

Nova Southeastern University Professional Doctor of
Physical Therapy

Information Packet

2020

NSU
Florida

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

Congratulations on your acceptance to Nova Southeastern University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program! This is a Welcome Packet created for you by the Class of 2022's student ambassadors. It is intended to help you stay organized in your preparation for some of the most educationally challenging, but amazing and rewarding, three years of your life. On behalf of the entire Class of 2022 and the physical therapy program, welcome to NSU! We can't wait to meet you!

Sincerely,
Class of 2022 Ambassadors



(Picture: Class of 2022 First Week of Class)

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Meet your Class of 2022 Student Ambassadors

Megan Burlage: Vice President



Hello Class of 2023!

Welcome to NSU! We are so excited to have you here! I'm from a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio called Solon! I am 22 years old. I graduated in May of 2019, Magna Cum Laude from Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA. I double majored in Sports Medicine Pre-PT and Athletic Training. I am now a Certified Athletic Trainer and hold a license here in Florida. I am so excited to be in this amazing field. I have a background in competitive dance and gymnastics. This led me to become very interested in fitness and wellness in all aspects! I love to see others succeed and become better versions of themselves. A quote I picked up on a medical mission trip to Mexico has stuck with me for years: "Movement is Medicine." I stand by this. Physical Therapy is a profession where we have the ability to heal others using their own bodies. How cool is that! This program is going to be very different than anything you have ever done before. The Student Ambassadors of 2022 will guide you along as you begin your time as a student physical therapist! Please feel free to contact myself or the rest of the Ambassadors if you need answers to anything at all. We are here for you and we can't wait to meet you!

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Danielle Robinson-Pratt: Student Ambassador



Congratulations! Welcome to the DPT Shark Family. My name is Danielle Robinson-Pratt from Ft. Lauderdale, FL. I attended Nova Southeastern University for my Bachelor's, Master's, and now Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. I was a four-year captain for the Women's Basketball team and then accomplished my lifelong goal to play professional basketball overseas. Throughout my athletic career I spent a good amount of time in the Athletic Training Room and Physical Therapy Clinic receiving physical and mental treatment. This allowed me to achieve my goals and more. Thus, I desire to work hard to be able to change lives as they have changed mine.

NSU is the place to rediscover and push yourself pass any limitations. Work hard and stay ready for any opportunity that presents itself.

GO SHARKS!!

Email: dr1028@mynsu.nova.edu

Kayla White: Student Ambassador



Welcome to the NSU PT family and congratulations on your acceptance! My name is Kayla White. I am 24 years old and from Atlanta, Ga. I graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor's in Exercise and Sports Science in 2017 and took a year off before starting PT school to gain more experience and to save up some money before making the move down here to South Florida. My love of anatomy is what helped me choose to pursue Physical Therapy, and after observing in a few outpatient clinics I fell in love with profession and working with the patients! Currently, I live about 10 mins from campus with 2 other girls from our program and would not change a thing! I also make it a priority to have (somewhat) of a life outside of school because you definitely need balance to be successful in PT school. Feel free to reach out to me about any concerns you have about finding housing, roommates, the transition to living in a new place or even advice about getting back into the swing of school after being out for so long! I am excited to meet you all please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you have.

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Amanda Mazza: Student Ambassador



Hi everyone, congratulations on your acceptance into the DPT program! My name is Amanda Mazza; I am 23 years old and was born and raised in the Poconos, PA. I graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College with a B.S in Exercise Science. While there, I was also a member of the Women's Soccer Team. I love to play soccer and have been playing since I was 5 years old. I also love going to the beach, which is why a school in Florida was a great choice. Being an athlete strengthened my decision to become a physical therapist, as I was amazed at how the body moved and recovered. My interest in the human body combined with my wish to help people improve their lives lead to my decision to pursue physical therapy. Obviously, you have all made the same choice and I hope to help you pursue this dream. Please feel free to text or email me at any time with any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting you all and welcoming you new baby sharks!

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Jordan Archibald: Student Ambassador



What's up Class of 2023! I'm sending you all a BIG congratulations for your acceptance into the DPT program here at NSU. My name is Jordan Archibald and I am a 25 year old from Jacksonville, Florida. I graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. I've previously spent about 3 years in PT and it was during this time that I figured out PT was for me. I later became an acute care rehab tech, where I fell more in love with helping people restore their independence and function. As you transition into PT school, please don't hesitate to contact me!

