

**M. SC PT - CONSISTENCY WITH
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION IN THE KINGDOM OF
SAUDI ARABIA**



جامعة المجمعة
Majmaah University

Program: Master of Science in Physical therapy
Department: Department of Physical therapy & Health Rehabilitation
Institution: Majmaah University

Introduction:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seeks to develop its education and training systems by adopting sound methodological approaches that utilize advanced international educational and training practices and experiences. The Kingdom regards education and training as a considerable impetus towards national sustainable intellectual and economic development and growth as well as being the foundation for realizing the ambitious goals of its own Vision 2030. The Vision is the cornerstone for national empowerment regarding knowledge and skills acquisition while fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship together with providing lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Pursuant to the Saudi Cabinet Decision No. 108 on 25/10/2018, stating in Article 4 of Paragraph 11” The creation of a national qualifications framework which sets out relevant rules, regulations, standards, descriptors, terms and conditions and special procedures, approved and supervised by the Cabinet.” The Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC) developed a National Qualifications Framework for Saudi Arabia (NQF-KSA) to make its terms of reference a guide for education and training institutions while building, developing, and restructuring their qualifications, in addition to be employed by recruiting agencies to draw on while identifying graduates’ knowledge and skill sets and qualifications.

The NQF-KSA constitutes a comprehensive and uniform structure for the building, organizing, and categorizing of qualifications into levels based on learning outcomes. Equally significant, the Framework also provides a common language and a sound reference for comparison purposes. Furthermore, it is a functional tool to better facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills, and values across the various work environments at both national and international levels. Notably, the NQF-KSA acts as a key nexus that reinforces and consolidates relationships between education and training on the one hand, and the practical and realistic requirements of the labor market on the other. This relationship functions in such an interactive approach where education and training respond to and accommodate the conditions, aspirations, and capabilities of the society while fulfilling the requirements of sustainable development in Saudi Arabia.

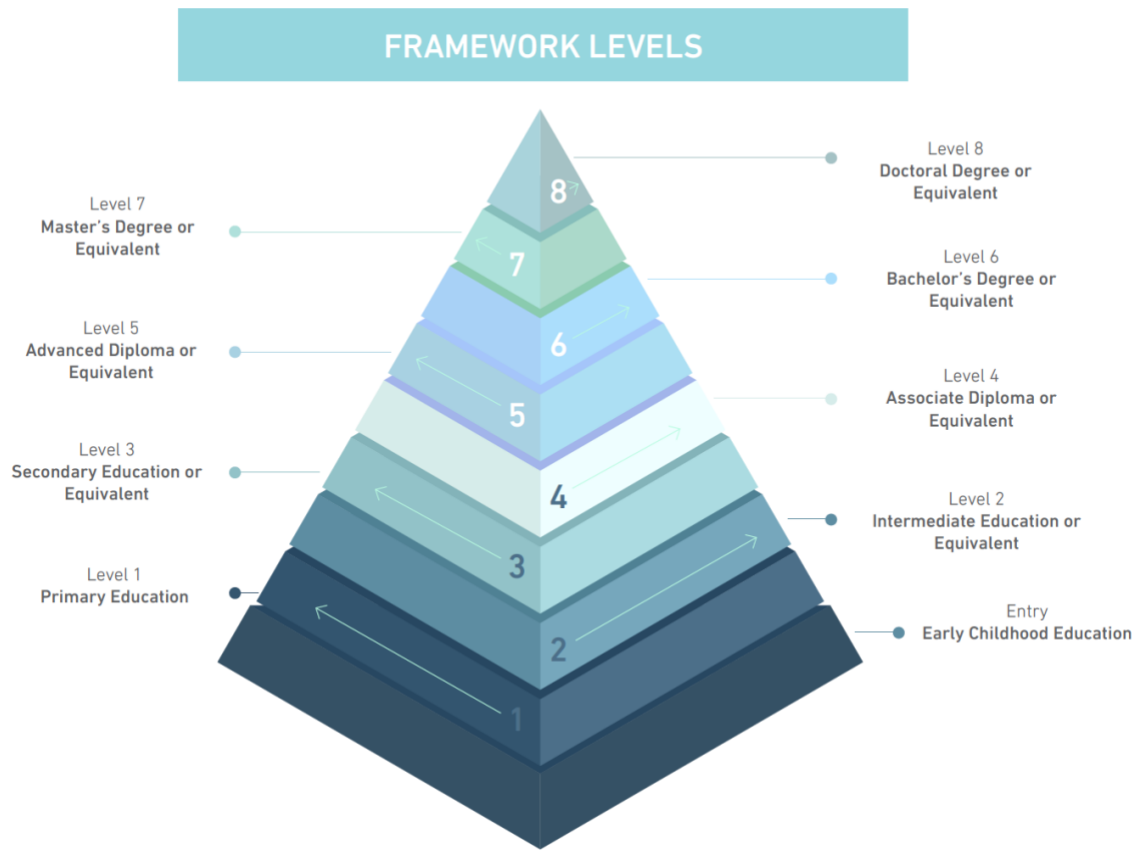
Majmaah University constantly directs all its potential toward achieving the objectives of the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom. Majmaah University ensures that the entire program functioning under the university focus on consistency with the qualifications of the National Commission for Academic Accreditation & Assessment. The program of physical therapy under the umbrella of the College of Applied Medical sciences takes the utmost concern to meet the requirements to satisfy the consistency with the Qualifications Framework. The field of Rehabilitation is one of the promising professions which needs highly qualified personnel to deliver the health care system to the citizens of Saudi Arabia. This demand has led the Department of Physical therapy & Health Rehabilitation under the College of Applied Medical Sciences, Majmaah University to start a master's program in Physical therapy. The Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) program serves as a steppingstone in the career of Physical therapy students to improve their clinical skills and guide them to pursue systematic research training.

