



Evidence In Motion Transition DPT Frequently Asked Questions

Why is EIM offering a transition DPT (tDPT) degree?

EIM supports American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) Vision 2020, specifically, the need to effectively progress as many PTs as possible to the doctorate level. Additionally, this "upgraded" education will prepare physiotherapists for direct access, autonomous practice, and advanced scopes of practice, therefore supporting the vision and position of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT - <http://www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-direct-access>, <http://www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-autonomy>).

Although there are no external accreditation standards for the tDPT, institutions offering the tDPT from the United States do have guidance through APTA's Preferred Curricular Guide for tDPT programs ([APTA Preferred Curricular Guide for tDPT programs](#)). Each institution offering a tDPT program decides the degree to which they will follow this guideline. EIM fully supports the Preferred Curricular Guide and has used this standard as the basis upon which to establish the curricula for the tDPT. EIM's tDPT for international students includes four topic courses focused in the areas of radiology/imaging, medical screening, pharmacy and clinical lab tests, and evidence based physical therapy practice. Additionally, the program includes four clinical management courses; the same courses that are key components of EIM's APTA credentialed residency and fellowship programs.

As stated previously, the Preferred Curricular Guide serve as the foundation for EIM's tDPT. Rather than adding stand-alone courses to address every content area, the following topics are integrated into the tDPT courses: 1) physical therapy care for patients across the lifespan, 2) health and wellness principles; 3) differential diagnosis concepts involving the neurologic system, cardio-pulmonary system, and other body systems; 4) ethics and professionalism; and 5) teaching and learning. Our program is specifically designed for physical therapists who practice or have an interest in the management of patients with musculoskeletal disorders (orthopaedic, sports, manual therapy, etc). The curriculum is not geared toward physical therapists in other areas of practice such as cardiac rehabilitation, neurologic rehabilitation, or pediatric physical therapy.

Doesn't your tDPT program have to be "accredited"?

The tDPT is certainly one of the most misunderstood concepts within our own profession. Accreditation requirements from external organizations are dependent upon the degrees/certifications being offered. As an example, EIM is primarily focused on post-professional programs including manual therapy certification, residencies, fellowships, and executive management. EIM's Orthopaedic Residency and Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship are both credentialed by APTA as approved residency and fellowship programs, respectively. Additionally, the Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship Program is recognized by the AAOMPT (American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists, <http://www.aaompt.org/>) and therefore falls under the standards of both the AAOMPT and the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT, <http://www.ifompt.com/>).

Transitional DPT programs do not have external accreditation requirements. Transitional DPT programs are not accredited under a unifying organization like the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) in the United States or an international equivalent. In other words, no larger entity has accreditation rights or the means to "bless" the programs. As long as the

institution that provides the curriculum has the ability through state or regional licensing to offer post graduate degrees, they can offer a tDPT.

In addition to formal credentialing and recognition of EIM programs by the APTA and AAOMPT, EIM is licensed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by the State Board for Proprietary Education.

The EIM Institute of Health Profession's tDPT Program is one of several tDPT programs recognized and listed on the APTA website ([tDPT programs identified by APTA as listed on the APTA website](#)).

Under what authority does Evidence in Motion grant degrees? Is the degree valid?

You may hear some individuals state that a valid tDPT degree can only be offered by an educational institution accredited by a regional academic accreditation governing body. This is false. It is true that first-professional DPT programs in the United States are required to be accredited by CAPTE, which is the profession's governing body over program accreditation. To receive entry level DPT program accreditation by CAPTE, the degree granting institution does have to be regionally accredited. However, EIM does not have a first-professional entry level DPT program, so this requirement does not apply. EIM offers the tDPT option via its EIM Institute for Health Professions, a subsidiary organization that became licensed in January 2009 through the Kentucky State Board as a Proprietary Educational Organization.

Are there other universities offering the tDPT degree who are not regionally accredited?

Being licensed through the Kentucky State Board as a Proprietary Educational Organization is similar to requirements that other privately owned educational institutions must complete prior to become degree granting. As an example, the University of St. Augustine (USA) does not have institutional accreditation from one of the traditional regional accreditation governing bodies. Rather, USA is institutionally accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), which is a nationally recognized accrediting agency authorized by the U.S. Department of Education, and is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Some universities have also offered tDPT programs for several years without having a regular DPT program although they are an accredited university but not accredited by CAPTE. For instance, Rocky Mountain University has had a tDPT program for some time but only launched its DPT program in 2010.

Is EIM's tDPT endorsed by APTA?

The vast majority of EIM's tDPT content is similar to the content included in EIM's Orthopaedic Residency and Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship programs, both of which are credentialed APTA residency and fellowship programs, respectively. In other words, APTA has indirectly "endorsed" the quality of the majority of the content required within EIM's tDPT offering. Perhaps ironically, this is actually a HIGHER standard than the vast majority of the tDPT curricula offered by traditional universities (ie, those with regional accreditation) because CAPTE does not examine or endorse their tDPT curriculum. Traditional universities have no outside agency examining their tDPT curricula, whereas the majority of EIM's tDPT content is examined and credentialed by APTA for the purpose of residency and fellowship training. The EIM Institute for Health Profession's tDPT program is listed on the APTA website along with other institutions who offer the tDPT.

<http://www.apta.org/PostprofessionalDegree/TransitionDPTPrograms/>

Does having a tDPT from a regionally accredited university make me more qualified to teach in an entry level physical therapy academic program?

The tDPT degree was never intended as an advanced academic degree in preparation for teaching as ranked faculty in a physical therapy educational program. Typically, academic institutions seek ranked faculty members who have "terminal doctoral degrees", such as a PhD, DSc, etc. Individuals desiring an advanced academic degree that prepares them for teaching on a physical therapy faculty should

pursue the appropriate degree (ie, PhD, DSc, etc.) based on feedback from their target institution. Furthermore, individuals who would like to teach for a first-professional DPT program should be proactive in discussing EIM's tDPT program with their prospective institution to determine if the institution will accept this DPT program as a "valid" DPT degree.

Individuals who receive their tDPT from the EIM Institute of Health Professions have a valid Doctorate. This is based on the face validity of the content as compared to the APTA Preferred Curricular Guide, the credibility of the program delivering it and the extent to which it is recognized by the public and the healthcare community. EIM encourages a critical review of the qualifications of its faculty and curricula. We are confident that such a review will verify that the academic standing and competency of our faculty as well as the breadth and relevance of our curricula is of the highest standards in the profession.