

Neurologic Residency

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and Grand Valley State University Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency

What is the setup of your residency program?

Mary Free Bed's Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency provides an advanced post-professional clinical training for physical therapists, designed to further develop expertise through exposure to education, research and multidisciplinary clinical environments.

Residents will:

- Complete three inpatient clinical rotations with patients who have experienced brain injury, spinal cord injury and stroke and one outpatient clinical rotation working with patients with neurologic conditions. While in each specialty area, the resident will build clinical reasoning skills enhanced through dedicated mentoring time with an expert neurologic therapist.
- Participate in many supplemental professional development activities including clinical observation in multiple specialty clinics (post-concussion, ALS, orthoSEAT).
- Lead monthly journal clubs to engage the rehabilitation team in evidence-based practice and case reviews to explore decision-making and application of research into a current clinical case.
- Develop specialty-specific knowledge - carefully cultivated through didactic content, supported continuing education opportunities as well as dedicated time spent engaging in a scientific inquiry project on an area of the resident's interest. Didactic content is a mixture of content developed by the parent organizations as well as partnering with the Institute for Knowledge Translation.
- Gain teaching experience while partnering with Grand Valley State University as a guest faculty member and volunteer in GVSU's Pro Bono Clinic.

What is a typical schedule for the resident?

The resident's schedule varies based on setting but the resident completes ~30 clinical care hours during the week in either the inpatient rehabilitation hospital (9 months) or the outpatient therapy center (3 months) with at least 3 hours of mentorship included. Monday through Friday, 830-130 PM. They have additional times blocked for various residency opportunities and commitments: time spent working with Grand Valley State University, specialty observations, didactic curriculum, and time working on their scientific inquiring project. The resident is expected to work one weekend day every four weeks from December –September.

Where do residents practice during the program?

Residents rotate through 3 inpatient rotations (Brain Injury, Stroke and Spinal Cord Injury) and 1 outpatient rotation (treating various neurologic diagnoses) at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Grand Rapids main campus.

When does the program begin? What is the length of the program?

The MFB Neurologic PT Residency is a 52-week program that begins and ends in September, annually.

When is the application deadline? Is an interview required for applicants?

Applications are due February 15 with interviews being held in early March. Yes, top candidates will be selected for an interview (in-person as available or video-conference as needed).

Do you participate in RF-PTCAS? The common decision date?

Yes, we do use RF-PTCAS for applications and participate in the common decision date. The common decision date requires programs provide an offer to their top applicant prior to the date but don't require a response until the selected date, allowing applicants an opportunity to receive offers from all programs they are the top candidate for. Each year the date is selected and shared with applicants, for the 2026/2027 year the date is March 16, 2026.

Are residents paid during the program?

Yes! Residents will be a Mary Free Bed employee and are eligible for full-time benefits including paid time off with salary commensurate to patient care hours scheduled.

How much is tuition?

There is not a tuition but there is a fee of \$700 to assist with the cost of didactic content.

Are applicants required to have their PT license?

Yes. All residents must have a Michigan PT license prior to the residency start date.

Who can applicants contact for additional information?

Please contact: PTneuroresidency@maryfreebed.com and we will be happy to respond via email, a phone call, zoom meeting or potentially an in person meeting and tour of facilities.