Tammany JE, Day AA, Flowers MA, Heidenheimer LK, Woods RW. USE OF THE HEXACO PERSONALITY INVENTORY- REVISED TO PREDICT ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN THE FIRST SEMESTER OF A DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM. Hardin-Simmons University Department of Physical Therapy, Abilene, TX.

**PURPOSE:** Evidence supporting the predictive value of admissions criteria for future success in a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program is limited and inconsistent. Certain personality traits have been shown to relate to academic achievement in other fields, but this has not been extensively studied in physical therapy. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to identify predictors of academic success within a DPT program as measured by first semester physical therapy grade point averages (PT GPA). **SUBJECTS:** First year, first semester physical therapy students from one DPT program were invited to participate in the study. **METHODS:** This study used an exploratory cross-sectional research design. The HEXACO Personality Inventory - Revised (HEXACO-PI-R) was distributed online via an email list obtained from the university email system prior to the first semester of a DPT program. Data from the HEXACO-PI-R and traditional measures, such as undergraduate GPA and Graduate Records Examination (GRE) scores were studied using correlation and regression analyses to determine relationships with, and predictors of, academic success in the first semester of a DPT program. **RESULTS:** The sample consisted of 26 first-year physical therapy students (M= 8, F= 18), mean age of $22.54 \pm 1.104$ attending a private, Christian DPT program. The survey had a response rate of 92.9%. A moderate negative correlation was found with modesty scores ($r = -.538$, $p < 0.01$). Fair positive correlations were found with social self-esteem ($r = .430$, $p < 0.05$), diligence ($r = .449$, $p < 0.05$), conscientiousness ($r = .403$, $p < 0.05$). These same variables were used in a significant regression equation: $F(4,21) = 4.932$ ($p < 0.006$) with $r^2$ of 0.484. **CONCLUSIONS:** Higher scores in social self-esteem, diligence and conscientiousness correlated with a higher first semester PT GPA indicating greater academic success in the a DPT program, while higher scores in modesty inversely correlated with lower first semester PT GPA in this DPT program. Utilizing a prediction equation, the HEXACO-PR-I predicted academic success in this physical therapy program. **CLINICAL RELEVANCE:** Acceptance of quality applicants into a DPT program is vital to promote excellence within the PT profession. Research has shown that undergraduate GPA, GRE scores, and age can predict PT GPA to an extent. This study implements the importance of assessing personality traits as they relate to academic success in a DPT program. Further research with more subjects from multiple DPT programs and evenly distributed genders is needed to provide generalizability to other DPT programs. A longitudinal study with the same subjects will allow for data about personality influence on completed program and clinical success.