



UCMC Physical Therapy Critical Care Fellowship Overview

Mission of Physical Therapy Fellowship Program: In conjunction with the University of Chicago Medicine's mission to provide superior healthcare, the mission of University of Chicago Medical Center Physical Therapy Critical Care Fellowship program is to provide a professional development opportunity to prepare physical therapists to become national leaders and experts in the practice and advancement of physical therapy care for adult patients experiencing critical illness. This is achieved through didactic education, participation in research, professionally mentored patient care experiences and independent patient care. The programs will emphasize the development of advanced psychomotor skills, theoretical rationales, evidence based techniques, and complex clinical reasoning to enhance the fellow's ability to evaluate and treat patients who are experiencing or survived critical illness. The program graduate will be a physical therapist who will be an ongoing resource for the University of Chicago Medical Center and the physical therapy and medical communities by promoting rehabilitation, health, and wellness, for the persons they serve.

The Goals of the Physical Therapy Critical Care Fellowship Programs at UCMC are:

To provide a post professional educational experience in the area of critical care to physical therapists who will be better able:

1. To develop graduate fellows who will be recognized as the practitioners of choice to establish and implement evidenced-based physical therapy programs for patients with critical illnesses.
2. To develop clinicians who will provide appropriate, safe, and innovative physical therapy interventions, collect evidence to support the effectiveness of the interventions and develop programs to enhance the practice of physical therapy in critical care.
3. To develop clinicians who will advance the awareness and understanding in the medical community of the integral role of physical therapists in the management and prevention of impairments in the critically ill patient population.
4. To develop advanced clinicians who will contribute to the Physical Therapy profession through, teaching, research, publication and presentations on a local, national and international level.

5. To develop physical therapists who are national leaders and experts in the practice and advancement of physical therapy care for adult patients experiencing and recovering from critical illness and their families.
6. To produce self-directed practitioners who are critical thinkers, skillful negotiators, strong patient and family advocates, reflective, empathetic, and committed to lifelong learning and self-development.

Curriculum:

Schedule for education Curriculum:

- 52 full time weeks including
 - 4 weeks of orientation
 - 2 weeks of full time clinical work load (without allotted education time) over December holidays
 = **Equals 46 total weeks with fellowship education**

Breakdown of teaching hours during the 46 education weeks:

Approximately: 9 hours education, 33 hours of patient treatment per week

- **Mentoring = 4 hours per week** (one on one with faculty) = **approx 184 hours**
- **Clinical Investigations=2 hours per week** (rounds, grand rounds, professional issues, peer reviews, journal clubs, research, specialty practice observation) = **approx 92 hours**
- **Didactic Learning Sessions = 3 hours per week** (lectures and lab) = **approx 138 hours**
- **Clinical Practice:**
 - 33 hours/week for 46 weeks = 1518 hours
 - 40 hours/week during orientation and holiday weeks = 240 hours
 - **Total clinical practice hours = 1758 hours**

Outline of Critical Care Fellowship educational modules:

Lab Values, Monitoring, Equipment-2 weeks

Research-2 weeks

Nutrition-2 weeks

Acid/base Homeostasis, Hemodynamic Monitoring, O2 Delivery/extraction-3 weeks

Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery-6 weeks

Respiratory Failure, Mechanical Ventilation-3 weeks

Sedation, Delirium, Critical Illness Myopathy/polyneuropathy-3 weeks

Sepsis, Shock-2 weeks

Metabolic, Endocrine-2 weeks

Burn, Reconstruction-6 weeks

Oncology-3 weeks

Ethics, Legal, Financial Considerations-1 week

Neurology, Neurosurgery-3 weeks

Surgical Complications-6 weeks

Trauma-2 weeks

Hours:

The majority of on site fellowship activities occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7AM and 7 PM. Fellows are considered to be exempt employees who are salaried. Their work schedule will be flexible and allow for patient care, training, mentoring, and study time and preparation. Schedules are coordinated by the fellowship program coordinator and shall not exceed expectation of more than 50 hours /week of direct program participation. There will be additional personal study time required.

Weekend Coverage: Fellows will be scheduled to work approximately one weekend per month. This time will be all patient care.

Professional Liability Insurance:

As an employee of the UCMC, a fellow is covered by the organization's professional liability policy. This coverage extends only to those activities that are required by their participation in the program. All PT fellows are encouraged to carry their own personal professional liability coverage.

Salary

As a fellow in the program, your salary for the year of the fellowship program is set according to the cost of maintaining the program.

There is \$300 allocated for continuing education. No additional monies allocated for application or testing fees for ABPTS, tuition reimbursement, travel or parking fees to any observations/ outside facilities, living expenses, licensure fees, or professional dues.

Supplemental work opportunities, covering inpatient weekends may be available with additional pay for any fellow whose fellowship expectations are being met. This opportunity is voluntary.

