

BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (F/T) - SC401

1. Context and Objectives

The Programme is designed to be a 4 year professional full-time course, like other health related programmes run by the Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Mauritius.

The programme has been designed taken into account the minimum requirements for the training and education of Physiotherapists set by the World Confederation of Physical Therapy.

The disability profile as indicated by the Housing and Population Census carried out by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development revealed an increase in the prevalence of disabilities but there is still a lack of qualified Physiotherapists to cater for their needs. With expansion in different fields such as sports, medicine, industry, NGO's, homes for the elderly, there will also be an increasing need for physiotherapists.

Physiotherapy is the skilled use of physiologically-based movement techniques, supplemented when necessary by massage, electrotherapy and other physical means for the prevention and treatment of injury and disease. It is used to assist the process of rehabilitation and restoration of function, including the achievement of personal independence. The work of the Physiotherapist is therefore essential to ensure a good quality of life of individuals (ranging from children to the elderly) with various disabilities (physical, neurological, psychosocial, sensory and other...) and rehabilitation needs and their integration in the community. The specific objective of the therapist is to function as an integral part of a multidisciplinary team to enable those whose abilities in productivity, self-maintenance and leisure are threatened, restricted or lost due to impairment, developmental delay, ageing or lack of opportunity, to become full and productive members of the community. Physiotherapists are therefore of paramount importance in the effective operation of the health care, social welfare and education systems. Physiotherapists play an important role in preventive medicine which includes all pathologies of musculo-skeletal system at all ages.

The first three years of study have been designed to equip students with all the basic training needs of a Physiotherapist for general practice, including implementation of treatment after effective Physiotherapy Assessment, good communication and interpersonal skills and commitment to ethical and social responsibility. The fourth year of study leads to the award of a BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy and is designed to meet the research and administrative and management needs of the profession, including exposure to clinical electives. The clinical education training will provide the opportunity for translation of theoretical knowledge into hands-on practice of immediate relevance and will further help students in acquiring professional competence. Graduates with this degree can either pursue higher studies (MSc, MPhil/PhD) or seek employment locally and internationally.

The Programme being proposed is a very wide-reaching programme, open to private candidates as well as in-service trainees from various Ministries (including Health and Quality of Life, Social Security, Education and Human Resources), Non-Governmental Organisations and Private Organisations as well as individuals. Physiotherapists are employable in a wide range of areas (public and private health institutions, schools, NGOs, Physiotherapy departments of main hospitals and clinics, homes for the elderly, sports, Medicine, Clinics, Industry) and can also choose private practice.

2. Programme Learning outcomes

By the end of this programme, graduates will have developed knowledge, abilities and skills in:

- Understanding the structure and function of the human body and how it works;
- Comprehending how diseases are caused, their signs and symptoms, prevention and management strategies relevant to physiotherapy;

- Distinguishing different Health and Safety issues pertinent to physiotherapy modes of treatment;
- Integrating knowledge gained in physiotherapy assessment techniques and interventions to improve one's functional abilities;
- Analysing evidence based practice and develop clinical reasoning skills for diagnosis and their application in physiotherapy management;
- Developing professional communication skills, problem-solving strategies and positive team spirit to promote healthcare;
- Recognising how health care services are organised;
- Understanding ethical issues relevant to physiotherapy practice;
- Analysing and evaluating appropriate assessment techniques and document interventions in accordance to professional and legal standards and;
- Developing basic research and analytical skills such as evaluation of relevant literature and application of appropriate statistical tests.

3. Teaching and Learning methods

This programme will be conducted through face-to-face lectures, clinical practice, self-directed learning (self-study), tutorials, and other learning activities such as online activities, student led seminars, group work, practicals, professional placements, field visits, experiential learning, flipping classroom and active learning. Methods such as directed study, study tasks, role play, computer-based learning, workshops and case-based learning will also be utilised for content delivery. Group and individual discussion will be strongly encouraged. Total learning hours pertaining to each component are specified in the sections that follow. Students are expected to complete those learning hours under guidance to be eligible for awards of degree.

