

# 2025 - 2026 Student Handbook

## Department of Physical Therapy BS in Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science



**UAB SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**BS IN DISABILITY STUDIES AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE**  
**2025-2026 ACADEMIC HANDBOOK**

*Christopher Hurt*

08/25/2025

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Christopher Hurt, PhD  
Program Director

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Date

.. *David Morris*

[David Morris \(Aug 25, 2025 11:58:36 EDT\)](#)

08/25/2025

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David Morris, PT, PhD, FAPTA  
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[Andrew Butler \(Aug 25, 2025 11:21:52 CDT\)](#)

08/25/2025

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Andrew Butler, PhD  
Dean, School of Health Professions

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Date

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## INTRODUCTION

### DEAN'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Health Professions!

We are one of the six schools comprising the renowned UAB Academic Health Center. We offer more than 30 programs and 40 offerings at the certificate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels. And we are home to nearly 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

I encourage you to take advantage of all our vast resources, state-of-the-art facilities and research opportunities during your academic and clinical education. Also, please make the most of your access to the world-class faculty who are here to teach and support your journey.

Our degrees and programs are fully accredited by their respective professional organizations. This means you will be eligible for licensure, national certification or registrations upon graduation. Graduating from the School of Health Professions means you will be well prepared to make a difference in your community.

I look forward to seeing you grow in your respective fields and watching you become the leader we know you can be.



Andrew J. Butler, PhD, FAPTA

### OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The UAB School of Health Professions (SHP) is one of the largest academic institutions of its type in the United States. What began in the 1950s as a collection of training programs in various para-professional disciplines has grown into an internationally recognized center of academic and research excellence.

Today, we have five academic departments – Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, Health Services Administration, Nutrition Sciences, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy – that are housed in four buildings: Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences (WEBB), Learning Resource Center (LRC), the School of Health Professions (SHPB), and the Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering (CBSE).

We are proud of many accomplishments including:

- *U.S. News & World Report* ranks all eligible SHP programs in the nation's top 25.
- Research funding is at an all-time high of \$26+ million and growing.
- Nearly 10 of our programs you will only find in Alabama at UAB.
- Our school has never been stronger or better positioned as a national leader in health professions education. And this status will only grow stronger as we continue to welcome students like you.

**DISCLAIMER**

This Handbook is an overview of general academic regulations specific to SOHP programs at UAB. Although UAB will make its best efforts to abide by this handbook, UAB reserves the right to interpret and apply its procedures and policies, and to deviate from these guidelines, as appropriate in the particular circumstances and in accordance with the mission and goals of the program. UAB also reserves the right to address issues not covered in this handbook and to make changes to the policy without advance notice. Changes become effective at the time the proper authorities determine so and the changes apply to both prospective students and those already enrolled. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date version.

All students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the general University rules and regulations pertaining to graduate study at UAB and the specific academic requirements of their particular degree program. This Handbook is not intended to nor does it contain all policies or regulations applicable to students. Each student is responsible for familiarizing him/herself with the contents of this Handbook. Although the policies contained herein are intended to reflect current rules and policies of the University, users are cautioned that changes or additions may have become effective since the publication of this material. In the event of a conflict, current statements of Board policy contained in the Bylaws, Rules, official minutes, and other pronouncements of the Board or Chancellor, or superseding law, shall prevail.

This Handbook does not constitute a contract and may not be deemed or construed as part of any contract between UAB and any student or student representative.

## SECTION 1 – SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

All dates related to registration, payments of tuition and fees, drop/add dates, other administrative requirements, and official school holidays are recorded on the [UAB Academic Calendar](#).

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE

The University established a new Academic Integrity Code effective August 23, 2021. This Code, which applies to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students as well as all academic activities, defines academic misconduct and outlines procedures for breaches of the code. Policies are established for resolution of charges of academic misconduct, and these processes are managed by the Academic Integrity Coordinator (AIC). In the School of Health Profession, the AIC is the Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, the office is located in SHPB 660. The full text of the Academic Integrity Code is available at: [Academic Integrity Code](#).

### ADVISING

Undergraduate student advising is provided through advisors assigned to each program as well as through the Office of Student Services. Advisor and recruiter contact information can be found on the [Office of Student Services Website](#). Graduate student advising is provided through the SHP graduate programs.

### AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors help to spread awareness of the School of Health Professions and its multifaceted undergraduate and graduate programs, serve as liaisons between the department and university-wide student organizations, and serve as a student voice in school and university committees. The SHP Ambassadors help to support the programs within the school that will impact recruitment and retention initiatives. Learn more about the SHP Ambassadors [HERE](#).

### ASKIT

AskIT is the technology help desk for faculty, staff, and students. They provide free support via telephone, email, or in-person. You will be asked to supply your BlazerID when you request assistance.

Phone: (205) 996-5555 Email: [askit@uab.edu](mailto:askit@uab.edu) Website: [https://uabprod.service-now.com/service\\_portal](https://uabprod.service-now.com/service_portal)

### ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is expected in all SHP programs. Specific class, laboratory, or clinical site attendance requirements may be more stringent than university guidelines. Refer to the program requirements in this handbook and in course syllabi for policies. The UAB attendance policy is as follows:

The University of Alabama at Birmingham recognizes that the academic success of individual students is related to their class attendance and participation. Each course instructor is responsible for establishing policies concerning class attendance and make-up opportunities. Any such policies, including points for



attendance and/or participation, penalties for absences, limits on excused absences, total allowable absences, etc., must be specified in the course syllabus provided to students at the beginning of the course term. Such policies are subject to departmental oversight and may not, by their specific prescriptions, negate or circumvent the accommodations provided below for excused absences.

The University regards certain absences as excused and in those instances requires that instructors provide a reasonable accommodation for the student who misses assignments, presentations, examinations, or other academic work of a substantive nature by virtue of these excused absences.

Examples include the following:

- Absences due to jury or military duty, provided that official documentation has been provided to the instructor in a timely manner in advance.
- Absences of students registered with Disabilities Services for disabilities eligible for “a reasonable number of disability-related absences” provided students give their instructors notice of a disability-related absence in advance or as soon as possible.
- Absences due to participation in university-sponsored activities when the student is representing the university in an official capacity and as a critical participant, provided that the procedures below have been followed:
  - Before the end of the add/drop period, students must provide their instructor a schedule of anticipated excused absences in or with a letter explaining the nature of the expected absences from the director of the unit or department sponsoring the activity.
  - If a change in the schedule occurs, students are responsible for providing their instructors with advance written notification from the sponsoring unit or department.
- Absences due to other extenuating circumstances that instructors deem excused. Such classification is at the discretion of the instructor and is predicated upon consistent treatment of all students.
- Absences due to religious observances provided that students give faculty written notice prior to the drop/add deadline of the term.

