

Student Research Spotlight

Kim Veirs, M.P.T.

Program: Ph.D. in Allied Health Sciences with Specialization in Rehabilitation Sciences

Mentor: Carol P. Dionne, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, Cert MDT

Department: Rehabilitation Sciences



My name is Kim Veirs and I will complete the PhD program in Rehabilitation Sciences in 2018. I have been a practicing physical therapist and athletic trainer for 16 years. I am also certified in Pilates for Rehabilitation through Polestar Pilates. I worked primarily in orthopedics and home health prior to returning to school and specialized over the last 12 years in Dance Medicine. I decided to pursue my doctorate when I discovered I was developing more questions than answers while working with my dancers for both their wellness and rehabilitation. I noticed trends and gaps in the literature when I sought answers to my questions.

Active in the local dance medicine community, I have assisted with pre-season injury prevention and detection screens of the Oklahoma City Ballet Company dancers. I present on dance medicine-related topics at local studios where I plan to conduct injury prevention screens. Results from these screens should inform my dissertation agenda in the creation of evidence-based practice strategies lacking in this specific population, with the intent to better equip Allied Health practitioners to meet dancers' needs. Ultimately, I hope to discover more robust tests and measures to improve injury prevention screens as well as rehabilitation strategies for improved functional outcomes after injury.

I am a research assistant to **Dr. Dionne** in the Mechanical Therapy Research Laboratory (MTRL). We assess work-related performance measures as part of ongoing studies for participants with lower extremity amputation. Upon completion of my PhD I will continue my research agenda, community involvement in the dance community, and teach.

