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 Graduate School of Physical Therapy at Slippery Rock University integrates basic science with clinical practice. There are nine full-time and several part-time faculty members. Eight of the full-time faculty members hold post-professional doctoral degrees, and six 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 15 weeks in the spring of the third year.

Students also have an opportunity to pursue special interests related to physical therapy in Professional Exploration I and II. These courses are designed to provide additional learning opportunities in a clinical specialty area, research, teaching, administration or service.

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; website: www.capteonline.org.

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)

Degree & Course Requirements

Three electronic recommendation forms (two from licensed physical therapists) found at www.sru.edu/graduate.

Completed essay questions form found at www.sru.edu/graduate.

An undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
**Curriculum**

Semester I (Fall):
- Neuroscience I (PHTH-631) 4 credits
- Pathology I (PHTH-654) 4 credits
- Gross and Applied Anatomy I (PHTH-656) 6 credits
- PT Assessment and Procedures I (PHTH-659) 3 credits
Total credits: 17

Semester II (Spring):
- Healthcare Systems I (PHTH-545) 2 credits
- Neuroscience II (PHTH-636) 4 credits
- Pathology II (PHTH-655) 4 credits
- Gross and Applied Anatomy II (PHTH-658) 6 credits
- PT Assessment and Procedures II (PHTH-660) 2 credits
Total credits: 18

Semester III (Summer):
- Clinical Experience I (PHTH-645) 1 credit
- PT Modalities (PHTH-650) 2 credits
- Nutrition (PHTH-652) 1 credit
- Pharmacotherapy (PHTH-653) 1 credit
- Environmental Considerations for Physical Therapists (PHTH-661) 2 credits
- Diagnostic Imaging for PTs (PHTH-731) 1 credit
- Psychosocial Integration (PHTH-744) 2 credits
- Concepts of EBP (PHTH-757) 2 credits
- Professional Exploration I (PHTH-816) 1 credit
Total credits: 13

Semester IV (Fall):
- Musculoskeletal III (PHTH-704) 3 credits
- Clinical Experience II (PHTH-710) 3 credits
- Neuromuscular I (PHTH-717) 4 credits
- Therapeutic Adaptations (PHTH-719) 3 credits
- Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise (PHTH-729) 2 credits
- EBP: Appraising Lit (PHTH-758) 3 credits
- Professional Exploration II (PHTH-819) 1 credit
Total credits: 13

Semester V (Spring):
- Musculoskeletal II (PHTH-703) 3 credits
- Neuromuscular II (PHTH-718) 4 credits
- Cardiopulmonary (PHTH-732) 3 credits
- Health Care Systems II (PHTH-742) 3 credits
- Education, Prev., & Wellness (PHTH-743) 2 credits
- EBP: Application (PHTH-759) 2 credits
Total credits: 17

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

**Semester VI (Summer):**
- Electives - Selected Topics
  - Pilates (PHTH-698-01) 2 credits
  - Acute Care (PHTH-698-02) 2 credits
  - PT in Rehabilitation (PHTH-698-03) 2 credits
  - Applied Orthopedics (PHTH-698-04) 2 credits
  - Biomechanical Applications (PHTH-698-05) 2 credits
  - Pediatrics Elective (PHTH-752) 2 credits
  - Sports PT (PHTH-754) 2 credits
  - Geriatric Elective (PHTH-755) 2 credits
  - Integumentary PT (PHTH-733) 1 credit
  - Special Topics in PT (PHTH-736) 1 credit
Total credits: 13

**Semester VII (Fall):**
- PT Business Practices (PHTH-737) 2 credits
- Clinical Internship I (PHTH-802) 9 credits
Total credits: 11

**Semester VIII (Spring):**
- Clinical Internship II (PHTH-804) 9 credits
- Professional Inquiry (PHTH-820) 2 credits
Total credits: 11

Total Credits: 119

**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).

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

Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office [www.sru.edu/FinAid](http://www.sru.edu/FinAid).

*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 it 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.*