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Daniela Uribe Gomez: Student Ambassador



Welcome, incoming class of 2023! I cannot wait to meet you all! My name is Daniela Uribe Gomez, and I am a student ambassador for the Class of 2022, as well as a physical therapy laboratory monitor. I am 23 years old, and I was born and raised in Bucaramanga, Colombia, which is where I lived until I came to the United States at the age of fifteen. If you are either new to Florida or new to the United States, I understand how you feel! I am also in a long-distance relationship, so I know what it feels like to not see your loved ones for long periods of time. In December 2018, I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Florida Atlantic University. I chose PT as my profession because we are given so many opportunities to help people improve their quality of life, whether they are older adults or even children, and there are a lot of specialties available to us. I had a wonderful shadowing experience as well where I was able to truly interact with patients, so I fell in love with PT! I look forward to meeting you all, and I hope you feel as welcomed and excited as I did when I first started this program!

Go Sharks! J

Email: du101@mynsu.nova.edu
Cell: 754-281-1075 (call or text)

Sterling Jeffries: Student Ambassador



Hey everyone! I was born in Naples, FL and raised in Miramar, FL for the majority of my life. I completed my undergraduate career at the University of Miami where I majored in Health Science while minoring in Chemistry and Philosophy. I am a sports fanatic and that is part of the reason I have chosen this career path. Another fact about me is that I am an Eagle Scout. Some hobbies of mine include both attending and watching sporting events, going to the gym, traveling, and spending time with friends regardless of what we are doing. I look forward to meeting you all and helping your class succeed. Please feel free to contact me at any time during your admission process.

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Khirah Madison: Student Ambassador



Hello Class of 2023!

Welcome to the Shark family! We are so excited to meet you. I am from Mansfield, Texas, but consider myself a Floridian! I am 22 years old. I graduated spring 2019 from the University of Central Florida, with a bachelor's degree in Health Science Pre-clinical. Playing soccer for most of my life is what ultimately led to my interest in the Physical Therapy profession, since I spent so much time with them during my soccer career. I enjoy painting, nature and all things arts and crafts. I love to help others get back to doing what they love and enjoy making others happy through creativity. I moved to Florida after high school and all my family reside in Texas, so I am your go-to person for any "new to Florida" questions. This program and faculty are truly like a family and this guide will help you make a smooth transition into your journey to becoming a Physical Therapist! Feel free to contact me or any of the other ambassadors for any questions you may have. We can't wait to meet you all!

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Before Summer 2020 To Do List

- ü Join the Class of 2023 Facebook page and add your Student Ambassadors as friends!
 - Ø Nova Southeastern University DPT Class of 2023:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2746432305390962/>
- ü Secure seat by submitting deposit (\$1,000 → this will be credited to you later). Refer to your acceptance letter for details and due dates.
- ü Financial Aid and Scholarship → <https://www.nova.edu/financialaid/index.html>
- ü Look into Grad PLUS Loans (<https://www.nova.edu/financialaid/graduate-professional/loans/gradplus.html>)
 - Ø Financial Aid Office: (954) 262-3380
 - Ø The Chancellors Office: Sue Peake, (954) 262-1518

To do in January:

Plan a visit to campus

- Ø https://maps.nova.edu/#!UMAP_2012102441057
- ü Start working on immunizations and titers (**no physical & TB yet!**)
 - Ø A titer is a blood draw that is tested to see if you have immunity (See page 14)
- ü Start looking into housing options (See page 15)
- ü Ensure you will have health insurance coverage, if you are planning on using NSU's student health insurance, contact NSU's Student Health Office with questions. If you are using your own insurance make sure to fill out a Health Insurance Waiver (Waiver available to fill out May 1st).
 - Ø Student Health Insurance Contacts:
 - General Information: studenthealth@nova.edu
 - <https://www.nova.edu/bursar/health-insurance/index.html>

To do in February:

- ü Check your NSU Facebook page or reach out to see if a fellow classmate is in need/looking for a roommate
 - Ø NSU Roommate/Housing finder Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/471227912956012/>
 - Ø NSU Roommate/Housing Finder
<http://nsu.renthello.com/>
- ü Secure Housing
- ü Obtain NSU log in and email account (see instructions on the new student orientation page at <https://healthsciences.nova.edu/pt/orientation/orientation-overview.html> → This is your MAIN mode of communication with NSU faculty and staff. Get in the habit of checking it at least twice daily.