In these instances, instructors must give students the opportunity to complete assignments in a way that corresponds as much as possible to the nature, scope, and format of the original. Options may include making up exams or other assignments, rescheduling student classroom presentations, or arranging for early or late submission of written assignments. The course make-up policy should be included in the syllabus.

## **BLAZERID / BLAZERNET / EMAIL**

**BlazerID:** All students receive a unique identifier, the BlazerID, established at: [www.uab.edu/blazerid](http://www.uab.edu/blazerid).

Your BlazerID is required for accessing BlazerNET and other campus resources. To activate one's BlazerID, select “Activate Accounts.”

**BlazerNET** is the official portal of the UAB information network and is accessible from any Internet-accessible computer, on- or off-campus. Access BlazerNET from UAB home page [www.uab.edu](http://www.uab.edu) then choose UAB Quicklinks.

**Email: [uab.edu](mailto:uab.edu)** UAB student email is provided through Microsoft Office 365, a cloud-based system. Students have 50 GB of email space and 25 GB of free file 1 TB storage. The UAB email is the official communication medium for courses, news, information, and announcements. Students should not forward their UAB account to a personal email account. UAB is not responsible for information not received by the student due to the ‘redirecting’ of a UAB account to another email server.

## **BLAZER EXPRESS**

The UAB Blazer Express Transit System provides transportation throughout the UAB campus. With a valid UAB ID badge, students can enjoy fare-free bus transportation. All buses are ADA-accessible and can seat approximately 35 riders. For an updated schedule, route maps, and hours of operation please go to [www.uab.edu/blazerexpress/](http://www.uab.edu/blazerexpress/).

## **BOOKSTORE**

There is one bookstore located on the UAB campus, offering a wide variety of products and services to students, including online purchasing and shipping. The bookstore stocks UAB memorabilia and college wear in addition to all required textbooks and course material.

### **UAB Barnes and Noble Bookstore**

Location: 1400 University Blvd, Hill Student Center, Birmingham, AL. 35233

Hours: M – F 8:00am – 5:00pm | Sat 10:00am – 2:00pm | Sun Closed

Telephone: (205) 996-2665      Website: <https://uab.bncollege.com/shop/uab/home>

## **CAMPUS ONECARD**

The UAB OneCard is the official university identification card. It is used for personal identification, for entry to campus events and the recreation center, for library checkout, and for other UAB services. It also serves as a declining balance card for the UAB meal plans and for Blazer Bucks accounts. Additional information is available at [www.uab.edu/onecard](http://www.uab.edu/onecard).

## **CAMPUS MAP**

UAB's campus map can be found at the following: [www.uab.edu/map/](http://www.uab.edu/map/)

## **CAMPUS SAFETY**

Campus safety procedures and resources can be accessed at <https://www.uab.edu/students/home/safety>.

## **CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The Canvas Learning Management System is the platform used for managing instructional materials online. Canvas course sites are accessed through BlazerNET or at [www.uab.edu/elearning/canvas](http://www.uab.edu/elearning/canvas). Students should monitor their course sites routinely for communication from faculty and to manage course assignments.

## **CATALOG**

The UAB Catalog is published annually and includes UAB's courses, policies, and curricula. Students can link to the Undergraduate or Graduate catalog at [www.uab.edu/catalog](http://www.uab.edu/catalog).

## **COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

[Community Standards and Accountability](#) is responsible for upholding the integrity and purpose of the university through the fair and consistent application of policies and procedures to students' behavior to

ensure a community that respects the dignity and right of all persons to reach their highest potential. SARC delivers programs and services in order to promote student safety and success, the pursuit of knowledge, respect for self and others, global citizenship, personal accountability and integrity, and ethical development. More information can be found here: [UAB Student Advocacy, Rights & Conduct](#). The UAB student conduct code may be accessed online: [UAB Student Conduct Code](#).

## COUNSELING SERVICES

Student Counseling Services offers no cost, confidential counseling for UAB students related to physical, emotional, social, intellectual, or spiritual concerns. Student Counseling Services is located in the Student Health and Wellness Center at 1714 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), Birmingham, AL. 35233. For more information, call (205) 934-5816 or <https://www.uab.edu/students/counseling/>.

## DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Accessible Learning: UAB is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students. If you are a student with a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and you require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services for information on accommodations, registration, and procedures. Requests for reasonable accommodations involve an interactive process and consist of a collaborative effort among the student, DSS, faculty, and staff. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call (205) 934-4205 or visit [Disability Support Services](#).

If you are a student registered with Disability Support Services, it is your responsibility to contact the course instructor to discuss the accommodations that may be necessary in each course. Students with disabilities must be registered with DSS and provide an accommodation request letter before receiving academic adjustments. Reasonable and timely notification of accommodations for the course is encouraged and provided to the course instructor so that the accommodations can be arranged.

## EMERGENCIES

Report suspicious or threatening activity to the UAB Police Department immediately. Law officers are available 24 hours, seven days a week. Also, more than 300 emergency blue light telephones connected directly to the police dispatch are located throughout campus.

**UAB Police:** Dial 911 *from a campus phone*

or call: (205) 934-3535 | (205) 934-HELP (4357) | (205) 934-4434

Emergencies affecting campus are communicated via the following:

- UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline: (205) 934-2165
- University home web page: [www.uab.edu](http://www.uab.edu)
- Webpage: [www.uab.edu/emergency](http://www.uab.edu/emergency)
- Announcements on BlazerNET
- Cell phone messages and SMS text – register for B-ALERT notices via <https://idm.uab.edu/ens/b-alert>

## UAB EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:

UAB is an Equal Employment/Equal Educational Opportunity Institution dedicated to providing equal opportunities and equal access to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), genetic information, age, disability, and veteran's status. As required by Title IX, UAB prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to UAB's Assistant Vice President and Senior Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX notice of nondiscrimination is located at [uab.edu/titleix](http://uab.edu/titleix)

## FERPA TRAINING

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 provides protection for all educational records related to students enrolled in an educational program. Information about your rights and protection of your records is available at the following site: [FERPA](http://FERPA). If you have questions or concerns about FERPA issues, you may email [FERPA@uab.edu](mailto:FERPA@uab.edu). All SHP students are required to complete FERPA Training.

