

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/>)