



PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY,  
PROGRAM GOALS &  
STRUCTURE CHART

## WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PROGRAM ORGANIZATION:

### A. *OUR VISION AND PHILOSOPHY*

#### **Our Vision**

To be the leading model professional environment that educates new generations of innovative thinking, diagnosis-based practitioners, provides premier clinical services, prepares highly creative academic research faculty capable of cutting-edge translational and clinical research and generates new knowledge and evidence for clinical practice.

#### **Our Philosophy**

- Movement is the foundation for a healthy life, provides the core identity of physical therapy as a professional discipline, and through physical therapy preserves and restores functional independence essential to optimal health.
- Compassion, integrity and the passion for service to others are necessary foundations through which our missions can best be achieved.
- Self-awareness, a commitment to lifelong learning, the ability to collaborate with others, and the courage to challenge the status quo is required to inspire and lead change in professional work.

### B. *OUR MISSIONS*

Washington University's academic and professional culture demands excellence, invites innovation and encourages collaboration among colleagues to achieve shared missions in education, clinical practice and research.

#### **Education**

Prepare exceptional practitioners and researchers who contribute to the practice and science of physical therapy by providing education exclusively at the doctoral level and using innovative teaching strategies delivered by expert faculty. We:

- Prepare clinical leaders who are practitioners of choice in diagnosis-based patient care and who aspire to exceed accepted standards for compassionate care and promotion of health;
- Provide creative post-professional education that enable physical therapists to achieve advanced knowledge, skills and effectiveness in health care delivery;
- Develop scientists whose research extends the body of knowledge in the movement sciences and whose interdisciplinary work enables translation of new knowledge to enhance clinical practice.

#### **Clinical Practice**

Provide exemplary patient care services that optimize health, functional independence and quality of life. We:

- Engage in care that aims to diagnose and treat movement-related impairments and promote health and prevent disability;
- Serve as the ideal role model for physical therapy service delivery within the professional community at Washington University and beyond;

- Create an environment of partnership with patients and their providers that ensure comprehensive care and enables access to new knowledge that can effect change in physical therapy practice.

**Research**

Promote translational and clinical research that blends the basic and clinical science foundations in the movement sciences and advances physical therapy practice and education. We:

- Generate new knowledge to explain the mechanisms of normal and pathological movement and inform development of new therapeutic strategies that optimize functional independence and health;
- Disseminate evidence to interdisciplinary communities of students, faculty and practitioners interested in leading change in health care;
- Train scientists to become scholarly members of the academy who will continue the pursuit of theory and application of new knowledge in the movement sciences.

**How these missions are integrated is depicted in the following graphic:**

**Program in Physical Therapy  
Vision, Missions and Values**