To Do in March:

- ü At some point, ensure you will have reliable transportation while you live down here; there is limited public transportation and a car is essential during your time at NSU (not only to get to and from class, but for clinic days, clinical education experiences, and APTA/FPTA conferences)

To Do in April:

- ü Access NSU's PT Program Orientation page to receive specific information about orientation (date, time, tentative summer schedule, etc.) <https://healthsciences.nova.edu/pt/orientation/orientation-overview.html>
- ü Begin to plan how you will make the move down here
- ü Start purchasing things that can travel with you to your new home
- ü Purchase nitrile gloves (pack of 50), protective eye goggles, and isolation gowns (Pack of 25)
- ü Purchase pewter grey scrubs and have your first and last name embroidered on the left-side chest (0.5 in height, white block letters). They can be ordered from the Campus Bookstore or anywhere that sells scrubs and there are lots of places near campus that do embroidery. You will wear scrubs every day, so make sure you pick scrubs that are comfy, well-fitting, and that you have enough pairs. Most of us have 3-5 pairs. Make sure you have them ready for orientation week, because that's when you will start wearing them!
- ü Immunization Form Links: **Only complete page about immunizations before beginning school, NO physical or PPD/TB until JUNE**
 - Ø https://healthsciences.nova.edu/studentaffairs/orientation/forms/immunization_form.pdf
 - Ø <https://www.nova.edu/smc/immunization-forms/index.html>
- ü You will receive an email about registering for classes. Follow the directions!
- ü After you register for classes, you can apply for your Shark Card to be mailed to you.
 - Ø Shark Card registration: <https://www.nova.edu/nsucard/apply/index.html>

To Do in May/Upon First Arrival:

- ü Complete background check on CastleBranch: you will receive an email from CastleBranch to set up an account for the background check to be completed. Do not panic if you do not hear from CastleBranch right away. The program waits until the class is finalized to start the compliance process.
- ü Complete your immunizations (minus your physical and PPD/TB) and upload them to CastleBranch (DO NOT **complete your physical exam or PPD/TB screening until June or later**, this ensures that it is valid through the first year of clinicals. Additional PPD/TB screening is required each year). CastleBranch pins will be emailed to your NSU email!
 - CastleBranch: <https://www.castlebranch.com> (you will receive many emails from them but make sure to pay attention to the due dates placed by NSU)
 - Ø You can upload the same immunization form for MMR, Varicella, Tdap etc.
- ü Furnish apartment (you will hit the ground running, avoid trying to put together your apartment after classes start!)
- ü Check out the bookstore (you will need the Anatomy book first day of class) and equipment list. Try on and order White Coat (done by the first or second day of orientation). Buy NSU PT Shorts and T-Shirts.
- ü Schedule physical exam with the NSU student clinic or your own local physician for a **date in June**
- ü Plan on getting your Shark Card (if you didn't order it ahead of time) and NSU Parking Pass from the One Stop Shop in the front of Terry Building on your first week of orientation
 - Parking Pass: <http://www.nova.edu/publicsafety/parking/permits.html>
 - Shark Card: <http://www.nova.edu/nsucard/index.html>

To Do Once the Program Starts

- ü Purchase APTA and FPTA memberships
- ü Purchase PT Kit by the end of summer semester

Uniforms

Lab Clothes



You will be wearing them once or twice a week for your first two semesters. Shorts and shirts are available in the Campus Bookstore. Shorts come in different styles for men and women, but ladies, feel free to wear the long shorts if that's more comfortable. Additionally, women will need to wear sports bras as we take our shirts off in lab sometimes. These are the program shirts, but there will be numerous shirt sales throughout the summer for you to purchase additional lab shirts.