4. Entry Requirements

- **General Entry Requirements**

As per General Entry Requirements for admission to the University for undergraduate degrees.

- **Programme Requirements**

Credit in at least five subjects (School Certificate) including English, Biology, Mathematics, Physics and at least one other Science subject.

GCE Advanced Level passes (or equivalent) in three science subjects. Mathematics will count as a Science subject. A minimum of 16 University aggregate score would be accepted.

5. Programme Duration

	Normal	Maximum
BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (F/T)	8 semesters (4 years)	12 semesters (6 years)

6. Minimum LCCS credits Required:

Minimum LCCS credits required for Award of BSc(Hons) Physiotherapy Degree: 236

For each Academic Year

Year of Study	Number of LCCS credits	Notional Learning Hours
1	66	2160

2	72	1980
3	54	1620
4	44	1320
Total	236	7080

- Maximum and minimum LCCS credits/year subject to UoM Regulations

Breakdown of notional learning hours

The total notional learning hours for the 4 years full time programme will be comprised of the following:

Learning activity	Notional Learning Hours
Contact teaching	1810
Self-study	2160
Other learning	3110
Total	7080

7. Assessment and Deadlines

Continuous Assessment and Written Exams of Modules

Each module will carry 100 marks (i.e. expressed as %). Pass mark for each module will be 50%. Modules will be examined at the end of the semester in which they are taught (unless otherwise specified).

The Foundation courses in Course in Biology/Physics in Year I carry no credits. The assessment for Foundation Course in Biology/Physics will be based on both written examination and on continuous assessment(s). Successful completion of the course will result in a Grade S.

All Modules to be assessed by a 2 hr written exam paper(unless otherwise specified).

• **Specifications**

- Clinical Education Training in the form of clinical practice in Government hospitals and other public/private institutions, homes for the elderly, private clinics will form an essential part of the Professional Programme. Clinical practice will be undertaken for a day/week in semesters 2, 3 and 4, three days/week in Semesters 5 and 6 and four days/week in semesters 7 and 8. Formal lectures/tutorials/practice-based learning sessions will be scheduled over the rest of the week as per Programme Structure. Students will be required to wear shorts and T-shirts for practice-based learning sessions and practise techniques on one another.
- Students must pass all modules (equivalent to 236 LCCS credits) in the Programme to be awarded the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy.
- **Clinical Education Training PTH 1211, PTH 2011Y, PTH 3011Y, PTH 4011Y**

Clinical training is distributed throughout every year of the curriculum in the form of Clinical Physiotherapy modules: 6 LCCS credits in year 1 semester 2 (equivalent to 180 hrs) and 12 LCCS credits each for the years 2-4 (equivalent to 180 hrs per semester). Clinical Physiotherapy modules also include additional time spent in Clinical Blocks for year 3(PTH 3011Y: 180 hrs per semester over semesters 5 and 6) and year 4(PTH 4011Y: 270 hrs per semester over semester 7 and 8).

To ensure a depth of learning, clinical education will be guided and workplace skills assessed by a learning contract (an agreement about the particular knowledge, skill, or attitudes the student will develop as well as the roles and responsibilities of the student) and supervised and assessed by practising physiotherapists preferably with at least three years' experience or a physiotherapy lecturer.

All clinical and written exams will carry a weighting of **40%** of the total marks with continuous assessment counting for the remaining **60%** of the marks, except for the Clinical Physiotherapy I module which will be assessed wholly by continuous assessment (submission of a portfolio, class test and practice-based or practical tests). All written exams will be conducted at the end of the year in which they are taught.

Students' abilities (essential knowledge, skills and attitudes for competent practice) will be assessed for the 12 LCCS credits Clinical Physiotherapy modules by an end of year clinical examination of one-hour duration.