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid Counselors are available each day in the One Stop Student Services Office located in the Hill Student Center, 1400 University Blvd. Suite 103, Birmingham, AL 35233. If you have general questions, you can call the Office of Student Financial Aid at (205) 934-8223 or send an email to [finaid@uab.edu](mailto:finaid@uab.edu). For additional financial aid information: [Cost & Aid](#).

## FOOD SERVICES

Dining facilities available on campus closest to the SHP buildings include the Commons on the Green – located on the Campus Green, south of 9th Avenue and the Campus Recreation Center. For additional information about meal plans and campus dining facilities: [Student Dining](#).

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

The UAB Graduate School offers doctoral programs, post-master's specialist programs, and master's level programs. Graduate programs in SHP are coordinated through the Graduate School and students must adhere to the Graduate School policies and procedures. Graduate School information for current students is available at [Graduate School](#). Policies and Procedures for the Graduate School can be located in the [Graduate School Catalog](#).

## GRADUATION

All students must complete an application for degree six months prior to graduating and no later than the deadline in the academic calendar. The University holds commencement every semester. Check the commencement website for the most current information: [UAB Commencement](#).

## HEALTH INSURANCE

To ensure that all students have adequate health care coverage, including ongoing primary and specialty care, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) requires all students to have major medical health insurance. Students can provide proof of their own private coverage or be enrolled in the Student

Health Insurance Plan. The plan is a 1-year commercial policy provided by United HealthCare and is re-negotiated annually. This policy is a comprehensive health insurance policy at an affordable cost that is specifically designed to meet the needs of UAB Students. If you are required to have insurance but have sufficient coverage on another plan and wish to opt out of the Student Health Insurance Plan, you are required to submit a waiver to Student Health Services at the beginning of every semester. More information including submitting a waiver can be found at this website: [Student Health Insurance Waivers](#).

## HIPAA TRAINING

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) includes significant requirements for protecting individual privacy of health information. All students in the School of Health Professions must complete an online tutorial and be tested on HIPAA regulations at the time of program admission. A BlazerID is required to access the training site, located at [online learning](#). Compliance with the training requirement is monitored monthly.

## HONOR SOCIETIES

All students in the School of Health Professions are eligible for consideration for the Alpha Eta Honor Society.

- The UAB Chapter of this Society recognizes students registered in the final term of a baccalaureate or graduate health professions program. Inductees must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 = A) and be in the upper 10% of their program. Nominations are made by program directors in spring and summer terms.

## IMMUNIZATION POLICY

To provide a safe and healthy environment for all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), first-time entering students, international students and scholars, and students in clinical & non-clinical programs, must provide proof of immunization against certain diseases: [Student Immunizations](#) unless they have an approved medical or religious exemption.

## INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD FOR HUMAN USE (IRB)

Student researchers must comply with all requirements for protection of human subjects. Detailed information is available on the [IRB website](#).

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property refers to an asset that originated conceptually, such as literary and artistic works, inventions, or other creative works. These assets should be protected and used only as the creator intends. Training materials defining inventor status, patent criteria, and other intellectual property issues are available at: [University Policies on Patents, Copyright, and Intellectual Property](#).

## LACTATION CENTERS

The University has provided several lactation centers for students, faculty, and staff across the campus. [Center locations](#). The School of Health Professions' lactation room is in the Susan Mott Webb Nutrition Sciences Building at 1675 University Blvd, Room 219A, Birmingham, AL 35233. Lactating students enrolled in the School of Health Professions have access to the room via their student ID/OneCard. If you cannot access the room, contact the building administrator, Julia Tolbert-Jackson at (205) 934-4133.

## LIBRARIES AND LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

UAB's libraries house excellent collections of books, periodicals, microforms, and other media. Students have online remote access to catalogs and online collections. Computers are available for student use during regular hours of operation. [UAB Libraries](#).

### SHP Learning Resource Center (LRC)

The School of Health Professions Learning Resource Center (LRC) provides a unique set of enterprise solutions that promote an exciting, intriguing, and innovative learning environment. It provides a state-of-the-art media studio; audio/visual support; and information technology management of public, classroom, and testing labs.

Location: 1714 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Birmingham, AL. 35233.

Phone: (205) 934-5146

Email: [shplrc@uab.edu](mailto:shplrc@uab.edu)

### Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences

This is the largest biomedical library in Alabama, and one of the largest in the south. Located across the crosswalk from the School, the LHL has extension libraries in University Hospital and The Kirklin Clinic. Dedicated librarians hold "office hours" in the Learning Resource Center weekly.

Location: 1700 University Blvd. Birmingham, AL. 35233

Website: <https://library.uab.edu/locations/lister-hill>

Phone: (205) 975-4821

### Mervyn H. Sterne Library

A collection of more than one million items supporting teaching and research in the arts and humanities, business, education, engineering, natural sciences and mathematics, and social and behavioral sciences.

Location: 917 13<sup>th</sup> Street South, Birmingham, AL. 35233

Website: <https://library.uab.edu/locations/sterne>

Phone: (205) 934-6364 (Reference) | (205) 934-4338 (User Services)

## UAB STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The Student Conduct Code promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities expected of students consistent with the core missions of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This Code describes the standards of behavior for all students, and it outlines students' rights, responsibilities, and the campus processes for adjudicating alleged violations. Behavior that violates UAB standards of conduct listed within the Student Conduct Code and elsewhere will be subject to disciplinary action through the appropriate conduct process. Whether it is determined that an

individual or group is responsible for the violation(s), either by direct involvement or by condoning, encouraging, or covering up the violation, appropriate response will occur with respect to the individual(s) and/or group involved.

[Undergraduate Non-Academic Policies](#)

[Graduate Non-Academic Policies](#)

## ONE STOP STUDENT SERVICES

The mission of the One Stop is to provide a single point of professional integrated service to students. The One Stop serves students who need assistance with academic records, financial aid, registration, student accounting, ONE card, and other related topics. One Stop is located in the Hill Student Center, 1400 University Blvd. Suite 103, Birmingham, AL 35233. You may contact the [One Stop](#) office by phone or email at (205) 934-4300; (855) UAB-1STP [(855) 822-1787]; [onestop@uab.edu](mailto:onestop@uab.edu).

