Program Overview
The Department offers two entry-level programs to prepare students to become physical therapists: they are both Doctoral Programs in Physical Therapy (DPT) one is located in Newark and the other in Stratford. See program description for the DPT-South program.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) entry level degree program is located on the Newark campus and the DPT – South program is located on the Stratford Campus. Both entry-level accredited programs affiliate with clinical facilities located throughout the United States. Both curricula are designed to be a student’s first degree in physical therapy. Both programs result in the DPT degree, however, applicants must apply to each program separately.

Program description
Applicants to The Rutgers, School of Health-Related Professions (SHRP), Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program in Newark must have a minimum of a Bachelors degree. The program also collaborates with Kean University, Montclair State University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, William Paterson University, Felician College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Yeshiva University (N.Y), and St. Peter’s College to offer a joint Bachelors/DPT degree. The entry level curriculum is a full time three-year program that prepares a student to take the licensing exam and upon successful completion enter the physical therapy profession as a clinician capable of practicing in an autonomous and ethical manner. The graduate’s have skills in differential diagnosis, as well as in advanced clinical and management practices. They are able to understand and apply research presented in various formats to clinical decision making and practice and are expected to help lead the profession in the changes needed for effective practice in the 21st century. The program also has a joint DPT/PhD program in collaboration with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The physical therapy department has a rich tradition of academic excellence in education, research, patient care and community service. Our programs have been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education since 1980.
Description Of The Profession

Physical therapy is a dynamic profession with an established theoretical base and widespread clinical applications in the preservation, development, and restoration of optimal physical function. Physical therapists in the United States:

- Diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional abilities
- Prevent the onset and progression of impairment, functional limitation, disability, or changes in physical function and health status resulting from injury, disease, or other causes
- Restore, maintain, and promote overall fitness, health, and optimal quality of life.

As essential participants in the health care delivery system, physical therapists assume leadership roles in rehabilitation services, prevention and health maintenance programs, and professional and community organizations. They also play important roles in developing health care policy and appropriate standards for the various elements of physical therapist practice to ensure availability, accessibility, and excellence in the delivery of physical therapy services. Practice settings include but are not limited to, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, extended care centers, industry, schools, and private practices. As clinicians, physical therapists engage in an examination process that includes taking a comprehensive history, conducting a systems review, and administering tests and measures to identify potential and existing problems. To establish diagnoses and prognoses, physical therapists perform evaluations that synthesize the examination data. Physical therapists provide interventions (the interactions and procedures used in treating and instructing patients/clients), conduct re-examinations, modify interventions as necessary to achieve anticipated goals and desired outcomes, and develop and implement discharge plans. Physical therapy includes the services provided by physical therapists and also those rendered under physical therapist direction and supervision (American Physical Therapy Association). Physical therapists continue to be in demand throughout the United States. Employment opportunities are available in a variety of health care settings, educational settings and geographic locations. (Adapted from the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice, 2nd Ed. APTA,2001)

Full-time and Part-time status

Students are only accepted for full-time study. Full-time students are accepted for entrance into the program each Spring to start classes at the beginning of August. Students normally complete the degree requirements in three years.

Department Faculty

Please see the department faculty under Rehabilitative and Movement Science department/Newark campus.
**Primary Campus Location**
The program is based in Newark with assigned clinical experiences locally and across the country.

**Curriculum**
See database for program requirements and course descriptions and select your program at:

**Mission/Goals/Objectives**
The mission of the entry-level clinical doctorate in physical therapy is to develop clinicians that are capable of practicing physical therapy in an autonomous and ethical manner. Students develop skills in differential diagnosis, as well as advanced clinical and management practices. Students demonstrate an understanding of research presented in various formats, and apply research findings to clinical decision-making and practice. Graduates are well prepared to take the licensure examination and to practice in the contemporary health care arena.

The Program has over 400 contracts with clinical sites across the United States at which students complete their clinical experiences.

**Accreditation Status**
Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
1111 N. Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Phone:** (703) 706-3245
**Contact:** MaryJane Harris, PT, MS, Director

**Date of accreditation:** Full Accreditation, effective April, 2010-December, 2019.

**Admissions requirements**
There are several routes of entry into the Rutgers program. College graduates with a bachelor's degree may apply directly to Rutgers. High school seniors or transfer students may apply to one of the articulated state or private colleges (Fairleigh Dickinson University, Kean University, Montclair State University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) William Paterson University, Felician College, Yeshiva University, St. Peter’s College). Up to fifty five full-time students are enrolled each year. Clinical Experiences are scheduled at affiliated sites throughout the country. Transfer and non-matriculated students are generally not accepted into the program.
The program is open to any qualified applicant regardless of race, religion, color, age, gender, national origin, handicap, sexual preference or financial status. The nature of the curriculum and the profession of physical therapy necessitate the ability to perform skills that require physical strength and endurance.

PRE-REQUISITES FOR ADMISSION ARE:

- **Course Title** | **Credits**
- Human Anatomy and Physiology | 8
- General Chemistry | 8
- Psychology | 3
- General Physics | 8
- Statistics | 3
- Math (precalculus, calculus, trig or geometry) | 3

APPLICANTS CRITERIA FOR SELECTION ARE:

Satisfactory grade point average (A-B range)

- Satisfactory scores on all three sections (verbal, quantitative and analytical/written) of the Graduate Record Examination. The institution code for Rutgers is 3116.
- Knowledge of the field through actual work or volunteer experience
- Three letters of recommendation: two from physical therapists you worked or volunteered for and one from anyone other than a family member.
- Evidence of community service
- A personal interview may be required

Applicants are expected to have basic computer literacy, including file management, use of word processing and spreadsheet programs, use of e-mail and the Internet.

For Admissions information contact
Kathy London, Admissions Coordinator
Bergen Building Room 720
65 Bergen Street, Newark, NJ

**Phone:** (973) 972-4547  **email:** foglerka@shrp.rutgers.edu

G.P.A. minimum requirement/credentialing requirement:
Students should have a G.P.A. of 3.0 to apply. Students are required to achieve and maintain on their own CPR and First Aid certification throughout their enrollment in the program.
**Additional Offerings**

Rutgers also offers a track through Physical Therapy in the Master of Science in Health Sciences and the Ph.D. in Health Science through the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. The PhD in Health Science is designed to prepare practicing health care professionals to assume leadership roles in the research, academic and/or clinical settings. The Program is coordinated by the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in collaboration with other SHRP Departments, including the Department of Developmental and Rehabilitative Sciences, which supports a specialization in Movement Science. The program also has a joint DPT/PhD program with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

For more information on these degrees, please contact the Program by phone at (973) 972-4547 or via email at the contact listed below.

**For more information**

For more information contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (973) 972-5336 or via e-mail. Additional programmatic information is available.

**For more specific information contact the program at:**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
RBHS - School of Health Related Professions  
Doctoral Programs in Physical Therapy  
Kathy London, Admissions Coordinator  
Bergen Building  
65 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ 07101-3001

**Phone:** (973) 972-5272  
**E-mail:** foglerka@shrp.rutgers.edu