

Research Project Guidelines

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Department of Exercise Science, Arnold School of Public Health
The University of South Carolina

1. Introduction:

Students enrolled in a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in the Department of Exercise Science of the Arnold School of Public Health must submit an approved research project to the office of the Program Director to satisfy part of the requirements for the DPT degree. This document is the ultimate requirement of the academic program because it remains as a permanent record of the research and creative effort that led to your being awarded your DPT degree.

Your research project must be based on a topic that has been approved by your project committee. If there are questions about your research and/or about your committee, these should be directed to the office of the Program Director. When you have completed your research project, you must defend it before an examining committee approved by the Program Director. Your defense of your research project must be conducted and a final draft submitted no less than fourteen (14) days before the date on which you expect to graduate. Either your proposal or defense needs to be presented at Research Seminar class.

Dyad projects are encouraged but not required. If you choose to complete your project with a classmate, the project must be of sufficient breadth and depth to require both contributors. Dyad projects are to be completed in the same manner as individual projects with only final manuscript submitted to the committee. Organization and individual responsibility of each member of this partnership is the responsibility of the dyad members, not the advisor.

After you have successfully defended your research project and have the appropriate signatures signed in black ink on your title page, you will submit your original copy to Quick Copy in the Russell House. Please note that the form and appearance of your research project must comply with the Research Project guidelines. We will not accept any Research Project that does not comply with our published guidelines. If you have any questions about this policy please contact the Office of the Program Director.

2. Scope and Topics:

The DPT research project is intended to allow the student to demonstrate the ability to examine a clinically relevant question in a systematic and scholarly manner. Topics may be broad in scope but must address a clinically relevant question. Students are not restricted as to topic, but **must align their interests with that of a core faculty member**. The chair of the student's research project must approve all research project topics. A primary goal of the research project experience is the creation of a scholarly work that contributes to the body of knowledge in physical therapy.

Topic: Research topics should address clinically-based or basic science questions within the field of physical therapy. Topics must be faculty driven (questions based on their research focus) and sponsored by a faculty member. Students can use a variety of research designs to fulfill their research project including but not limited to:

Case Report: A report describing any element of practice not previously documented in the literature. Most Case Reports focus on a patient or a group of patients. Issues addressed may include patient management, ethical dilemmas, use of equipment or devices, or administrative strategies. References are needed to support rationales and approaches.

Research Report: Any original research, regardless of the methods used. Included in this category are research using quantitative or qualitative methods and research using single-subject designs.

Technical Report: An original report that describes and documents the specifications or mechanical aspects of a device used by physical therapy practitioners in intervention or measurement. Evaluation of the device should be part of the report. References should be minimal, with major emphasis on the description of the methods used to evaluate the device.

Perspective: A scholarly paper expounding on a specific clinical approach to patient care (on either a theoretical or practical basis) or addressing professional issues in physical therapy, health care, and related areas.

3. Enrollment:

During the preparation of the research project, any student who uses University facilities or confers with faculty about their research work must be officially enrolled. A minimum of 6 credits in PHYT 888 are required for the DPT degree.

DPT students not completing the research project in the allotted time-frame will be given one additional semester to complete the required research assignment. Students requiring time beyond this additional semester must formally request an exception from the core faculty of the DPT program.

4. Research Project Committee/Examination.

The research project must be supervised and successfully proposed and defended before an examining committee, selected by the student, appointed by the student's faculty research advisor and approved by the Program Director. The committee must consist of no fewer than two members, one of which must be from the Physical Therapy Program. Clinicians and others with demonstrated expertise in the student's chosen area of study may serve as committee members if they have been approved by the Program Director.

5. Form and condition of original manuscript:

The DPT research project must be completed using a manuscript/appendix format. The research project will consist of the following main sections: a manuscript prepared in a journal format (appropriate to the research topic), the review of literature, and appendices containing other relevant supplemental information.

Your original manuscript must be printed on 8 ½" x 11" white, unlined paper that has at least 50% rag or cotton content. Printing must appear on only one side of each sheet unless such illustrations as charts, drawings, or photographs need to be printed on facing pages for clarity. Your original manuscript (and all copies) must be accurately proofread. Computers or word processors are required for writing the research project.

Adhere to the use of "people-first" language. A subject should not be referred to by disability or condition (eg, "patients with stroke," not "stroke patients"), and terms that could be considered biasing or discriminatory in any way should be removed.

Type styles: Any legible 12-point font can be acceptable, but styles without serifs are recommended because they normally have greater legibility. Typefaces that are overly ornate or difficult to read cannot be accepted. Your original should be printed on a laser or full letter-quality printer. Do not use running headers or footers, and please use boldface sparingly. If you have any questions about acceptable type styles, please contact the Office of the Program Director.

