athletic events for young athletes from Alamance and surrounding counties.



*Tiffani has traveled twice to Haiti to help victims of the January 2010 earthquake and is working domestically to raise awareness of survivors' plights.*

### Alumni in Action | Tiffani Bacon MPT'03

Tiffani owns Kinetic Kids, Inc., which offers on-site pediatric development services to children in Mecklenburg County. She is the 2010 recipient of the North Carolina Physical Therapy Association's Excellence in Clinical Practice award, the most prestigious award given to a person in clinical practice.

What's next: Tiffani will continue to grow her private practice while pursuing a doctorate in Rehabilitative Studies at the University of Oklahoma. After finishing her degree, she plans to return to Haiti and conduct a workshop to teach Haitians basic physical therapy techniques.

# Focus on Service





### **A New Vision to Meet the Needs of a Growing Profession**

In order to keep pace with the increasing demand for physical therapists, the DPT program will expand the scope of its offerings. Beginning in late 2011, classes will move to Danieleley East, a 31,000-square-foot facility featuring clinical simulation labs, a human donor lab, skills labs, high-tech classrooms and designated space for students to collaborate with faculty on research.

As part of the program's continued dedication to a low student-faculty ratio, a new faculty member will be employed as the cohort grows from 36 to 44. The expansion will bring with it a financial commitment to global service learning opportunities and ongoing exploration of new clinical education models.

Employment of physical therapists is expected to grow by 30 percent from 2008 to 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The increasing elderly population will drive growth, as will changes to restrictions on the reimbursement of physical therapy services. Recent changes to health care and insurance regulations are expected to generate millions of new patients seeking physical therapy.

Physical therapists report the second highest levels of job satisfaction in the country, according to the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center.



# New Vision

## An Outstanding Professional Outlook

Physical therapists are poised to explore any number of career options. Enjoy working in private practice, outpatient rehabilitation centers, schools, hospitals, home health care services or nursing care facilities. One hundred percent of Elon students find employment in the field of physical therapy after they graduate.

# Outstanding Professional Outlook

Blake Russell (right), a 2001 graduate of the physical therapy program, was the sole American to complete the women's marathon in the Beijing Olympics. Like many elite athletes, Russell has battled injuries and credits her physical therapy education for helping her troubleshoot those issues.





*"The intensity of the program taught me so much about commitment, perseverance and patience. In my career path, I have found that the combination of excellent academic preparation and the development of needed life skills have been remarkably valuable to me.*

*I also found the faculty provided prompt and consistent feedback and assistance whenever I was in need. I was struggling with one course and e-mailed the professor late one evening around 10 p.m. The phone rang 10 minutes later at my home—it was the professor calling me! He apologized for calling so late, but he felt I needed more personal communication than e-mail could provide. I was shocked, but so grateful."*

— Jerry Amash DPT'05, Orthopedic Services department director  
for a Burlington, N.C. home health care agency

## Your ELON DPT

### Apply Today

The DPT enrolls a new cohort each January. For your convenience, applicants will apply online using the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) ([ptcas.org](http://ptcas.org)).

Visit [www.elon.edu/dpt](http://www.elon.edu/dpt) for a complete list of requirements and details about the admissions process.

Scholarships are available to help students fund the cost of tuition. Visit the website for more information.

# ELON

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## About Elon

### National Rankings

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked Elon #2 among 118 Southern master's-level universities in its 2011 "America's Best Colleges" guide. The Princeton Review lists Elon among the nation's top schools in its 2011 "The Best 373 Colleges" guide. The National Survey of Student Engagement consistently names Elon one of the top schools in the country for actively engaging students in their learning experience.

### Faculty

Eighty-six percent of Elon's full-time faculty holds the highest degrees in their fields. The university's student-to-faculty ratio is 13-1, and the average class size is 21. The DPT program's student-to-faculty ratio is 8-1.

### Enrollment and Location

Elon's 5,032 undergraduate and 677 graduate students come from 48 states, the District of Columbia and 49 other countries. Located in Elon, North Carolina, Elon's 575-acre historic campus is a designated botanical garden. Elon is 30 minutes east of Greensboro and 45 minutes west of Chapel Hill and Durham.

### Majors and Degrees

Elon offers more than 50 majors leading to the bachelor of arts, bachelor of fine arts or bachelor of science degrees. Master's degrees are awarded in business administration, interactive media and education. Elon offers a doctor of physical therapy (DPT), and the Elon University School of Law offers the J.D. degree.