Scrubs



We live in our scrubs. Purchase pewter grey scrubs and have your first and last name embroidered on the left chest, half inch height, white thread, and block font (not cursive!) We wear scrubs almost every day so most of us have 3-5 pairs.

Clinic Attire



This is what we wear when we do service learning or head to clinics. Our class will be involved with ordering navy polo shirts and name tags for you. We suggest having at least two polo shirts and an extra name tag if you're prone to losing things. Khaki pants need to be full length (no capris). Men will tuck their shirts in so they need to wear belts. Women can tuck in their shirt if they want to, but not necessary. Shoes should be non-canvas slip resistance (like boat shoes).

Printable Checklist	
Task	Completed
Acquire Health Insurance	
Join NSU DPT Class of 2023 Facebook Page	
Obtain NSU Login and Email Account	
Access NSU PT Orientation Page	
Purchase Pewter Scrubs with name embroidered in white 0.5 inch and block lettering (before classes in May)	
Purchase nitrile gloves, isolation gowns and goggles for anatomy lab (before classes in May)	
Purchase books for Summer Term. You will need the anatomy textbook for the first week of classes.	
Purchase full size bed sheet and pillowcase (before classes in May)	
NSU Shark ID Card	
NSU Parking Pass	
Try on and order your white coat	
Get Lab attire before classes; may be purchased in bookstore (navy Nova gym shorts and Nova approved lab shirt)	
Complete Immunizations prior to classes (Upload documents to CastleBranch)	
<u>To be done in June:</u> Complete Physical and Tuberculosis 2-step skin test (PPD)	

Immunizations and Titers Check list		
Name	Vaccine / Titer	Completed
MMR (2 doses +titer) OR Measles Immunity Mumps Immunity Rubella Immunity	BOTH Vaccines AND Titer	
Varicella	BOTH Vaccines AND Titer	
Hep B series: new titer of previous HBV doses 1, 2 and 3. If no immunity (negative) repeat series and titer*	BOTH Vaccines AND Titer	
Tetanus-Diphtheria (Tdap)	Vaccine within last 10 years	
Flu Shot	Vaccine (Wait until September if you didn't get a flu shot for the 2019-2020 season)	
Tuberculosis 2-Step Skin Test (PPD)	WAIT UNTIL JUNE	

* If your titer results come back negative for immunity, you will need to get revaccinated.

Please contact an Ambassador if you need help figuring all this out – we know it may be confusing!

Also, the program will provide a clinical education requirements checklist, available on the NSU PT website, which provides more in-depth explanations for these requirements.

Near-Campus Housing Options

This is not an exclusive list of housing options near campus. It is a list and description of the most popular apartment complexes amongst the Class of 2020 and 2021

AMLI Toscana Place:

Toscana Place is less than two miles from NSU's campus. It is one of the pricier options in Davie but offers modern, updated, and spacious luxury apartments. There is a resort-style pool and fully equipped gym offered to residents.

<https://www.amli.com/apartments/south-florida/southeast-florida/davie/toscana-place>

Centro at Davie:

Centro is a great apartment option. It is right next to NSU's HPD campus (where you will be spending, literally, all of your time). It is a five minute walk, tops, and offers a fitness center and a beautiful pool. This is one of the pricier options but if you do not have a car or prefer to walk to class, this is a great place to live!

http://www.centroatdavie.com/?keyword=centro%20at%20davie&qclid=Cj0KEQIA5bvEBRCM6vypnc7QgMkBEiQAUZftQIwwT1vSnbcbj7qs8gKbXoYtt0Zqc9yfkz_at8nTRg1UaAknZ8P8HAQ

Courtyards at Davie:

Courtyards at Davie is an apartment complex that is around a mile away from NSU's University Center. Apartments in this complex are reasonably priced and spacious. A pool and hot tub are offered to residents!

http://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-search/Courtyards-At-Davie_Davie_FL?cid=sem_google_desktopdsasale_cpc_google&qclid=Cj0KEQIA5bvEBRCM6vypnc7QgMkBEiQAUZftQGAAtuipIS_kO9D1m2QUbTQMx-3Mp3GbquUGneZfy8vMaApBF8P8HAQ

The Palms at Davie:

