

PHYSICAL THERAPY, DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY (DPT)

The Graduate School of Physical Therapy at Slippery Rock University offers a challenging curriculum leading to the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The program was the third DPT program developed in the United States and is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Students enrolled in the program will complete courses that enable them to deliver physical therapy to a diverse population of consumers. The program emphasizes the restoration of function, promotion of wellness and education and the reduction of disability. Graduates are proficient in the foundational, clinical and behavioral sciences upon graduation.

The program is eight terms in length and includes four clinical practicum experiences: two of these are clinical internships taken after six semesters of academic coursework. Science courses such as anatomy, neuroscience and pathology taken in conjunction with clinical courses. The evidence-based component of the curriculum enables program graduates to be consumers of the scientific and clinical literature and apply it to physical therapy practice.

The primary objective of the DPT program is to prepare future physical therapists who demonstrate highly competent, evidence-based practice and professional behaviors in a dynamic health care environment. Graduates will be able to serve the health care needs of consumers and a global society while contributing to the advancement of the profession.

Slippery Rock 3+3 Students Entering the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Should 3+3 Physical Therapy students be unsuccessful in completing the 1st year of the DPT program and want to complete their original undergraduate degree, it is solely up to the discretion of their undergraduate program coordinator to determine which, if any, physical therapy courses will count toward the completion of their undergraduate degree. In addition, students must complete any unfulfilled requirements of his/her undergraduate major. *Participation in the undergraduate commencement ceremony takes place after the first full year of Physical Therapy school is successfully completed.*

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 (<https://www.fsbpt.org/Secondary-Pages/Exam-Candidates/ApplyingforStateLicence/>) in the state where you plan to practice.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Effective oral and written professional communication, in formal and informal contexts, for purposes of education, consultation, patient management and developing professional relationships.
2. Integration of knowledge of biological, behavioral, and clinical sciences for clinical decision making.
3. Competent performance of each element of the APTA patient/client management model, including clinical decision making for differential diagnosis, intervention and appropriate referral.

4. Promotion of optimum health and function to a culturally diverse patient/client population.
5. Capability to critically evaluate the professional literature to become evidence-based practitioners and demonstrate basic competence in research processes.
6. Effective leadership and business practices in physical therapy.
7. Professional behavior consistent with ethical and legal standards of the profession.
8. Continuous professional and personal growth to advance professional competence, career goals and the profession.

Related Links

Physical Therapy, DPT Program Page (<https://www.sru.edu/academics/graduate-programs/physical-therapy-doctor-of-physical-therapy/>)

Physical Therapy Department Page (<https://www.sru.edu/academics/colleges-and-departments/ches/departments/physical-therapy/>)

Physical Therapy Fact Sheet (<https://www.sru.edu/documents/programs/factsheets/graduate/FS-DPT.pdf>)

Professional Licensure/Certification Page (<https://www.sru.edu/students/student-consumer-information/professional-licensures/>)

Curriculum Guide

Code	Title	Hours
Semester 1 Courses		
PHTH 631	Neuroscience I	4
PHTH 654	Pathology I	4
PHTH 656	Gross and Applied Anatomy I	6
PHTH 659	PT Assessment and Procedures I/Lab	3
Subtotal		17
Semester 2 Courses		
PHTH 545	Health Care Systems I	2
PHTH 636	Neuroscience II	4
PHTH 655	Pathology II	4
PHTH 658	Gross and Applied Anatomy II	6
PHTH 660	PT Assessment and Procedures II	2
Subtotal		18
Semester 3 Courses		
PHTH 645	Clinical Experience I	1
PHTH 650	PT Modalities	2
PHTH 652	Nutrition	1
PHTH 653	Pharmacotherapy	1
PHTH 661	Environmental Considerations for Physical Therapists	2
PHTH 731	Diagnostic Imaging for PTs	1
PHTH 744	Psychosocial integration	2
PHTH 757	Concepts of Evidence-Based Practice	2
PHTH 816	Professional Exploration I	1
Subtotal		13
Semester 4 Courses		
PHTH 704	Musculoskeletal: Lower Extremity	3
PHTH 710	Clinical Experience II	3
PHTH 717	Neuromuscular I	4

