

# PHYSICAL THERAPY

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

[www.sru.edu/dpt](http://www.sru.edu/dpt)

**DELIVERY METHOD**  
On-Campus

**START DATE**  
Fall term only

**COMPLETION TIME**  
Three years

**NUMBER OF CREDITS**  
119 credits

According to [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) website, employment of physical therapists is projected to grow 15 percent from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations.

The median annual wage for physical therapists was \$99,710 in May 2023.



**Slippery Rock**  
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System  
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at Slippery Rock University was the third physical therapy program in the United States to transition from a master's level program to a doctoral level. SRU's DPT program is a clinical doctorate degree designed to prepare graduates for practice in physical therapy. The program is eight semesters, including 37 weeks dedicated to clinical hands-on patient experiences.

In the United States, physical therapy licensure is required to practice. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy reports that SRU PT graduates consistently meet or exceed national pass rate averages on the licensure board exam.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Slippery Rock University integrates basic science with clinical practice. There are nine full-time and several part-time faculty members. All full-time faculty members hold doctoral degrees and most are engaged in clinical practice.

The variety of available clinical sites and length of time spent in clinical rotations are other strengths of the program. Clinical Experience I is two weeks in the summer preceding the start of the second year. Clinical Experience II is five weeks in between the fall and spring semesters of the second year. Clinical Internship I is 15 weeks in the fall of the third year and Clinical Internship II is for 15 weeks in the spring of the third year.

Students also have an opportunity to pursue special interests related to physical therapy through various elective course offerings. These courses are designed to provide additional learning opportunities in a clinical practice specialty area.

The SRU Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Slippery Rock University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 N. Fairfax, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: [www.capteonline.org](http://www.capteonline.org).

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

There are two options for pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at SRU:

- Traditional 3 graduate years
- 3 undergraduate years + 3 graduate years (SRU undergraduates only)

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To apply, all applicants should complete the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) application found at <https://ptcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

Applications will be accepted from June 17 until November 1. Your PTCAS application must be e-submitted, completed, and verified by November 1, 2024.

1. A minimum of a baccalaureate degree or completion of the first three years of the Pre-Physical Therapy SRU 3+3 and the following prerequisites:
  - a. Two courses of Anatomy & Physiology with labs
  - b. Two courses of Chemistry with labs
  - c. Two courses of Physics with labs
  - d. Two courses of Psychology
  - e. One course in Statistics\*All prerequisite courses must be completed with a C or better. Due to COVID-19, we will accept "pass" for Spring and Summer 2020 courses. However, we will rank them as a "B" when analyzing grades.
2. An undergraduate grade point average **and** prerequisite grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Program averages grades of any courses that were repeated.
3. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all institutions previously attended.
4. Recommended not required-official scores from the general test of the Graduate Record Exam scores. GRE scores are reportable for five years. SRU PTCAS code is 4802.
5. Documentation of 50 hours or more of physical therapy experience with a licensed physical therapist at a minimum of two different facilities.
6. The Slippery Rock University DPT Program requires three reference letters. Please be sure to carefully review these requirements. If the reference letter requirements are not fulfilled, then the application will not be considered complete. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they have submitted the proper reference letters.

Each applicant **MUST** submit one reference letter from a licensed physical therapist. Reference letters from physical therapy assistants (PTAs), athletic trainers, etc. will not be accepted for this requirement.

Each applicant **MUST** submit one reference letter from a faculty member, preferably from a higher-level course in the applicant's major.

Each applicant **MUST** submit one professional or academic reference letter of their choosing. **Preferred** professional recommendations include physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, occupational therapists, athletic trainers, physicians or similar. Professional references may also include employers and volunteer supervisors.

Letters from family members or friends **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Non-traditional students who have concerns about obtaining an academic reference can reach out to us directly to discuss an alternative.

7. Completed essay questions.

**NOTE:**

- All prerequisites must have been taken within the last 10 years. The 10-year window is from when the student would begin the program.
- Online courses are permitted for all prerequisites. However, we encourage students to take Anatomy & Physiology in person.
- AP/IB courses are permitted except for Anatomy & Physiology. For Chemistry, Physics and Psychology we only accept one as AP/IB while the second prerequisite must be from a college-level course.
- Applicants who are offered and accept admission in the program are required to submit a non-refundable deposit within two weeks of acceptance to hold a seat in the upcoming cohort. The \$500.00 deposit is applied directly to the student's tuition for the fall semester.
- Regardless of citizenship, if you are a non-native English speaker, you are required to submit scores that show proficiency in the English language. SRU accepts several methods of English Proficiency (see International Admissions). If applicable, the English Proficiency requirement must be completed, and score received by the application deadline.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICANTS**

International applicants, please visit [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate) for requirements.

**RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE**

**Semester I (Fall): (17 credits)**

Neuroscience I (PHTH-631)	4
Pathology I (PHTH-654)	4
Gross and Applied Anatomy I (PHTH-656)	6
PT Assessment and Procedures I (PHTH-659)	3

**Semester II (Spring): (18 credits)**

Neuroscience II (PHTH-636)	4
Pathology II (PHTH-655)	4
Gross and Applied Anatomy II (PHTH-658)	6
PT Assessment and Procedures II (PHTH-660)	2
Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise/Lab (PHTH-729)	2

**Semester III (Summer) (13 credits)**

Healthcare Systems I (PHTH-545)	2
Clinical Experience I (PHTH-645)	1
PT Modalities (PHTH-650)	2
Nutrition (PHTH-652)	1
Pharmacotherapy (PHTH-653)	1
Diagnostic Imaging for PTs (PHTH-731)	1
Psychosocial Integration (PHTH-744)	2
Concepts of Evidence-Based Practice (PHTH-757)	2
Clinical Decision Making (PHTH-780)	1

**Semester IV (Fall): (18 credits)**

Environmental Consideration for Physical Therapists (PHTH-661)	2
Musculoskeletal: Lower Extremity (PHTH-704)	3
Clinical Experience II (PHTH-710)	3
Neuromuscular I (PHTH-717)	4
Therapeutic Adaptations (PHTH-719)	3
Evidence-Based Practice: Appraising Literature with Lab (PHTH-758)	3

**CURRICULUM (CONT)**

**Semester V (Spring): (17 credits)**

Musculoskeletal: Spine (PHTH-703)	3
Neuromuscular II (PHTH-718)	4
Cardiopulmonary (PHTH-732)	3
Health Care Systems II (PHTH-742)	3
Education, Prevention, & Wellness (PHTH-743)	2
Evidence-Based Practice Application (PHTH-759)	2

**Semester VI (Summer): (14 credits)**

Musculoskeletal: Upper Extremities (PHTH-702)	3
Integumentary PT (PHTH-733)	1
Geriatric PT (PHTH-734)	3
Pediatric PT (PHTH-735)	3
Special Topics in PT (PHTH-736)	1
Clinical Decision Making II (PHTH-781)	1
Elective - select one of the following:	2
Selected Topics:	
PT in Rehabilitation (PHTH-698-03)	(2)
Applied Orthopedics (PHTH-698-04)	(2)
Biomechanical Applications (PHTH-698-05)	(2)
Pediatrics Elective (PHTH-752)	(2)
Sports PT (PHTH-754)	(2)
Geriatric Elective (PHTH-755)	(2)
Vestibular and Concussion PT (PHTH 761)	(2)

**Semester VII (Fall): (11 hours)**

PT Business Practices (PHTH-737)	2
Clinical Internship I (PHTH-802)	9

**Semester VIII (Spring): (11 credits)**

Clinical Internship II (PHTH-804)	9
Professional Inquiry (PHTH-820)	2

**Total Hours\*\*** **119**

DPT matriculation/acceptance rates and student outcomes are available upon request.

**TUITION & ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Information on current tuition and assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate). Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office at [www.sru.edu/FinAid](http://www.sru.edu/FinAid) or the Office of Graduate Admissions.

**Note:** Assistantships are not recommended for first year PT students due to the heavy academic load.

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE CERTIFICATION**

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) at SRU is a professional doctorate degree program designed to prepare graduates for clinical practice in physical therapy. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapist Examination (NPTE), successful completion of which is required for physical therapy practice throughout the United States. Licensure requirements vary by state. We strongly urge you to contact the licensing board in the state where you plan to practice.

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:**

Dr. Kelly Lindenberg  
Program Coordinator  
215 Physical Therapy Building  
724.738.4368  
[kelly.lindenberg@sru.edu](mailto:kelly.lindenberg@sru.edu)

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:**

Office of Graduate Admissions  
104 North Hall, Welcome Center  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
[www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate)  
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD  
[graduate.admissions@sru.edu](mailto:graduate.admissions@sru.edu)

The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.