The Palms at Davie is a plush oasis about a 15 minute drive from campus. These resort-style apartments are nestled around a secluded lake with fountain views. Scenic walking trails, fitness facility, BBQ's, sand volleyball courts and a relaxing lagoon pool. Super dog friendly with an agility course and amazingly friendly staff with 24-hour emergency maintenance. <https://www.palmsapts.com/>

Palm Trace Landings:

Palm Trace Landings is one of the more affordable apartment options within a few-mile radius of NSU's campus, especially with two to three other roommates. It is just less than 2 miles from the HPD buildings that you will be going to every day, which is very convenient. The apartments are not extremely new like a lot of other housing options, but it is very livable. The staff is helpful and there is 24-hour emergency assistance for things like safety and lack of water/electricity. <http://www.palmtracelandings-living.com>

Royal Grand Condos:

Royal Grand is extremely close to NSU's HPD campus. It is located less than one mile away, making it a great place to live if you prefer to walk or bike or if you share a car. The condo complex offers extremely spacious apartments at an affordable price! <http://www.royalgrandcondo.com>

First Day of Orientation

What do I wear?
Professional Dress

Ladies: Dress pants or skirt and a blouse. Flats are a better option than heels, as you will be doing a lot of walking.

Gentlemen: Dress pants, button down shirt, tie, no suit coat needed, and dress shoes.

Side Note(s) on Dress Expectations:

- *Professional attire is required on the first day of Orientation Week. The following days of orientation and the rest of your time at NSU, pewter gray scrubs are acceptable. When in NSU's HPD Buildings professional attire with white coat or gray scrubs with name embroidered are mandatory Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.*
- *Although we are in South Florida, the HPD buildings tend to be on the chillier side, we suggest bringing a jacket or sweater!!!! Note that once orientation is over, jackets/sweaters are to be worn UNDER scrub tops so that your embroidered name is visible.*

What to Bring:

- Water, coffee, and snacks: Breakfast and lunch will be served, however, it's a long day!
- Car Registration, license plate number, and driver's license (if you anticipate driving to campus, plan on going to the One Stop Shop after orientation to get your NSU parking pass)
- Questions (about anything and everything) for faculty, staff, and your student ambassadors
- A fun fact about yourself

Where to Park:

Check out the link below for a parking map of NSU's campus: <http://www.nova.edu/locations/parking-map.html> HPD Parking lot is where we all normally park.

What to Expect:

- Start the day with all others entering the Health Professions Division (Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, etc.)
- You are able to learn and explore different opportunities available to you as an NSU graduate student!
- Lunch with your fellow PT students. It is during lunch where you will be able to meet your PT professors and faculty! (Your picture will be taken at this time)
- Orientation continues with us, your student ambassadors. We will break down each class of your summer semester, give you study tips we found helpful to us and answer any questions you may have.
- We will then break off into small groups and give you a tour of campus!

First Year Extra Expenses

With the exception of books and other required equipment listed for you on the PT Orientation Page, you are expected to make a few other purchases during your first year at NSU. We have compiled a list of expenses to help you better prepare your first year's budget!

First Year Extra Expenses		
Item	Predicted Price	Notes
Clinic Day Needed Purchases:		
NSU DPT Program Navy Polo	\$30 each	Class of 2021 will facilitate order of both NSU PT Program polo and name tag. Most of us bought 2 or more.
NSU DPT Program Name Tag	\$7.50 each	N/A (People who tend to lose things, should buy 2)
Khaki Pants (no capris)	\$20	Many of us got nice, inexpensive, and appropriate ones from Old Navy. Guys – no sagging. Girls – Shouldn't ride down when you bend over.
Non-skid Comfortable Dress Shoes (i.e. boat shoes)	\$50+	Depends on what you chose and prefer. You will need non-canvas shoes for clinic
Wrist Watch with a second hand (smart watches are acceptable)	\$10+	You will need this while in the clinic assisting patients, as well as, during some practical examinations, many of us ordered an inexpensive one from Amazon
Miscellaneous Needed Purchases:		
FPTA/APTA Student Membership	\$90 per year	Membership is required and a great way to support the profession
FPTA/APTA Conferences	~\$100 per conference	Conference attendance is required for graduation. Specific requirements will be presented to you in Introduction to Physical Therapy course
FPTA/APTA Conference Extras	~\$100 per conference	You will be expected to provide your own transportation, food, and housing for the conference requirements. (You only have to attend one full day of the conference)
Gas & Transportation	N/A	You will be expected to provide your own transportation to get to and from clinic days; this is also why it is so important to have your own car or form of transportation
Background Check(s)	Range of \$24-\$294 depending on site requirements	Different level background checks are required before being cleared to go out on any clinical education experience. Each year a new background check will be completed.
Lab Clothes	~\$20 each (\$40 total)	Dress Code for Lab: blue NSU shorts and NSU t-shirt (Both can be purchased at the bookstore)
Miscellaneous Optional Purchases:		
NSU PT T-Shirts	~\$12	Lab clothes are blue NSU shorts and an NSU t-shirt. Each class will design new t-shirts every couple of months for purchase.