PHTH 719	Therapeutic Adaptations with Lab	3
PHTH 729	Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise/Lab	2
PHTH 758	Evidence-based Practice: Appraising the Literature with Lab	3
PHTH 819	Professional Exploration II	1
Subtotal		19
Semester 5 Courses		
PHTH 703	Musculoskeletal: Spine	3
PHTH 718	Neuromuscular II	4
PHTH 732	Cardiopulmonary	3
PHTH 742	Health Care Systems II	3
PHTH 743	Education, Prevention, and Wellness	2
PHTH 759	Evidence-based Practice Application	2
Subtotal		17
Semester 6 Courses		
PHTH 702	Musculoskeletal: Upper Extremity	3
PHTH 733	Integumentary PT	1
PHTH 734	Geriatric PT	3
PHTH 735	Pediatric PT	3
PHTH 736	Special Topics in PT	1
Select one of the following:		2
PHTH 698	Selected Topics	
PHTH 752	Pediatric Elective	
PHTH 754	Sports PT	
PHTH 755	Geriatric Elective	
PHTH 761	Vestibular and Concussion Physical Therapy	
Subtotal		13
Semester 7 Courses		
PHTH 737	Physical Therapy Business Practices	2
PHTH 802	Clinical Internship I	9
Subtotal		11
Semester 8 Courses		
PHTH 804	Clinical Internship II	9
PHTH 820	Professional Inquiry	2
Subtotal		11
Total Hours		119

Important Curriculum Guide Notes

This Curriculum Guide is provided to help SRU students and prospective students better understand their intended major curriculum. Enrolled SRU students should note that the My Rock Audit may place already-earned and/or in progress courses in different, yet valid, curriculum categories. Enrolled SRU students should use the My Rock Audit Report and materials and information provided by their faculty advisers to ensure accurate progress towards degree completion. *The information on this guide is current as of the date listed. Students are responsible for curriculum requirements at the time of enrollment at the University.*

PASSHE - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Institutions

Major Code: 9D6C
Effective: Summer 2022
Revised: 02.21.2022
UCC:11.30.2021

Recommended Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
PHTH 631	Neuroscience I	4
PHTH 654	Pathology I	4
PHTH 656	Gross and Applied Anatomy I	6
PHTH 659	PT Assessment and Procedures I/Lab	3
Hours		17
Spring		
PHTH 545	Health Care Systems I	2
PHTH 636	Neuroscience II	4
PHTH 655	Pathology II	4
PHTH 658	Gross and Applied Anatomy II	6
PHTH 660	PT Assessment and Procedures II	2
Hours		18
Summer		
PHTH 645	Clinical Experience I	1
PHTH 650	PT Modalities	2
PHTH 652	Nutrition	1
PHTH 653	Pharmacotherapy	1
PHTH 661	Environmental Considerations for Physical Therapists	2
PHTH 731	Diagnostic Imaging for PTs	1
PHTH 744	Psychosocial integration	2
PHTH 757	Concepts of Evidence-Based Practice	2
PHTH 816	Professional Exploration I	1
Hours		13
Second Year		
Fall		
PHTH 704	Musculoskeletal: Lower Extremity	3
PHTH 710	Clinical Experience II	3
PHTH 717	Neuromuscular I	4
PHTH 719	Therapeutic Adaptations with Lab	3
PHTH 729	Foundations of Therapeutic Exercise/Lab	2
PHTH 758	Evidence-based Practice: Appraising the Literature with Lab	3
PHTH 819	Professional Exploration II	1
Hours		19
Spring		
PHTH 703	Musculoskeletal: Spine	3
PHTH 718	Neuromuscular II	4
PHTH 732	Cardiopulmonary	3
PHTH 742	Health Care Systems II	3
PHTH 743	Education, Prevention, and Wellness	2
PHTH 759	Evidence-based Practice Application	2
Hours		17
Summer		
PHTH 702	Musculoskeletal: Upper Extremity	3
PHTH 733	Integumentary PT	1
PHTH 734	Geriatric PT	3
PHTH 735	Pediatric PT	3

PHTH 736	Special Topics in PT	1
Select one of the following:		2
PHTH 698	Selected Topics	
PHTH 752	Pediatric Elective	
PHTH 754	Sports PT	
PHTH 755	Geriatric Elective	
Hours		13
Third Year		
Fall		
PHTH 737	Physical Therapy Business Practices	2
PHTH 802	Clinical Internship I	9
Hours		11
Spring		
PHTH 804	Clinical Internship II	9
PHTH 820	Professional Inquiry	2
Hours		11
Total Hours**		119

*** This document is meant to serve as a guide. Please consult with your academic adviser and refer to your curriculum guide prior to registering for courses. This plan should be reviewed, and verified, by you and your academic adviser at least once each academic year.*

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