Why choose Palmetto Health’s residency program?

Our 12-month structured program allows residents to work while taking classes, participating in labs and receiving one-on-one mentorship from an orthopedic specialist who is a board-certified fellow and/or orthopedic clinical specialist. Our program offers numerous specialists who will provide expert clinical and didactic instruction.

Physical Therapy Orthopedic Residency Program

Palmetto Health’s Physical Therapy Orthopedic Residency Program strives to cultivate excellence in residents by imparting advanced clinical skills and training in the field of orthopedics, thereby providing patients with superior care and outcomes.

What is a clinical residency?

As defined by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), a clinical residency program in physical therapy is a post-professional, planned learning experience in a focused area of clinical practice. Similar to the medical model, a clinical residency program is a structured educational experience (both didactic and clinical) for physical therapists, following entry-level education and licensure, which is designed to significantly advance the physical therapist’s knowledge, skills and abilities in a specific area of clinical practice. It combines opportunities for ongoing clinical mentoring with a theoretical basis for advanced practice and scientific inquiry. The residency training prepares the physical therapist to pass the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) certification examination following graduation.

About the residency program

This residency is offered through Palmetto Health Physical Therapy Specialists and consists of: multiple structured lectures and labs, self-paced learning materials, written exams, live patient exams, participation in journal clubs, teaching DPT students at the University of South Carolina, and a case study that will be presented at either a local APTA conference or CSM.

Residents will participate in mentorship under an APTA board-certified orthopedic clinical specialist (OCS) in addition to fellow trained clinicians of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy. The residency program meets all the elements of the APTA’s Description of Specialty Practice (DSP).
Admission requirements

• Licensed physical therapist for the state of South Carolina.
• APTA member.
• Three letters of reference.
• Updated CV or resume.

Residency requirements

Didactic learning

• 120 instructional hours (includes lectures and labs).
• 260 independent study hours.
• Written and live patient exams (mid-term and final).
• Participate in monthly journal clubs.
• Case report or poster presentation submission.

Mentored learning

• 150 hours of clinical mentorship.
• 37.5 hours of discussion/review of case load.
• One-on-one mentor hours with board certified orthopedic clinical specialist and/or fellow of American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy.
• 1,500 hours of clinical practice.

Our team

Palmetto Health’s highly trained team evaluates, diagnoses and manages treatment plans, customizing them for each individual patient’s needs. Our team includes:

• Five certified orthopedic clinical specialists.
• Three certified geriatric clinical specialists.
• One exercise physiologist.
• One certified mechanical diagnosis and therapy specialist.

Please e-mail Kevin Tyer, DPT, at Kevin.Tyer@PalmettoHealth.org with any questions or to receive an application.