Students must demonstrate that they have achieved the learning objectives specified in the learning contract. For the additional clinical blocks of 180 and 270 hrs each, students will be assessed by continuous assessments and successful students will be awarded a satisfactory grade (Grade S). Grade S will be allocated to students on satisfactory completion of the module (completion is denoted by successful completion of assessments and completion of hours). Students with unsatisfactory performance in the clinical blocks will be awarded a Grade U. Additional Clinical Blocks do not carry any LCCS credit. However, a Grade S is required in these Clinical Blocks for the award of a BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy.

	Clinical physiotherapy modules						Clinical blocks				
	Year 1	Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 3		Year 4	
		Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
	PTH 1211	PTH 2011Y		PTH 3011Y		PTH 4011Y		PTH 3011Y		PTH 2011Y	
Hours	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	180	180	270	270
Total Hours	1530										

- **Practice-based learning or practical work and Continuous Assessment**

- **Modules including a practice-based learning or practical component**

There will be no practical exams. Practice-based learning or practical work will be assessed on a continuous assessment basis and will carry a weighting of 50% of the total marks awarded for the respective modules involved. The pass mark for the continuous assessment of practice-based learning or practical work will be 50%. Continuous assessment for the theory part of modules having a practice-based learning or practical component may be in the form of assignments and should include at least one class test and will carry a weighting of 10% of total marks for the module. Students need to pass practice-based learning or practical work to clear the module, in addition to achieving 50% overall pass mark for the module.

- **Modules not including a practice-based learning or practical component**

Continuous assessment for modules not including a **practice-based learning or practical** component may be in the form of assignments and should include at least one class test and will carry a weighting of 30% of total marks for the respective modules.

Special Note:

Research Project (PTH 4000): The research project will be assessed on the dissertation and *viva voce*. For the dissertation total marks, the research project marks will carry a weightage of 90% and the *viva voce* marks will carry a weightage of 10%.

- **Criteria to proceed to subsequent years**

For PTH modules

Students who fail in more than 2 PTH modules, independent of the CPA, will repeat the year. Students who fail in ≤ 2 PTH modules will be allowed to proceed to the following year if their CPA ≥ 50 and will be required to clear the failed modules within the maximum programme duration.

8. List of Modules

Code	Module Name
HLS 1101	Foundation Course in Biology
HLS 1102	Foundation Course in Physics
BMS 1121	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology
PTH 1112	Assessment Techniques
HLS 1112	Health in Society 1
HLS 1122	IT and Communication Skills for Health Sciences
PTH 1121	Movement Science I (Exercise Therapy)
HLS 1212	Health in Society 2
HLS 1221	Cardiovascular System
HLS 1231	Skeletal and Locomotor Systems
HLS 1241	Lungs and Respiratory Tract
PTH 1211	Clinical Physiotherapy I
PTH 1221	Movement Science II (Massage and Electrotherapy)
HLS 2112	Health in Society 3
HLS 2122	Nervous System 1
PTH 2011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy II
PTH 2111	Movement Science III (Orthopaedics & Neuro-musculo-skeletal)
HLS 2113	Basic Pathology
PTH 2112	Biomechanics, Kinesiology and Ergonomics
HLS 2222	Nervous System 2
PTH 2212	Physiotherapy Techniques I
PTH 2211	Women and Child Health
PTH 2221	Movement Science IV (Cardiorespiratory & Paediatric Neurology)
PTH 2231	Medicine and Surgery
PTH 3112	Physiotherapy Techniques II
PTH 3011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy III
PTH 3111	Movement Science V (Orthopaedics & Neuro-musculo-skeletal)
PTH 4121	Practice Management
HLS 3211	Basic Pharmacology
PTH 3211	Movement Science VI (Cardiorespiratory & Adult Neurology)
HLS 1242	Psychology for Health Professions
HLS 3212	Health Research Methods
PTH 4000	Research Project
PTH 4011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy IV
PTH 4111	Movement Science VII (Intensive Care)
PTH 4211	Movement Science VIII (Specialised Topics)