Be sure to also check the orientation page for the summer semester book list as well as the required equipment list (goggles, gloves, gown, bedsheet and pillowcase set for summer; PT kit for fall). This will help you plan for those expenses. The PT kit is approximately \$350 and you must have it by the first fall semester. You will also need to buy a sphygmomanometer and a stethoscope (you can buy them together) for the first fall semester. Littmann is a good brand and is an investment that will last you for years (cost \$100-\$200); there are more affordable brands such as Omron (\$25-\$50) or American Diagnostic - ADC (\$30-\$90). All these can be purchased online at Amazon or similar online retailer.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What should parents/spouses expect?*

As with any major commitment, such as enrolling in a full-time graduate program, parents/spouses should expect their student to undergo periods of stress, particularly during their first few weeks of class while students are still acclimating. Graduate school has been compared to having two jobs. One job would be going to class five days a week, followed by their second job of preparing ahead of time for classes and studying at home. For those individuals planning to have a job outside of class or who are taking care of a family, the dedication required would be comparable to having three or more jobs. Parents/Spouses should try their best to provide whatever support they can! Finding a healthy balance between study time and recreational time is vital to both keeping up grades and coping with the stress of being in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

2. *Do I need Medical Insurance?*

Yes, all NSU Health Professions Division students are required to provide proof of continuous current health insurance coverage. You are automatically enrolled in the University Insurance Plan unless you fill out the online insurance waiver within the first 30 days from the beginning of the period in which you have enrolled (the University Insurance brochure and waiver form can be found online at www.nova.edu/smc under "Health Insurance"). To waive NSU's coverage and use a different provider instead, your plan must comply with the following: maximum plan coverage of at least \$300,000 per incident; is accepted in the State of Florida and/or at the NSU Health Clinic; coverage will be in effect for the entire academic year. Insurance coverage must be continuous, with no lapses.

3. *Where can I buy textbooks?*

Many people choose to buy their textbooks at the NSU bookstore. A few websites to buy books online are amazon.com, half.com, textbooks.com, and chegg.com (this site often has very inexpensive rental options). You will be given the ISBN # when you get your textbook list, so you can type that into the search area on each website and compare prices. The bookstore will price match with Amazon! Many books are also available at the NSU library, including some online copies.

4. *What is an N#?*

The N number is your student ID number. It is used to identify each student in different settings, such as exams and signing up for exercise classes at the rec plex.

5. *APTA membership overview & what to sign up for (FPTA).*

We are all required to become members of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) as this is our professional organization that represents us nation-wide. The APTA provides a place for you to network with PTs that are already practicing, and it also keeps you updated on the newest trends and topics in the physical therapy world. There are also opportunities for scholarships through the APTA. The cost is \$90 for the student membership, which is a discounted rate from the professional membership. When you become a member of the APTA you must also register what chapter you are in. We are in the Florida chapter; this is an additional \$10. You also have the option to add different interests you may have such as

pediatrics or sports medicine. They have different costs, but the majority is an additional \$10 as well.