Margins: Your document must have these uniform margins:

1. Left margins must be 1.5 inches throughout, including footnotes, appendixes, charts, graphs, tables, etc.
2. Right margins must be 1.0 inch throughout.
3. Top margins: First pages of all chapters must have two-inch margins at the top. All other pages must have one-inch margins at the top. The manuscript is Chapter 1; the Literature Review is Chapter 2.
4. Bottom margins must be one inch throughout.
5. The left margin requirement (1 ½") also applies to footnotes.

Spacing: The text of your document must be double-spaced. Your footnotes or endnotes must be single-spaced.

Pagination: Use lowercase Roman numerals to number your introductory pages (title page, acknowledgements, dedication, etc.) with the title page bearing no number but included in the sequence. A table of contents is required, and on it should be listed all preliminary pages, chapter headings, bibliography, and appendixes (if any). Arabic numerals are to be used to number the remaining pages of the text, including appendixes. Placement of page numbers must be consistent (bottom-center or upper-right corner) and always one-half inch from the edge of the page. (See the page arrangement guidelines at the end of this document). Inserting a section break between these two types of page numbers allows for the change in format.

Length: The body of the project (introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion) should be no more than 4500 words (per *Physical Therapy Journal* style). This does not include abstract, references, appendixes or the literature review. The literature review should be

sufficient in length to support the science in your individual project. There is no maximum number of pages.

Bibliography: A bibliography must be appended to your research project. It must list references in AMA (numerically) or APA style (alphabetically by authors). There should be a bibliography or reference section after the manuscript (at the end of Chapter 1) and after the Literature Review (at the end of Chapter 2).

6. Condition of copies:

The Program requires that you assume full responsibility for the correctness of content and form of all copies of your research project. All copies must be clear and legible. Copies must be from high quality photocopiers and must not have smudges, streaks, or smears; carbon paper copies are not acceptable. You are responsible for having all pages present and in proper order before submitting the copies of your research project to the Office of the Program Director.

Title page: The title page of the original manuscript of your research project is extremely important and must be signed in black ink on the required paper by your committee before it is presented for graduation. A sample title page, showing the required information and its arrangement on the page, follows these guidelines. If you have any questions about your title page, please contact the Office of the Program Director.

Abstract: When you submit your original manuscript, you also must submit an abstract consisting of not more than 250 words. On a separate sheet, one inch from the top of the page, center the following sequence on three consecutive, double spaced lines:

ABSTRACT

The exact title of your research project

your name

Double space and begin your abstract. It may continue onto a second page so long as the total length doesn't exceed 250 words. *Include the name of your research project director (major professor) at the end of the abstract.* Your abstract must be bound with your research project. Double space your abstract, and remember that the margins for an abstract are the same as for the research project.

Fees: The cost of copying and binding is determined by Quick Copy.

7. Order of Pages and Numbering

<u>Components</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
Blank page	(not numbered)
Title page	Small Roman numeral (i) assigned but not typed
Dedication page*	Small Roman numeral, numbered consecutively
Acknowledgements*	Small Roman numeral, numbered consecutively

Abstract	Small Roman numeral, numbered consecutively
Table of contents	Small Roman numeral, numbered consecutively
List of tables	Small Roman numeral, numbered consecutively
List of figures	Small Roman numeral, numbered consecutively
Manuscript (Chapter 1) <i>(Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion)</i>	Arabic numeral starting with “1”
Bibliography (for Manuscript)	Arabic numeral numbered consecutively
Review of Literature (Chapter 2)	Arabic numeral numbered consecutively
Bibliography (for Literature Review)	Arabic numeral numbered consecutively
Appendix*	Arabic numeral numbered consecutively
Blank page	(not numbered)

* these elements are optional

8. Method of submission:

The original manuscript of your research project, *with appropriate signatures*, must be submitted to Quick Copy in one or more ½" x 11" stationery boxes with your name and semester and year of graduation. If you choose to make your own copies, instead of using Quick Copy, make sure you separate your individual copies with colored paper prior to sending them to get binded. A blank, white page must be placed at the beginning and end of your original manuscript as well as each copy (to be used as flyleaf pages for the bindery process).

One copy of your research project must be submitted as a PDF file to the office of the program director. All sections of your research project should be combined (including figures) and given the filename as follows: lastnamegraduationyear.pdf, for example jones2005.pdf.

9. Number of copies:

You need a minimum of 3 copies bound, 2 of these will be submitted to the Office of the Program Director. Your original and all copies will be bound at Quick Copy (you are responsible for the costs) in garnet hard covers and then distributed as follows:

1. The original to be kept in the Office of the Program Director
2. A copy provided to you research advisor
3. A copy to the student

BEGINNING PING PONG AS AN INTERVENTION FOR GAIT, BALANCE, AND
MOBILITY IN AN INDIVIDUAL WITH ONE LEG: A CASE REPORT.

by

Susie Jane Smith

Bachelor of Science
Indiana University, 2001

Master of Science
Clemson University, 2003

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy in the
Department of Exercise Science
Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina

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