9. Programme Plan - BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

Code	Module Name	Contact Teaching (Hours)	Self Study (hours)	Other Learning (Hours)	Total Learning	LCCS credits
Year 1						
<i>Optional modules as per individual requirements</i>						
HLS 1101	Foundation Course in Biology	30	60	90	180	-
HLS 1102	Foundation Course in Physics	30	60	90	180	-
Semester 1						
BMS 1121	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	30	60	90	180	6
PTH 1112	Assessment Techniques	30/30	60	60	180	6
HLS 1112	Health in Society 1	30	60	90	180	6
HLS 1122	IT and Communication Skills for Health Sciences	20/10	60	90	180	6
PTH 1121	Movement Science I (Exercise Therapy)	30/30	60	60	180	6
Semester 2						
HLS 1212	Health in Society 2	30	60	90	180	6
HLS 1221	Cardiovascular System	30	60	90	180	6
HLS 1231	Skeletal and Locomotor Systems	30	60	90	180	6
HLS 1241	Lungs and Respiratory Tract	30	60	90	180	6
PTH 1211	Clinical Physiotherapy I	90	60	30	180	6
PTH 1221	Movement Science II (Massage and Electrotherapy)	30/30	60	60	180	6
SUBTOTAL NOTIONAL LEARNING HOURS/LCCS CREDITS FOR YEAR 1					2160	66
Year 2						
Semester 3						
HLS 2112	Health in Society 3	30	60	90	180	6
HLS 2122	Nervous System 1	30	60	90	180	6
PTH 2011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy II	90	60	30	180	-
PTH 2111	Movement Science III (Orthopaedics & Neuro-musculo-skeletal)	30/30	60	60	180	6
HLS	Basic Pathology	30	60	90	180	6

2113						
PTH 2112	Biomechanics, Kinesiology and Ergonomics	30	60	90	180	6
Code	Module Name	Contact Teaching (Hours)	Self Study (hours)	Other Learning (Hours)	Total Learning	LCCS credits
Semester 4						
HLS 2222	Nervous System 2	30	60	90	180	6
PTH 2212	Physiotherapy Techniques I	30/30	60	60	180	6
PTH 2011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy II	90	60	30	180	12
PTH 2211	Women and Child Health	30	60	90	180	6
PTH 2221	Movement Science IV (Cardiorespiratory & Paediatric Neurology)	30/30	60	60	180	6
PTH 2231	Medicine and Surgery	30	60	90	180	6
SUBTOTAL NOTIONAL LEARNING HOURS/LCCS CREDITS FOR YEAR 2					1980	72
Year 3						
Semester 5						
PTH 3112	Physiotherapy Techniques II	30/30	60	60	180	6
PTH 3011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy III*	90	60	30	180	-
PTH 3111	Movement Science V (Orthopaedics & Neuro-musculo-skeletal)	30/30	60	60	180	6
PTH 3121	Practice Management	30	60	90	180	6
Semester 6						
HLS 3211	Basic Pharmacology	30	60	90	180	6
PTH 3011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy III*	90	60	30	180	12
PTH 3211	Movement Science VI (Cardiorespiratory & Adult Neurology)	30/30	60	60	180	6
HLS 1242	Psychology for Health Professions	30	60	90	180	6
HLS 3212	Health Research Methods	30	60	90	180	6
SUBTOTAL NOTIONAL LEARNING HOURS/LCCS CREDITS FOR YEAR 3					1620	54
Year 4						
Semester 7						
PTH 4000	Research Project	-	-	-	-	-
PTH 4011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy IV*	90	60	30	180	-
PTH 4111	Movement Science VII (Intensive Care)	30/10	60	80	180	6

Semester 8						
PTH 4000	Research Project	-	-	600	600	20
PTH 4011Y	Clinical Physiotherapy IV*	90	60	30	180	12
PTH 4211	Movement Science VIII (Specialised Topics)	30/30	60	60	180	6
SUBTOTAL NOTIONAL LEARNING HOURS/LCCS CREDITS FOR YEAR 4					1320	44

*Clinical Physiotherapy III and IV modules also include Clinical blocks as specified above.