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 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.

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)

DEGREE & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Degree granted - DPT, Doctor of Physical Therapy. A course requirement of 119-credit hours, eight total semesters. Four semesters will include off-campus clinical rotations.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit the following materials on official electronic forms along with a completed online graduate application and non-refundable application fee:

1. A minimum of a baccalaureate degree with an emphasis in the natural sciences, including the following prerequisites:
   a. One year of Anatomy & Physiology with labs
   b. One year of chemistry with labs
   c. One year of physics with labs
   d. One year of psychology
   e. One course in statistics

2. *All prerequisite courses must be completed with a C or better. Official transcripts from any colleges and/or universities where credits have been earned.

3. Official general test Graduate Record Exam scores (GRE scores are reportable for five years).

4. Documentation of 100 hours or more of physical therapy experience with a licensed physical therapist.

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

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

7. An undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
CURRICULUM

Semester I (Fall):
- 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
  17 credits

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

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

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

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

Semester VI (Summer):
- Musculoskeletal I (PHTH-702) 3
- Geriatric PT (PHTH-734) 3
- Pediatric PT (PHTH-735) 3
- Electives - Selected Topics
  - Pilates (PHTH-698-01) (2)
  - Acute Care (PHTH-698-02) (2)
  - 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)
  13 credits
- Integumentary PT (PHTH-733) 1
- Special Topics in PT (PHTH-736) 1
- 119 credits

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

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.

TUITION & ASSISTANTSHIPS

Information on current tuition and assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office at 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.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:
Dr. Carol Martin-Elkins
Graduate Coordinator
204 Physical Therapy Building
724.738.2916
carol.martin-elkins@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.

Revised December 11, 2018