## PARKING

Student vehicles must be registered with UAB Parking and Transportation Services, located at 608 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, Birmingham AL. 35294. The office is open Monday – Friday from 7:30am – 5:00pm. Parking is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking fees are established by location, payable by semester or year, and are billed to the student's account. For additional information: [UAB Student Parking](#).

## PLAGIARISM AND TURNITIN

Plagiarism is academic misconduct that will result in a grade of zero and may result in dismissal from the School of Health Professions and UAB (see Academic Integrity Policy). All papers submitted for grading in any SHP program may be reviewed using the online plagiarism monitoring software. Please note that all documents submitted to [Turnitin.com](#) are added to their database of papers that is used to screen future assignments for plagiarism.

## RECREATION CENTER

The [Campus Recreation Center](#), located at 1501 University Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35233, is open to faculty, staff, students, and their families. A valid student identification card or membership card is required for access. Facilities include basketball courts, racquetball courts, weight rooms, swimming pools, exercise rooms, and indoor track.

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS AWARDS

All students in the School of Health Professions are eligible for consideration for the following awards.

- Alfred W. Sangster Award for Outstanding International Student – This award is presented annually to an international student in recognition of their academic and non-academic achievements.
- Cecile Clardy Satterfield Award for Humanism in Health Care – This award is made annually to recognize one outstanding student for humanitarianism, professionalism, and commitment to health care.

- Charles Brooks Award for Creativity – This award is made annually in recognition of creative accomplishments such as written publications or artistic contributions which complemented the student’s academic activities.
- Dean’s Leadership and Service Award – Presented to a maximum of three outstanding SHP students annually, this award recognizes leadership to the School, UAB, and the community.

A call for nominations will be sent to program directors each year. Please refer to the program section of this handbook for awards available to students in individual programs.

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIPS

SHP has several scholarship opportunities for students enrolled in SHP programs. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of faculty from each department, reviews and selects awardees. Please go to [this website](#) for a list of scholarships and instructions for application.

Application announcements are made by the Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs. Many programs in SHP also have scholarships available to currently enrolled students in those programs. Please refer to the program section of this handbook for more information.

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS SHARED VALUES

Collaboration | Compassion & Caring | Excellence & Achievement | Integrity | Respect | Service | Social Responsibility | Stewardship

The School of Health Professions is a tight-knit community that is connected from students to staff to faculty to alumni. We are dedicated to serving all from campus to community and beyond. And we are a knowledge-driven mass that is committed to classrooms, laboratories, clinics and more.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can serve as useful communication tools. However, health professions students should use the forums judiciously. For more information: [UAB Social Media Guidelines](#). The school’s official sites are the following:

- X: [https://x.com/uab\\_shp](https://x.com/uab_shp)
- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/uabshp>
- YouTube: <https://youtube.com/uabshp>
- Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/uabshp>
- LinkedIn: [UAB SHP LinkedIn](#)
- Instagram: [https://instagram.com/uab\\_shp](https://instagram.com/uab_shp)  
[http://instagram.com/uab\\_shp](http://instagram.com/uab_shp)

## STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The University provides prevention, counseling, and treatment services to students through Student Health Services (SHS) located at 1714 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), Birmingham, AL. 35233. The clinic is open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Thursday; 9:00am – 5:00pm Friday. They are closed for lunch



between 12:00pm – 1:00 pm weekdays. For more information: [Student Health Services](#). Appointments may be scheduled by calling (205) 934-3580.

## TITLE IX

In accordance with Title IX, the University of Alabama at Birmingham does not discriminate on the basis of gender in any of its programs or services. The University is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination based on gender and expects individuals who live, work, teach, and study within this community to contribute positively to the environment and to refrain from behaviors that threaten the freedom or respect that every member of our community deserves. For more information about Title IX, policy, reporting, protections, resources, and supports, please visit the UAB Title IX webpage: <https://www.uab.edu/titleix/>.

## TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and fees for the University are published annually under the “Students” tab of the UAB website. They may be paid through BlazerNET. SHP programs have specific fees attached to programs, courses, and/ or laboratories. For more information: [Tuition & Fees](#).

Payment deadlines for each semester are published on the official academic calendar. Please note that failure to meet payment deadlines can result in being administratively withdrawn from courses.

## WEATHER

Severe weather situations that may affect the safety of students, faculty, and staff are communicated through the same channels as other emergencies. For more information: [Emergency Management](#).

Other information sources include:

- [B-ALERT System](#) (contact information must be setup and current)
- UAB Severe Weather & Emergency Hotline: (205) 934-2165

## WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSE / PROGRAM

Withdrawal from a course or from your program is an official process and should be discussed with your academic advisor and / or program director. Most programs in the School of Health Professions are full-time and the curricula specifically sequenced. Withdrawal from a course may risk you having to wait to register for the class again. Withdrawals are made through the UAB registration system via the Student Resources tab in BlazerNET. Notice of program withdrawal should be given in writing to the program director. For more information: [UAB Add/Drop and Withdrawal Policy](#) including a medical withdrawal policy.

## SECTION 2 – SHP AND UAB POLICIES

### SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS POLICIES

#### DISMISSAL OF STUDENT FOR FAILURE TO MAKE SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

[Dismissal of Student and Appeal Process](#)

#### EMERGENCY PLAN – SHPB/LRC/WEBB

[SHPB/LRC/WEBB Emergency Plan](#)

#### BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREEN POLICY

Students in SHP programs are required to undergo a background check and drug screen using the school's approved vendor, [CastleBranch](#), at the time of program admission, and again, prior to placement in a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.). Additional checks/screens may be required by the individual sites therefore, students should work with the program to ensure compliance requirements are met. Instructions for requesting the background check and drug screens are provided to students by their programs. Students enrolled in SHP undergraduate programs will complete a learning module in the campus learning management system by the first semester of enrollment.

The Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs is responsible for ensuring student compliance throughout the program. Students found to be non-compliant will not be allowed to matriculate in the program (orientation, attend class, fieldwork placement, etc.) until all requirements are met. Program Directors, Fieldwork Coordinators, and students will be notified of non-compliance and a hold will be placed on the students' account.

- Fees for these screenings will be the responsibility of the student.
- The rules and regulations governing individual fieldwork placement sites may include additional provisions and/or more stringent guidelines which supersede this policy. Fees for these screenings are the responsibility of the student.
- Should your criminal background check contain issues, or if you fail a drug screen that may prevent you from receiving or sitting for board certification/licensure, a representative from the Office of Academic and Faculty Affairs will contact you. Depending upon the outcome, students will have a registration hold placed on their account until in compliance and this may result in being dismissed from the program. See program's guidelines regarding specific consequences.

