

**Oakland University
School of Health Professions
Physical Therapy Program
Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy**

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

INTRODUCTION

Students enrolled in the Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy degree program (DScPT) are required to complete individual research projects that are clinically relevant to the physical therapy profession. The research topic is determined by the student with the goal of producing a publishable peer reviewed journal article. The research project can be qualitative or quantitative in nature and can include (but is not limited to) randomized clinical trials, intervention studies, comparison studies, case series, or meta-analytic designs.

PROGRESSION AND EXPECTATIONS

The DScPT student determines a research area of study then selects and recruits a Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC is composed of a chair, who is an Oakland University Physical Therapy (OUPT) program faculty member, and at least 2 additional members, (one of whom again must be an OUPT faculty member). Students may also include additional members on the committee who are experts in the chosen content area or in statistical analysis.. The student is responsible for obtaining signatures from RAC members who agree to serve on the *"1. DScPT PROGRAM – RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORM"*.

The student, with the guidance and approval of the RAC members, develops a suitable research proposal that includes the study rationale, a comprehensive literature review, a clear description of the population or target sample, the method for conducting the study including the study design, specific tests and measures, data analyses, expected outcomes, timeline, budget, and journal for submission. Written drafts are first submitted to the RAC Chair for review and recommendations prior to disseminating them to other committee members for further scrutiny.

Once the proposal is satisfactorily completed, the student defends the proposal in a formal presentation to the RAC members. When the proposal meets the approval of the RAC members, the student acquires each member's signature on the *"2. APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR DScPT FORM"*. Prior to beginning subject recruitment, research projects that involve humans require Institutional Review Board approval and projects that involve animals require Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval. Prior to submitting the IRB proposal, it must be signed by the chair of the committee. RAC member approvals are required through all steps in this process. RAC members are also available to provide students with information about resources, funding, and graduate student grants or stipends that are available for research projects.

Once data collection is completed, and results and conclusions are determined, the student disseminates the research findings in an oral public presentation before the RAC members and any other OU and community individuals who wish to attend. Following the public presentation, a private meeting with RAC members will commence and guidance will be provided to the student for successful completion of the research requirements on his or her particular project. At this time, if the research project meets the approval of RAC, the student acquires signatures from RAC members on the "3. ORAL PRESENTATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE FORM".

The candidate must prepare the research paper according to the guidelines of the chosen peer reviewed journal. When the final research paper meets the approval of the RAC members, the student acquires their signatures on the "4. PUBLISHED PAPER RESEARCH COMMITTEE FORM". The paper can then be prepared for submission for publication, if this is the recommendation of the RAC members.

Once the research report meets the criteria set forth by the Graduate Office, the candidate obtains signatures from the Chair of the RAC, and the program director on the "5. DScPT RESEARCH REPORT APPROVAL MEMO". The approved and completed research paper is then submitted to the Graduate Office for approval prior to graduation. Students are responsible for following directions for submission of their final paper and meeting all requirements in a timely manner for graduation. All important dates for submission of the student research paper/forms and graduation are listed on the Oakland University website.

The candidate must finally prepare the research paper as a research report, according to the requirements set forth in the "Graduate Office General Guidelines for Completing and Submitting the Research Paper to the Graduate Office". The Research Paper Document submitted to the Graduate Office must include:

1. The research report will be presented in a clear-front report cover with three pronged fasteners
2. The research report will include a signed title page, as its first page.
3. Students must provide an approval signature line for each advisory faculty member. This approval indicates that the faculty are satisfied with the substance of the written research, as well as with the format of the document.
4. A copy of the approved IRB letter must be included with the report.
5. The student's name must appear as it appears on file in the Registrar's Office.
6. The year is the year of degree conferral, not the year the research report is submitted and not the commencement year.
7. The report must be graded prior to submission.
8. The submission must include the "6. DScPT RESEARCH REPORT APPROVAL MEMO".

The candidate submits one copy of their research paper to the Thesis/Dissertation

Coordinator, Office of Graduate Study (520 O'Dowd Hall) by the final submission deadline listed in the *Schedule of Classes* for semester or session of intended graduation. Copies are also given to each member of the student's advisory committee and also placed in the student's file in the Physical Therapy Program Office.

MISCELLANEOUS RESPONSIBILITIES

The student is responsible for scheduling all meetings or presentations, securing room reservations, and notifying RAC members or others of dates, times, and meeting rooms. Students are responsible for following directions for submission of their final paper and meeting all requirements in a timely manner for graduation. All important dates for submission of the student research paper/forms and graduation are listed on the Oakland University website.

DSC STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES CHECK LIST

ACTIVITY	DATE COMPLETED
1. Identify a research topic and research question	
2. Select and recruit committee chair and members Obtain signatures on "1. <i>DScPT PROGRAM – RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE</i> " form.	
3. Develop the research proposal with the guidance of the RAC members	
4. Develop a time line for expected completion of each portion of the research project	
5. Discuss and determine authorship with Chair and committee members	
6. Prepare, present and defend the proposal to RAC Obtain RAC signatures on "2. <i>APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR DScPT</i> " document	
7. When required, submit and obtain Institutional Review Board Approvals from all required sites. Submit and obtain all required compliance approvals.	
8. Perform the study, complete data analysis, determine results, and conclusions.	
9. Schedule and perform the public presentation, and meet with RAC to defend work and obtain recommendations for project completion.	

10. When the research project meets the criteria of RAC, acquire signatures on the <i>"3. ORAL PRESENTATION RESEARCH COMMITTEE FORM"</i> .	
11. Prepare research paper in accordance with peer review journal guidelines. When meets approval of RAC obtain signatures on <i>"4. PUBLISHED PAPER RESEARCH COMMITTEE FORM"</i> .	
12. Prepare research report for Graduate Office by deadlines, once completed according to committee and Graduate Office standards; obtain RAC Chair and Program Director signatures on the <i>"5.DScPT RESEARCH REPORT APPROVAL MEMO"</i> .	
13. Submit Research Report to Graduate Office for approval prior to graduation, as well as copies to each RAC member and the student file using: <i>"6. DScPT RESEARCH REPORT APPROVAL MEMO"</i>	

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Responsibilities for Research
DM/DScPT/wp
December 2008
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