

I want to thank you for all your help and encouragement during the tDPT program. I also wanted you to know that if I had not gone through the tDPT program that I would have never taken the Orthopaedic Clinical Specialist test. Thanks again for all you do!

*When the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) came out with the professional statement: **Vision 2020**, I felt that I had a professional compass. "Physical therapy, by 2020, will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy and who may be board-certified specialists." This statement gave me a direction and an expectation. I had been practicing for many years as a physical therapist (PT), but I wanted to make sure that I was providing the evidence based practice that PTs were called forth to provide. When UTC PT Program was ready to implement its tDPT program, I knew it would be hard to go back to school but I also knew it wouldn't get any easier than to be in an accredited program so close to home with faculty and students I knew and respected. It was no small feat to complete. When I completed my doctorate, it just seemed logical to continue with my studies and pursuit of clinical excellence. I had always wanted to obtain a clinical specialist certification. I had classmates from the tDPT program who also wanted to pursue this. With the study habits in place and a study group of some of my favorite clinicians- I set forth to prepare for the Geriatric Clinical Specialist (GCS) exam. With the statistics being that greater than 30% of our population is over the age of 65 it was clinically relevant to pursue my GCS. I knew that regardless of which clinical setting I would work in, I would be working with the mature/elderly adult. Preparing for the exam was arduous and a challenge to fit into a busy life, but everything I studied I knew I would use clinically-whether I passed the exam or not. I also wanted to ensure that I was staying competent and competitive with the emerging workforce of doctoral PT students. The information I learned while preparing for the exam was clinically relevant and it gave me confidence that I was putting into practice the most recent clinical research.*