Programs requiring a criminal background check and drug screening by the end of the first semester of enrollment and again, prior to fieldwork placement (if applicable in the program requirements), are the following:

Administration Health Services, PhD  
Biomedical Sciences to Biotechnology Fast Track  
Biomedical Sciences to Clinical Laboratory Science Fast Track  
Biomedical Sciences to Health Physics Fast Track  
Biomedical Sciences to Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging Sciences Fast Track

Biomedical and Health Sciences, MS  
Biotechnology, MS  
Biotechnology, PhD  
Dietitian Education Program, Graduate Certificate  
Genetic Counseling, MS  
Health Administration (Residential), MSHA  
Health Care Management to Healthcare Quality and Safety Fast Track  
Health Care Management to Health Informatics Fast Track  
Health Care Management to Occupational Therapy Doctorate Fast Track  
Health Physics, MS  
Medical Laboratory Science, MS  
Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging Sciences, MS  
Nutrition Sciences, MS  
    – Dietetic Internship Clinical Track  
    – Dietitian Education Program  
    – Research Track  
Nutrition Sciences, PhD  
Occupational Therapy, OTD – (entry level)  
Physical Therapy, DPT  
Physician Associate Studies, MSPAS  
Rehabilitation Science, PhD

The following students enrolled in SHP undergraduate programs will complete a learning module in the campus learning management system by the first semester of enrollment. If a fieldwork placement (clinical, internship, practicum, residency, etc.) is required, students must complete criminal background checks and drug screens prior to the first day of the semester of a fieldwork placement.

Health Care Management, BS  
Biomedical Sciences, BS  
Biobehavioral Nutrition and Wellness, BS  
Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science, BS

Programs waived from the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening requirements are the following: \*

Applied Mixed Methods Research, Graduate Certificate  
Biotechnology Regulatory Affairs, Graduate Certificate  
Clinical Informatics, Graduate Certificate  
Health Administration (International and Executive tracks), MSHA  
Health Informatics, MSHI  
Healthcare Finance Management, Graduate Certificate  
Healthcare Leadership, DSc  
Healthcare Leadership, Graduate Certificate  
Healthcare Quality and Safety, MS  
Healthcare Quality and Safety, Graduate Certificate  
Health Services Research, MS  
Healthcare Simulation, MS

Healthcare Simulation, Graduate Certificate

Nutrition for Community Health, Graduate Certificate

Nutrition Sciences, MS

- Clinical Track-Prior Learning

- Lifestyle Management and Disease Prevention Track

Low Vision Rehabilitation, Graduate Certificate

Multi-Tiered Approach to Trauma, Graduate Certificate

Occupational Therapy Doctorate (Post Professional)

Physical Therapy Residencies (Neurologic, Orthopedic)

Primary Care Physical Therapy for Underserved Populations, Graduate Certificate

\*Students enrolled in exempt programs who participate in a course(s) incorporating community, corporate or other high impact, out-of-classroom activities such as service learning, capstone projects or other hands-on learning experiences, may be required by placement sites to submit background check and drug screening results. Students are responsible for the fees associated with such screening.



## STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

### About CastleBranch.com

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CastleBranch is a secure platform that allows you to order your background check & drug test online. Once you have placed your order, you may use your login to access additional features of CastleBranch, including document storage, portfolio builders and reference tools. CastleBranch also allows you to upload any additional documents required by your school.

### Order Summary

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#### Required Personal Information

- o In addition to entering your full name and date of birth, you will be asked for your Social Security Number, current address, phone number, and e-mail address.

#### Drug Test (LabCorp or Quest Diagnostics)

- o Within 24-48 hours after you place your order, the electronic chain of custody form e-chain will be placed directly into your CastleBranch account. This e-chain will explain where you need to go to complete your drug test.

#### Payment Information

- o At the end of the online order process, you will be prompted to enter your Visa or MasterCard information. Money orders are also accepted, but will result in a \$10 fee and additional turn-around-time.

### Place Your Order

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Go to: [www.castlebranch.com](http://www.castlebranch.com) and enter package code:

**AH01** - Background Check and Drug Test

You will be required to enter your program under "Student Information" classification

You will then be directed to set up your CastleBranch profile account.

### View Your Results

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Your results will be posted directly to your CastleBranch profile account. You will be notified if there is any missing information needed in order to process your order. Although 95% of background check results are completed within 3-5 business days, some results may take longer. Your order will show as "In Process" until it has been completed in its entirety. Your school's administrator can also securely view your results online with their unique username and password. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Service Desk at 888.723.4263 x 7196 or visit the website to submit your question at: <https://www.castlebranch.com/contact-us>.

# **UAB POLICIES**

## **ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

[GRADUATE](#)

[UNDERGRADUATE](#)

## **HEALTH**

[IMMUNIZATIONS](#)

[NEEDLE STICKS AND EXPOSURES](#)

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

[EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT](#)

## **POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

[CAMPUS SAFETY](#)

[FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS](#)

## **RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

[ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE](#)

[ETHICAL STANDARDS IN RESEARCH AND OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES](#)

[PATENT](#)

## **SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE**

[ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, USE AND CONSUMPTION](#)

[DRUG FREE CAMPUS](#)

[NON-SMOKING](#)

## **TECHNOLOGY**

[TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES](#)

## **STUDENT COMPLAINTS**

[UAB COMPLAINT POLICY](#)

## SECTION 3 – PROGRAM POLICIES

### DISABILITY STUDIES AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Welcome to UAB Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program (RHB). The central mission of the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science undergraduate major is to provide a vibrant student body with a diverse educational background toward maximizing academic, commercial and/or government employment opportunities. Our new four-year degree will focus on disability inclusion science, prevention, health promotion and wellness integrated across the entire curriculum. And it will prepare graduates to be advocates for individuals with disability and chronic conditions. The new program highlights UAB's continuous prioritization of disability health and rehabilitation and their expansion of offerings in the growing field of inclusion science

The Bachelor of Science degree in RHB emphasizes the intersection of disability, community mobility and physical activity, and rehabilitation. This program prepares graduates for a range of public, private, for-profit, nonprofit well-being career opportunities. Upon graduation, the successful student will be ready to enter the workforce in rehabilitation within health-related professions such as therapeutic recreation, rehabilitation through health promotion, school health and community health, or enter graduate school through a professional/clinical degree such as occupational therapy and physical therapy, or finally to earn a PhD conducting rehabilitation-related research.