6. *Tell me about the NSU clinical education program.*

The NSU professional physical therapy program is one of the few in the country that implements experiential clinical education experiences early in the curriculum. Beginning in the second semester, students are assigned to clinical experiences in the NSU rehabilitation clinic. Under the supervision of PT faculty, students have the opportunity to integrate classroom and lab skills knowledge into hands on learning. As the semesters progress, students continue in integrated clinical education experiences (ICE), in different types of settings including local hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. The ICE program is designed to prepare students for full-time clinical education experiences that vary in length from ~4 weeks in the first 2 years, to three 10 and 12-week clinicals in the final year. The full-time experiences occur in orthopedic out-patient settings, out-patient or inpatient with neuro, and high acuity in-patient. The breadth of the clinical education placements facilitates exploration of common practice venues while providing preparation for clinical practice.

7. *Do I need a background check? What if my background check does not clear?*

Non-fingerprint and fingerprint background checks are required for clinical practicum and clinical education placement. Some citations or criminal offenses on a background check may prevent a student from being placed at a clinical site. A student who cannot be placed at required clinical sites due to information of concern on his/her background check(s) may not be able to complete the NSU DPT program.

8. *What is "Sharklink"? What is "Webstar"? What is "Canvas"?*

Sharklink needs to be set up before beginning the program. You will need to request your Nova Southeastern University email username online. Go to www.nova.edu. Under the Resources For tab click on Current Students. Scroll down to the Technology section. Click on My NSU Identity. Read the guidelines to retrieve your email address. Sharklink needs to be set up in advance in order to receive email from the Physical Therapy Department as well as from financial aid. Webstar can be accessed through Sharklink. This is where you will register for classes, pay your bill and apply for work studies. Canvas can also be accessed through Sharklink. It is the online portal where you'll find all your class materials, homework, grades and assignments.

9. *Is there a mentor program where students are paired with a faculty member or with 2nd or 3rd year students?*

During your first semester you are paired with a second year PT student that will act as your mentor. You will also be assigned a faculty advisor at that time to help out with anything you may need.

10. *Are there any resources offered by the University such as easily accessible tutoring or 24-hour open lab, which you have found helpful?*

Tutoring is available through the HPD program among students for many classes such as Anatomy and Physiology. The second and third years will often create study and tutoring sessions for the first years to help with PT specific classes.

The professors are also always available for assistance in understanding material. During finals the HPD library stays open for extended hours, and recently the Assembly building (full of study

rooms and a computer lab) has been staying open throughout the night for studying. The Physical Therapy lab is also open after hours and on weekends for any physical therapy students that would like to come in and study or review skills.

11. *Is there anything I should study ahead of time to get a head start for my classes?*

The answer to this question will vary depending on the person, but it is 100% up to you as a student what you want to do. There will be two different answers: "Yes, study general anatomy and physiology, especially muscles, their origins, insertions, actions, and innervations, and your first few classes will be less stressful." or "No, use your final few months to do anything but study, because it will be your last few months of freedom from schoolwork." Both answers are valid, so it is up to you to decide what you want to do. But remember, you don't NEED to know a single thing before you start the program because everything you need to know will be taught to you. Introduction to Physical Therapy is a course completed in the summer semester. This class requires a completion of an online medical terminology course hosted through the University of Des Moines. An exam will be given to you in the middle of the semester in Introduction to Physical Therapy covering the material covered throughout the online course.

Link to Medical Terminology Course: <https://www.dmu.edu/medterms/>

12. *Do we get free parking on campus?*

Yes, parking is free in all student lots and parking ramps on campus, as long as you obtain a parking decal from the One-Stop Shop at either the Health Professions Division (HPD) Terry Building or Horvitz Administration Building. A parking decal application and copy of your current vehicle registration must be submitted to the One-Stop Shop in order to receive your decal. The application can be found here:

http://www.nova.edu/publicsafety/forms/parking_permit_application.pdf

13. *Are there resources available to stay active/fit?*

NSU has a great recreational complex within the Don Taft University Center located in the middle of campus. It houses indoor and outdoor basketball courts, volleyball courts, tennis courts, racquetball courts, a fairly large pool, and a gym with relatively new equipment. The gym, like any other, gets crowded at peak hours (5-6pm), but is often empty in the early morning and late at night. Along with that, there are many intramural leagues hosted by the school throughout the year, as well as paid local leagues located throughout the area.