Consistency with the principal Elements in the Qualifications Framework:

The principal elements in the framework such as Levels, Credits, and domains of learning are applied according to the requirement of the National qualifications framework for Higher education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Levels:

Department of Physical therapy & Health Rehabilitation proposes to start the Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) program. It is designated as **Level 7- Master** as per NQF. The program prepares the students to tackle complex academic and professional issues, providing creative solutions and making sound clinical judgments. The acquired qualification enables graduates of the Program to professionally practice as Physical Therapists in public and private hospitals and rehabilitation setups or to start their own practice after completing the licensing procedures with the professional bodies in the kingdom. The program develops leadership qualities in developing opportunities to support continuing professional development.



Credits:

The National qualification framework emphasizes the practice of defined credit requirements for academic study. The Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) program is offered as a full-time on-campus day-time program, requiring for graduation the successful completion of 48 credit hours, which are delivered in the form of lectures, tutorials, and laboratories, and ending with the successful defense of the master thesis in their chosen track.

The Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) program offer the following major tracks;

1. Sports Physical Therapy
2. Neurological Physical Therapy
3. Pediatric Physical Therapy

4. Rehabilitation Technology

Out of forty-eight (39) credits, twenty-six (12) credits are assigned to the core courses and ten (21) credits are for the major courses associated with specific track. The master thesis which will be in the field of chosen major track consist of six (6) credits.

The students will be awarded the Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) in the specific tract he/she has chosen after completion of all the program requirements and successful defense of their master thesis.

Domains of Learning Outcomes:

The domains of learning will be classified in to five categories as per the requirement of NQF. This has major implications for strategies of teaching, for student assessment, and for the evaluation of programs. The Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) Program will include the referred domains of learning to enable the teaching, learning and assessment process.

Table: 1 Learning Outcomes in Domains of Learning, Assessment Methods and Teaching Strategy of Master of Science in Physical therapy (M.Sc PT) program.

Program Learning Outcomes		Learning Strategies
Knowledge and Understanding		
K1	The student will acquire a comprehensive and well-founded knowledge of biomedical sciences relevant to human health and function within the context of physiotherapy.	Interactive Lectures, Class discussions, Clinical Visits & demonstration etc
K2	The student will recognize the contemporary issues based on the understanding of theoretical concepts and principles relevant to physiotherapy for an evidence-based practice.	

Skills		
S1	The student will develop the ability to critically evaluate and effectively apply evidence as a basis for physiotherapy practice.	Patient/case discussion, Simulated cases used as the basis for skill and clinical decision, Clinical/ lab demonstrations, case studies, brainstorming, hands-on student learning activities etc.
S2	The student will integrate the available scientific evidence to determine the effectiveness of interventions and to contribute to the body of knowledge in physiotherapy.	
S3	The student will demonstrate clinical skills in physiotherapy diagnosis, prognosis, evaluation, treatment planning, and implementation across health care settings.	Patient case demonstrations, Supervised simulated patient/client situations, Clinical skill lab sessions, bedside teaching sessions, Supervised clinical practice
S4	The students will present a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas using variety of communication mediums, including verbal and written communication, and technology.	Use of Blackboard platform & Saudi Digital Library, statistical and educational software, other internet resources for research and evidence-based practice
Values		
V1	The student will consistently display the commitment to society through advocacy and advancement of the physical therapy profession.	Debates, whole group and small group discussion, individual presentation, hands-on student learning activities, clinical training etc.
V2	The student will collaborate in a professional, ethical, legal, and compassionate manner to optimize health care delivery.	

Table: 2 The relationship between NQF and Master of Science in Physical therapy (M.Sc PT) program in terms of levels, credits and domains of learning

	Level	Minimum credit hours	Domains of Learning		
National Qualifications Framework Recommendations	Level - 7 Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 or 39 beyond Master • And Thesis or project* 	Knowledge	Skills	Values
Master of Science in Physical therapy (MPT)	Level-7 Master	39 credit hours, which are delivered in the form of lectures, tutorials, and laboratories, and ending with successful defense of the master thesis in their chosen track.	K1 K2	S1 S2 S3 S4	V1 V2

General Requirements for Admission:

The following are admission requirements stipulated for the admission for the Master of Rehabilitation Science based on National frame work qualification.

- The program is available to male and female students.
- Candidates must be a Saudi or an official grant for higher education if he is a non-Saudi.