The state of Alabama's is currently ranked 44th out of 50th in the nation in nearly all metrics regarding the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities. For instance, in a 2019 CDC study, Alabama had the 5th highest percentage of individuals with a mobility disability in the United States. Consistently poor rankings and the diminished health status of many people in Alabama have prompted an initiative to re-visit the state health plan and have led to the development of many other state-wide initiatives such as the UAB Grand Challenge "Healthy Alabama 2030: Live HealthSmart." Additionally, several foundations and institutions have been established to support healthy living for individuals with disabilities such as the Lakeshore Foundation. These opportunities to improve health in Alabama are leading to an increased need for workers who are educated in the underlying science and evidence-based practice in health and wellness, particularly in the area of rehabilitation, which is the cornerstone of health and wellness outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

This student handbook contains program policies and essential information for students. Please read it and use it as a guide throughout your engagement in our RHB program.

Our faculty and staff look forward to working with you.



Christopher P Hurt, PhD

Program Director, Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science  
and Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy



## WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Welcome the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program in the Department of Physical Therapy. The Department of Physical Therapy has a 58-year history of responding to the needs of the community through educational offerings. The department was one of the first programs in the southeast region to offer an undergraduate degree in Physical Therapy in 1964. UAB was also one of the first universities to provide a post-professional master's degree program to those with an undergraduate degree in Physical Therapy, and then, when it was time for the vocation to begin taking its place among health professionals, the entry level master's level program was initiated in 1976. The degree was again elevated to an entry level doctorate in 2004 to reflect the growing body of knowledge/science in Physical Therapy and independence and skill of PTs in treating movement related disorders. The Doctor of Science degree, implemented in 2002, and the PhD in Rehabilitation Science degree, implemented in 2011, represented our continued desire to meet the needs of our community through educational offerings. Our newest offerings will continue in this tradition of early adoption. In Fall 2023, the Department of Physical Therapy will introduce an innovative certificate in primary care physical therapy for underserved populations as well as the undergraduate degree disability studies and rehabilitation science. Few undergraduate degrees in Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science currently exist nationally. The Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program leverages the significant expertise of faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy as well as throughout the UAB campus. The major's focus on disability, health, and community mobility and as well as rehabilitation research is innovative for the state of Alabama, as well as regionally.

The Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program builds on the clinical practices and research strengths of our highly ranked Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Students in the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program will have a strong academic foundation as well as opportunities to be exposed to clinical and research related programming through seminars and educational activities through the Center for Engagement in Disability Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and other UAB Research Centers including the Center for Exercise Medicine, Integrated Center for Aging Research, and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, for example. Students also have the opportunity to study the clinical side of disability and rehabilitation in the heart of Alabama's top medical center, surrounded by UAB Hospital, Birmingham VA Medical Center, and Children's of Alabama.

The program you are entering will prepare you for a rewarding career in the field of disability studies and rehabilitation. Through the Bachelor of Science in Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science curriculum, you will develop a wealth of knowledge while advancing your skills in critical problem solving in a team environment.

### DEPARTMENT VISION

The Leading the way to optimal movement for all individuals and populations in a diverse society resulting in improved health, wellness, and quality of life.

## DEPARTMENT MISSION

Developing physical therapy and rehabilitation science leaders through knowledge creation/ translation and innovative education, in order to promote health equity and address the needs of all individuals and communities in a rapidly transforming society

## FACULTY AND STAFF

The diversity inherent in the field of disability studies and rehabilitation science is reflected in our faculty, staff, and students. To learn more about our faculty and staff, please visit our [webpage](#).

## DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RESEARCH FACILITIES

### MECHANISMS OF SPINAL MANUAL THERAPY LABORATORY

William Reed DC, PhD, directs the Mechanisms of Spinal Manual Therapy laboratory (MSMT).

Globally, there is growing popularity and increased use of non-pharmacological approaches for acute and chronic musculoskeletal pain. Maximizing clinical efficacy of spinal manual therapy interventions will require a greater understanding of their underlying neurophysiological mechanisms. The primary focus of the MSMT lab is directed towards determining the peripheral and central mechanisms of spinal manual therapy (i.e. spinal manipulation/spinal mobilization) for the treatment of musculoskeletal pain and/or related disability. We use a variety of animal models, custom-made spinal manual therapy devices, behavioral and electrophysiological methods in our laboratory to investigate translationally relevant research questions with the ultimate goal of improving clinical care.

### HUMAN PERFORMANCE LABORATORY

The Human Performance Laboratory (HPL) consists of two state-of-the-art research spaces located adjacent to each other and is directed by Christopher Hurt, PhD.

The HPL utilizes gold-standard approaches to evaluate biomechanics, neuromuscular performance, metabolic and aerobic performance, and clinical function to help understand mechanisms of disease and recovery, as well as the extent to which these mechanisms are modifiable with interventions.

Specific research equipment to assess human movement include: an 11-camera Vicon motion analysis system with 2 AMTI force platforms embedded in an overground walkway, a Motek dual-belt instrumented treadmill, a prototype exercise testing and training treadmill (Resist-X), a Protokinetics Zeno Walkway, a Biodex multi-joint dynamometer, a Delsys 16-channel wireless EMG system, and an Eccentron eccentric resistance strength trainer. Research funding for projects underway within the lab come from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Michael J Fox foundation, and the Center for Clinical

and Translational Science at UAB. Current projects are focused on disease mechanisms and intervention strategies to improve quality of life for individuals with hip and knee injuries, osteoporosis, and neurologic conditions such stroke and Parkinson's disease.

### **UAB SPINAL CORD INJURY MODEL SYSTEM**

Rachel Cowan, PhD, Jereme Wilroy, PhD, Jenny Marwitz, MA, Casey Azuero, PhD, MBA, Phil Klebine, MA, Sara Banasiewicz, BA.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Spinal Cord Injury Model System (UAB-SCIMS) has been continually funded since funding began in 1972 and remains the longest continually funded system in existence. UAB is one of 18 SCI model systems around the country.