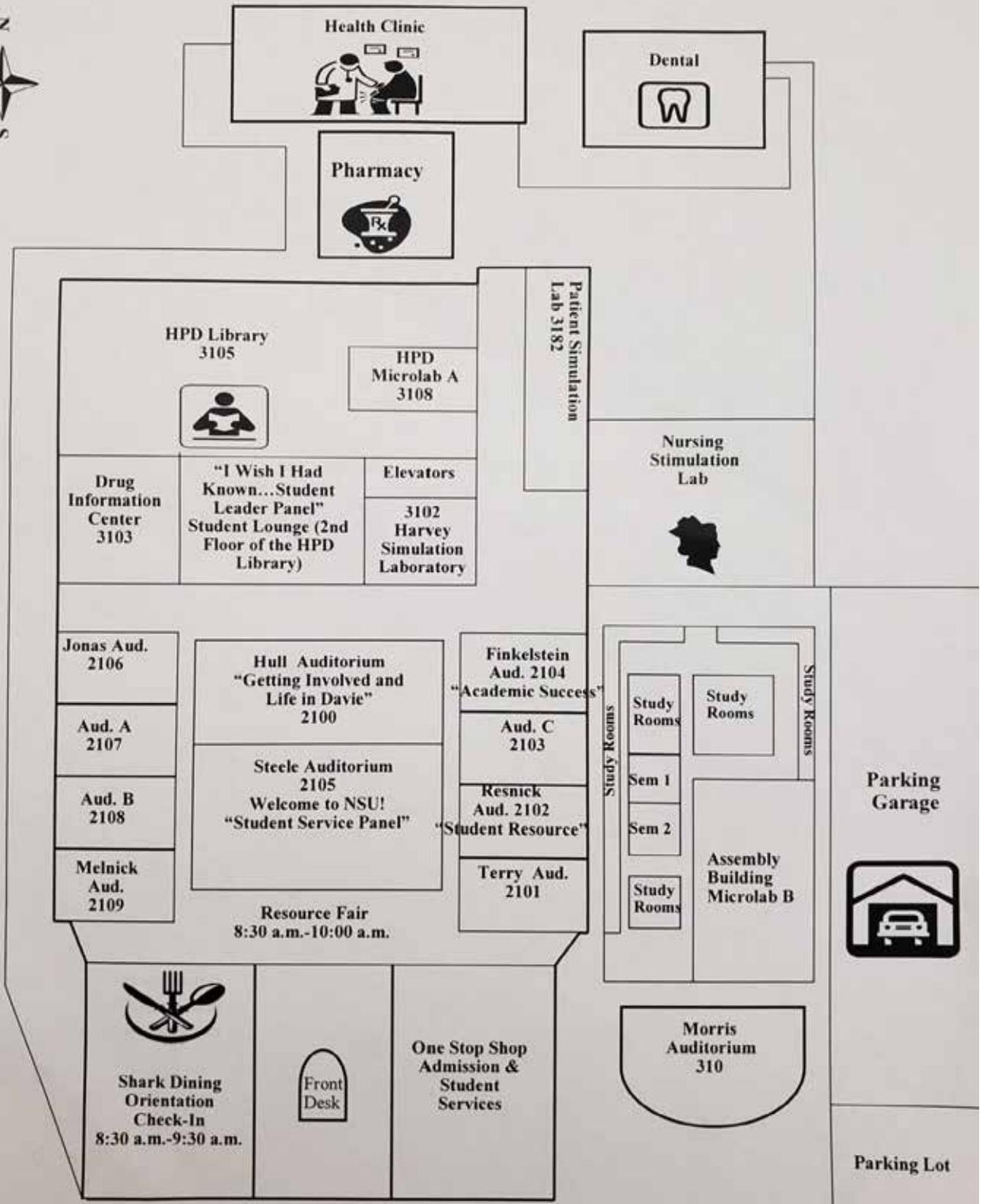
14. *What does the class above me want my class to know?*

That we are so excited to meet you and help guide you into your start of graduate school. You are no longer in competition with your classmates, so help each other along. Your professors all want you to do well and will help you if you need it. This program can be hard, but you aren't struggling alone. Lean on your professors, your mentors, and your classmates to help you. We want to see all of you walking across that stage in 2023!

Nova Southeastern University College of Health Care Sciences Orientation



University Drive



(Terry Building)