- Candidates must have bachelor's degrees from Saudi Arabian universities or equivalent bachelor's degree from a wide variety of international universities. International qualifications for Saudi citizens must be certified and equivalent from Saudi ministry of education and must be attested for non-Saudi citizens from Saudi embassies / cultural missions.
- Provide at least two recommendation letters for admissions who have already taught. Employer's consent to study if he / she is employed. *
- Full time study of the master's program. *
- Have good morals and conduct and be medically fit. *
- Candidates must be submitted within the specified times of the Deanship and no applications shall be accepted after the specified date, whatever the reasons. *
- Candidates are required to attach the general abilities test to the university graduates, provided that the degree is not less than 70 degrees



Relationship Between Credit Hours and Years of Study

Table: 3 Program structure details

First Year_Semester-I (Level-1)					
Course Code	Course Title	Distribution of Credit Hours			
		T	P	Tr	CrH
MPT610	Medical Screening and Differential Diagnosis	2	1	0	3
MPT611	Professional Issues in Physical therapy	2	0	0	2
MPT612	Research for Physical therapist	2	0	0	2
MPT613	Advanced Statistical Procedures	1	1	0	2
MPT614	Advanced Biomechanics	2	1	0	3
Sum		9	3	0	12
First Year_Semester-II (Level-2)					
Course Code	Course Title	Distribution of Credit Hours			
		T	P	Tr	CrH
Specialty Major Course 1					
MPT620	Science of Performance & Injury in Sports	2	1	0	3
MPT621	Motor Control in Health & Disease				
MPT622	Pediatric Musculoskeletal Physical therapy				
MPT623	Women Through Life Stages				
Specialty Major Course 2					
MPT624	Assessment & Treatment of Sports Injury	2	1	0	3
MPT625	Clinical Neurosciences for Rehabilitation				
MPT626	Pediatric Cardiorespiratory Physical therapy				
MPT627	Assessment & Treatment in Women's Health				
MPT628	Evidence-Based Practice	2	0	0	2
MPT629	Advanced Clinical Practice 1	0	0	3	3
Sum		6	2	3	11
Second Year_Semester-I (Level-3)					
Course Code	Course Title	Distribution of Credit Hours			
		T	P	Tr	CrH
Specialty Major Course 3					
MPT630	Sports & Exercise Participation	2	1	0	3
MPT631	Neurological Rehabilitation				
MPT632	Paediatric Neurological Physical therapy				
MPT633	Pelvic Floor Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation				
Specialty Major Course 4					
MPT634	Sports & Nutrition	2	1	0	3
MPT635	Falls and Balance Dysfunction				
MPT636	Disability & Development				
MPT637	Maternal and Child Health				
MPT638	Research Proposal	1	0	0	1
MPT639	Advanced Clinical Practice 2	0	0	3	3
Sum		5	2	3	10
Second Year_Semester-II (Level-4)					
Course Code	Course Title	Distribution of Credit Hours			
		T	P	Tr	CrH
MPT640	Thesis	6	0	0	6
Sum		6	0	0	6

Relationship Between Academic and Professional Requirements:

The students will be awarded the Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) in the specific tract he/she has chosen after completion of all the program requirements and successful defence of their master's thesis.

Field Descriptors

The following arrangements are followed based on the recommendations of NQF. The following table explains the Academic and professional standards followed.

Table:4 Field Descriptors

Level	Academic Strand	Professional Strand
Level-7. Master	Master of Science	Master of Science in Physical therapy

The criteria recommended by the NQF will be achieved and the learning domains will be assessed and ensured to be consistent with the descriptions of characteristics of the Master program. Both direct and indirect assessment techniques will be utilized to ensure that the desired program outcomes will be achieved. The methods used for assessing learning domains for are exams, portfolios, long and short essays, logbooks, analytical reports, group reports, lab reports, debates, peer evaluations, demonstrations, discussion forums, and interviews. Achieving the psychomotor domain is very essential for molding competent Physical therapists. The students will learn to demonstrate manual dexterity skills, to perform elements of examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention in a timely manner. This domain will be assessed by conducting and evaluating Practical exams, Logbooks, analytical reports, case studies, video analysis, group reports, lab reports, peer evaluations, graphs, dramatic performances, tables, demonstrations, and graphic organizers. Program evaluations and self-assessments by graduates of the Physical therapy program are collected through various surveys. Independent advice regarding the curriculum and other

academic activities is discussed with prominent senior professionals in the Physical therapy field. Survey responses from employers of graduates or senior professional associates of graduates are collected and documented. Finally, they are requested to complete the survey such as the Program evaluation survey (PES) and Student experience survey (SES). The reports for these surveys are included in the program report for recommendations.

Conclusion:

The Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) program is developed within the consistency of the National qualification framework which leads to the knowledge, generic skills and professional expertise. This program offers the knowledge and skills needed for professional practice in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also prepares the student to compete with all other students globally to excel in the field of Physical therapy & Health Rehabilitation. We assure you that the Master of Science in Physical therapy (M. Sc PT) program of the Department of Physical therapy and Health Rehabilitation will strictly abide by the educational policies and cultural norms of Saudi Arabia.