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/sci/uab-scims-information>

### **UAB COLLABORATIVE**

James H. Rimmer, Ph.D., is a Professor in the School of Health Professions and the first Lakeshore Foundation Endowed Chair in Health Promotion and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He currently serves as director of the UAB-Lakeshore Foundation Research Collaborative and Director of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability. For the past 30 years he has been developing and directing health promotion programs for people with disabilities aimed at reducing obesity, increasing physical activity and improving nutrition in youths, adults and seniors with disabilities. His research and programmatic interests explore the use of new and emergent technologies in developing behavioral and environmental strategies to promote beneficial physical activity and healthful weight management in youths and adults with disabilities. He has been director of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability since 1999 and was one of 13 members of the Physical Activity Guidelines Advisory Committee that was commissioned to establish national U.S. guidelines in physical activity in 2008. <https://www.lakeshore.org/research/what-we-do/>

### **CENTERS FOR RESEARCH AT UAB**

UAB boasts many specialized research Centers of Excellence, including the Comprehensive Cardiovascular Center, Nathan Shock Center of Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging, Sparkman Center for Global Health, Comprehensive Neurovascular and Stroke Center, Center for Healthcare Management and Leadership, UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care, Alzheimer's Disease Center, Center for Disability Health and Rehabilitation Science (DHARS), Hypertension Center, and many others. Most of these specialized centers are actively involved in training activities for students.

Students have ready access to most UAB resources, either directly or through their Program Director, Academic Advisor, or other faculty members. Certain centers on campus, such as the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, have a broad spectrum of diagnostic and analytical services available to

UAB faculty.

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) IN DISABILITY STUDIES AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE**

### **DISABILITY STUDIES AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE PROGRAM**

The Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science (RHB) program was established at UAB in 2023. The program prepares graduates for employment in disability advocacy, adaptive fitness specialists, therapeutic recreation and rehabilitation through health promotion and community health. The program also prepares students to apply to graduate programs such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, public health, medicine and masters and doctoral studies in rehabilitation science.

### **RHB GOALS**

The RHB program focuses on providing students with the following:

- Prepare students to manage and lead health-oriented initiatives in disability and rehabilitation in academic, healthcare, and research centers.
- Prepare students to research, interpret, communicate, and provide evidence-based and wellness support through various methods of delivery to individuals, communities, and society.
- Prepare students to be advocates for individuals with disability at a policy, community and/or personal level.
- Prepare students to synthesize, interpret, and address societal and cultural matters of concern in

### **ADMISSION**

Students intending to enroll in the RHB program must meet all UAB undergraduate admission and academic requirements. The following additional requirements also apply for admission and progression in the RHB program.

#### **ADMISSION FROM HIGH SCHOOL**

Students entering from high school must:

- Have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Have an ACT composite score of 20 or higher\*.
- Place in or have earned credit for college-level English Composition (EH101) or higher and Pre-Calculus Algebra (MA 105) or higher.

- If accepted, complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical, provide proof of immunizations, and receive satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Services.

*\*Test optional students will be reviewed on an individual basis.*

## ADMISSION FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS AND UAB STUDENTS

Students entering from another college or university (or changing major within UAB) must:

- Have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Place in or have earned credit for college-level English Composition (EH101) or higher and Pre-Calculus Algebra (MA 105) or higher.
- If accepted, have a background check and drug screening, if required, prior to any practicum or lab placement.

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Fall Entry
  - June 1
- Spring Entry
  - November 1
- Summer Entry
  - May 15

## CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete institutional core curriculum requirements. More information about the core curriculum, including transfer credit and credit awarded for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and the College Level Exam Program, can be found in the UAB Undergraduate Catalog [here](#).

### ***The Blazer Core***

#### ***Local Beginnings – 3 Credits***

#### ***Academic Foundations – 15 Credits***

- Writing – 6 credits
- Quantitative Literacy – 3 Credits
  - MA 106 Pre – Calculus Trigonometry
- Reasoning – 3 Credits
- Communicating in the Modern World – 3 Credits

#### ***Thinking Broadly – 20 Credits***

- History and Meaning – 3-6 Credits
- The Creative Arts – 3-6 Credits
- Scientific Inquiry – 8 credits
  - BY 123: Introductory Biology I
  - PH 201: College Physics 1
    - PH 201L: College Physics Laboratory 1
- Humans and their Societies – 3-6 Credits

### ***City as Classroom – 3 Credits***

#### ***Lower Level***

- BY 115: Human Anatomy – 4 Credits
- BY 116: Introduction to Human Physiology – 4 Credits
- BY 124: Introductory Biology II – 4 Credits
- CH 115: General Chemistry I – 4 Credits
  - CH 116: General Chemistry I Laboratory
- CH 117: General Chemistry II – 4 Credits
  - CH 118: General Chemistry II Laboratory
- HCM 350: Medical Terminology for Health Professions – 3 Credits
- PH 202: College Physics II – 4 Credits
  - PH 202L: College Physics Laboratory II
- MA 180: Introduction to Statistics – 3 Credits
- HRP 101: Experience the University Transition – 3 Credits

### **CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

- RHB 210: Introduction to Rehabilitation Science – 3 Credits
- RHB 220: Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US – 3 Credits
- RHB 320: Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility – 3 Credits
- RHB 330: Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions – 3 Credits
- RHB 340: Living with a Disability – 3 Credits
- RHB 360: Scientific Inquiry – 3 Credits
- RHB 370: Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science – 3 Credits
- RHB 410: Aging in the Community – 3 Credits
- RHB 430: Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science – 3 Credits
- RHB 460: Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science – 3 Credits
- RHB 490: Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation – 3 Credits
- RHB 495: Senior Capstone for Rehabilitation Science – 5 Credits

## ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The program faculty and administration expect students to maintain an acceptable quality of academic performance from the time of admission through graduation. The following outlines minimum standards for academic performance to continue in the program.

### GRADING AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

A minimum overall 2.75 GPA and 2.00 UAB institutional GPA must be maintained to remain in the program.

For courses designated as pass/not pass, a grade of P (passing) signifies satisfactory work. A grade of NP (not passing) indicates unsatisfactory work, although there is no penalty assessed with respect to GPA.

The [GPA Calculator](#) can be used to explore how the classes you enroll in will affect your GPA each term.

### COURSE REPEAT POLICY

Students may repeat any course in an effort to improve grades and/or to improve understanding of the course content. Students are encouraged to seek the advice of their Academic Advisor before repeating courses.

