Memorandum of Understanding Between

The Pennsylvania State University and

Misericordia University

This Admission Agreement is entered into by The Pennsylvania State University through Penn State Hazleton, 76 University Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202 (PSU) and Misericordia University, 301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612 (MU)

The parties agree as follows:

1. **The MU Physical Therapy Department will reserve a minimum of one seat annually in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program for students from PSU-Hazleton who hold a bachelor's degree as well as an Associate of Science Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, and who exceed the minimum admission requirements as listed in Appendix.**

    - **Admission is competitive, on a space-available basis. Accreditation constraints may limit admission of students covered in this agreement in any given year.**
    - **Each party shall notify the other within ninety (90) days of a change in the party's curriculum which may affect this agreement.**
    - **Named representatives from each party are hereby appointed as the applicable party's representative responsible for monitoring the agreement for each party, with contact information for these representatives listed on both party's websites.**
    - **Either party may terminate this agreement at any time, and for any reason, by providing ninety (90) days written notice to the other party. Notwithstanding anything contrary in this agreement, students in progress at the time of termination of this agreement and who complete their PSU program of study will be considered for the MU DPT program under the terms of the agreement.**
    - **This agreement is strictly limited to the DPT program at MU. Nothing in this agreement shall be interpreted as granting admission to any PSU student in any program other than the DPT program. Students must provide notice of interest in participating in the agreement while a student at PSU and complete the admission process detailed on the MU DPT website.**
    - **This agreement only applies to current PSU PTA students**
    - **Penn State and Misericordia agree not to unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, or disability in any undertaking pursuant to this agreement.**
    - **This agreement will remain in effect for five years from the date of the final signature but may be renewed at any time.**

MU Representative:

Kristen Karnish, PT, MPH, DEd
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570-674-3325

PSU Representative:

Gina Tarud, PT, DPT
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Misericordia University

DocuSigned by:
Daniel Myers 5-28-25
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Daniel J. Myers, PhD
President

DocuSigned by:
David Rehm 5-28-25
...

David B. Rehm, PhD
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Signed by:
Lisa Norton 5-28-25
...

Lisa May Norton, EdD
Dean, College of Health Sciences and Education

DocuSigned by:
kristen karnish 5-28-25
...

Kristen Karnish, PT, MPH, DEd
Physical Therapy Department Chair

Penn State University

Kathleen J. Bieschke 10/27/2025

Kathleen Bieschke, PhD
Senior Vice Provost and Interim Dean of Undergraduate Education

Richard Brazier 10/23/25

Richard Brazier, PhD
Dean, University College

Renata S. Engel 10/27/2025

Renata Engel, PhD
Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses and Executive Chancellor

H. Durell Johnson 9/18/25

Durell Johnson, PhD
Regional Chancellor, Penn State Hazleton, Wilkes Barre, and Scranton

Dr. Gina Tarud, DPT, PTA Program Coordinator 9-17-25

Gina Tarud, DPT
Program Coordinator, PTA Program Hazleton Campus

Appendix

Admission Requirements

All PSU PTA students entering MU under this agreement must:

A. **Have completed and been awarded an Associate in Science Degree with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant**
8. **Have completed and been awarded a Bachelor's Degree**
C. **Be in good academic standing at PSU at the time of application to the MU DPT program**
D. **Have followed the appropriate application process in applying to MU**
E. **Demonstrate at least the minimum admission criteria:**
    1. **Completion of all DPT prerequisite courses with grades of C or better.**
    2. **Minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.**
    3. **Grades of C or better in all coursework related to the Associate in Science degree with a major in Physical Therapist Assistant.**
    4. **GPA of at least 3.0 for all DPT prerequisite Natural Science courses.**