UCMC Physical Therapy Fellowship

Paid Time Off (PTO) Guidelines

Physical Therapy Fellows are full time employees of the University of Chicago Medical Center. They will be eligible to take 5 days of paid time off, with the approval of the fellowship program coordinator and the assistant director. 6 organizational holidays will also be paid; New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Because of the extensive education and curriculum pieces of the fellowship positions it is very challenging to provide the fellows with extended time (more than 1-2 consecutive work days) off throughout their program.

Paid Time off:

- Paid days off will be scheduled with the approval of the fellow's manager and the Physical Therapy Fellowship Program Coordinator. Unscheduled days off, (such as sick, emergency, etc.) must also be approved by the fellowship program coordinator and will be deducted from the PTO bank.
- Any unpaid time (beyond the 5 days) will be granted only for an approved emergency leave, by the Therapy Services Director.
- New employees of the Therapy Services Department are encouraged not to take paid days off during their first 6 months of employment. This is considered probationary time.
- All paid time off must be taken within the time frame of the fellowship program commitment.
- Time off from the fellowship may be allowed if:
 - Staffing allows adequate patient care coverage
 - Time is requested a minimum of 4 weeks ahead of scheduled day off
 - The fellow may need to work additional hours before and after a scheduled day off to assure that all educational pieces and patient care obligations are achieved.

Sick Days:

- All employees are asked to not put patients and co-workers at risk by attending work if they are ill.
- If a fellow is sick, they need to call the department 773-702-6891 and speak to the receptionist prior to 7AM of their scheduled day of work. Therapists are also asked to provide information to assist re-scheduling their patients.
- If sick time taken exceeds amount of PTO days (5) or if a pattern is noticed, time off will be discussed with the fellow. A doctors' note may be required any time abuse of sick time is suspected

How to Apply:

Eligibility: Physical Therapists licensed or eligible for licensure, in the state of Illinois, are encouraged to apply. **Only physical therapists licensed in the state of Illinois will be hired.**

Two years of clinical experience in acute care is a prerequisite.

The application must include a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, 3 letters of recommendation, and an online UCMC application.

- The letter of intent must include the following: 1) goals/objectives for the fellowship program, 2) a summary of prior clinical and educational experience and 3) short and long term goals for critical care subspecialty.
- Please include a current curriculum vitae or resume.
- The 3 letters of recommendation **must include two of the following:**
 - 1) Current or former supervisor, (if a recent graduate; from a current or former clinical instructor)
 - 2) Instructor/faculty member from an accredited physical therapy program
 - 3) A physician with whom the physical therapist has worked in the past year (not required an option).

How to apply:

We are a part of the centralized application process with the APTA. Please complete the application on the following website:

<http://www.abptrfe.org/RFPTCAS/ApplicantWebsite/>

In addition, please complete a PT fellow application online at:

<http://www.uchospitals.edu/jobs/index.html>

This will be posted in February of the application year.

You will be emailed a specific PT fellow job description.

Interviews:

Top candidates will be interviewed initially via phone, second interviews will be completed on the University of Chicago Medical Campus in May of the application year. All interviews will include behavioral and clinical questions. Please be prepared to discuss research ideas and to demonstrate patient interactions and treatment plans.

The completed application should be forwarded no later than **April 1st, 2016:**
(please contact to confirm deadline dates for future classes)

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Frequently Asked Questions:

1. As a full time employee at the hospital, how is the fellow compensated? Is there tuition involved or is it waived by being a full time employee?

The fellowship position is a full time salaried position. The level of compensation is less than a full time treating therapist and the difference in pay is what it costs UCMC to educate the fellow. There are not additional years of commitment from the resident or the organization upon completion of the program.

3. How many people are usually accepted into the program each year?

One (1) critical care fellow

4. Are the 3 hours of didactic coursework each week in a classroom format? If so, is that during the working week or on the weekend?

This is generally presented during the work week, occasionally on a weekend if faculty availability requires.

5. Who are the faculty of this program and who are the mentors? Faculty and mentors are the same – most are employees of UCMC and for some sections we have additional faculty from outside clinics.

During each section the faculty who is teaching is also mentoring the resident for at least 2 hours/week (the fellow still gets 4 hours of mentoring)

6. As far as the letters of recommendation, are they to be sent to you directly by the writers or should it come with the rest of my application in the same packet?

Either way is acceptable as long as they are sealed and signed on the back by the writer.

7. Will the program prepare me to take an ABPTS specialty examination?

As there is currently no specialty examination in acute or critical care, the program is not specifically designed to teach to a specialty area. However, there is a great deal of cardiac and pulmonary content which may help prepare the fellow for the Cardiopulmonary Clinical Specialist examination.

8. Do fellows work weekends?

Yes, fellows work weekends which is usually one weekend per month . Schedules are adjusted accordingly.

9. Does the University of Chicago affiliate with a Physical Therapy School and require teaching in the University setting?

The University of Chicago does not have an entry level professional PT program with which it is affiliated for teaching. We do have a medical school at the University of Chicago and the physical therapy fellow may be involved in teaching medical students or residents. We also take a number of PT students throughout the year for clinical rotations.