A student may repeat an individual course no more than one time (for a total of two attempts). Under exceptional circumstances, and upon approval of a formal electronic appeal submitted to the Associate Dean of the College or School in which the course is taught, a student may be allowed to repeat a course for a second time (for a total of three attempts). A student may not appeal to repeat a course more than a second time. Both the original grade and the repeated grade(s) will show on the student's transcript. Both grades will also be calculated in the student's grade point average (GPA) unless the forgiveness policy is applied. It is the student's responsibility to request through the Office of the Registrar application of the forgiveness policy to a repeated course. The process is not automatic, and it is not initiated by the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program. For additional information, see the [Academic Forgiveness Policy](#) in the Undergraduate Catalog.

### GRADUATION PLANNING SYSTEM (GPS)

You can review your degree progress online through the [Graduation Planning System](#) (GPS), which shows your satisfied requirements and those not yet satisfied for your degree. You will also find a selection of [GPA calculators](#). You can learn more about how to access and read the GPS [here](#).

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

For students who are pursuing a degree in the rehabilitation sciences field and are considering Physical Therapy or Occupational Therapy. They may want to participate in the following student organizations.

#### **Pre-Physical Therapy Society**

- <http://www.uab.edu/students/involvement/engage>
- Type in Pre-Physical Therapy Society to join
- Questions? Email Dr. LaDarius Woods (advisor) [lwoods3@uab.edu](mailto:lwoods3@uab.edu)

#### **Pre-Occupational Therapy Society**

- <http://www.uab.edu/students/involvement/engage>
- Type in Pre Occupational Therapy Society to join
- Questions? Email Kerry McAlpine [kmcalpin@uab.edu](mailto:kmcalpin@uab.edu)

#### **Pre – PA Association at UAB**

- <https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/pre-pa-association-at-uab>
- Questions? Email [patelsk@uab.edu](mailto:patelsk@uab.edu)

#### **Pre Medicine Society at UAB**

- <https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/pre-medicinesociety>
- Questions? Email. [premedicinesocietyatuab@gmail.com](mailto:premedicinesocietyatuab@gmail.com)

#### **Disability Advocates Organization**

- <https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/dao>
- Questions? Email [uabdisabilityadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:uabdisabilityadvocates@gmail.com)

#### **Best Buddies**

- <https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/best-buddies-at-uab>
- Questions? Email [bestbuddies@uab.edu](mailto:bestbuddies@uab.edu)

### **TUITION PAYMENTS**

Tuition is due semester-by-semester. To see when tuition is due, please visit the [UAB Academic Calendar](#).

### **FINANCIAL AID, LOANS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

If you have questions about financial aid, loans, or scholarships, please visit the UAB [Cost & Aid webpage](#).

### **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbook costs vary each semester. Students can search textbooks by semester through the [UAB Official Bookstore](#). Textbook information will also be available on course syllabi.



## GETTING STARTED

The UAB Undergraduate Catalog as well as the UAB Policies and Procedures guidelines are important resources for you throughout your program of study. Please familiarize yourself with these.

### THE UAB UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

The UAB Undergraduate Catalog outlines all of the policies and procedures pertaining to academic performance, degree progress, academic and non-academic conduct, and student responsibilities. You are expected to be familiar with these policies and to abide by them. The Undergraduate Catalog can be found [here](#).

In addition to the UAB Undergraduate Catalog, the RHB Student Handbook outlines RHB-specific requirements. All degree-seeking students are required to follow the RHB requirements. Therefore, the information within this handbook serves as a contract between you and this undergraduate program.

### UAB POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Please refer to the School of Health Professions and UAB policies included in Sections 1 and 2 of this Student Handbook.

### ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Shortly after a degree-seeking student is accepted by the UAB RHB program of study, they will be assigned an Academic Advisor. Academic Advisors are here to support you as you progress through your undergraduate studies and want you to be successful in the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science degree program. Consider your Academic Advisor your ally, the one you can count on to support your success during your undergraduate studies.

It is expected that all students will connect with their Academic Advisor every semester to update them on their academic progress and advancement toward degree completion. The student and Academic Advisor can work together to determine if these updates are best achieved through emails, phone calls, virtual meetings, or in-person meetings. You are expected to work with your Academic Advisor to establish and make revisions to, when applicable, your academic Plan of Study, but ultimately it is your responsibility to take ownership and responsibility for your own course registration, academic progress, financial obligations of the program, and application for a baccalaureate degree.

### BLAZERID

Your BlazerID is automatically assigned to you. You will need to create a unique password.

### UAB EMAIL

Once you have your unique BlazerID and create your password, you will have access to all of UAB's

systems – including your UAB email address. All students are expected to communicate using their UAB email address for any UAB-related matter. Please follow UAB's [Brand and Communication Toolkit](#) when creating an email signature for your UAB email address.

## **COURSE REGISTRATION**

You must register for all courses for which you wish to earn credit. The UAB class schedule is accessible via [BlazerNET](http://www.uab.edu/blazernet) ([www.uab.edu/blazernet](http://www.uab.edu/blazernet)). You can register for courses and adjust your schedule by adding and dropping courses through the end of the drop/add period, which is denoted on the [Academic Calendar](#).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE**

The University established a new Academic Integrity Code effective August 23, 2021. This code, which applies to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students as well as all academic activities, defines academic misconduct and outlines procedures for breaches of the code. Policies are established for the resolution of charges of academic misconduct, and these processes are managed by the Academic Integrity Coordinator (AIC). In the School of Health Professions, the AIC is the Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs. The Academic Integrity Code is available [here](#).

## **DEPARTMENT GRIEVANCE POLICY**

Although it is rare, issues can arise between a student and professor, preceptor, or Program Director. To ensure that concerns are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, students should follow the program's procedure for resolving issues and document each stage of the process. The program is required to maintain a record of student complaints for a period of seven years, including the resolution of complaints. The following are the steps that must be taken for an academic grievance by a student:

4. Address concerns or problems with the responsible party, i.e., professor, preceptor, or Program Director. Students should make all attempts to communicate and resolve concerns with the responsible party prior to contacting the Program Director.
5. If no resolution is found, identify the problem and clearly document the situation in writing. Present documentation to the Program Director, who will then arrange a combined meeting with all parties involved to work to resolve the issue.
6. If the grievance is with the Program Director, submit documentation to the Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy.
7. If at this point the issue is not resolved, documentation of the problem and grievance process will be submitted to the School of Health Professions Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs for review.
8. If these steps do not culminate in a resolution, the student should follow the University's [Student Complaint Policy](#).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact us for additional information about the UAB Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program.

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