Doctor of Physical Therapy – Stratford (DPT-South)

Program Introduction
The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program is offered by Rutgers, School of Health-Related Professions (SHRP) at Camden. The program is designed to prepare health professionals who function competently and creatively in a dynamic health care environment. The curriculum is designed to provide a student's first degree in physical therapy.

The Physical Therapy degree program is located on the Stratford campus of New Jersey. Students who complete the requirements for graduation earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree from Rutgers, The State University, School of Health Related Professions.

Our program’s unique character is enriched by the rich history of two outstanding universities. As members of both University communities, students have access to a wide range of educational, library, career planning, and social resources. Physical Therapy Program faculty members focus upon the growth and development of each individual student. Students participate in a number of small group activities, including visits to local clinical facilities for patient observations and examination and intervention sessions under the direction of academic and clinical faculty. Students participate in community service projects, which provide learning experiences and the opportunity to make health care accessible to individuals who are often underserved.

Program description
Students must comply with all program policies during the enrollment period and assume costs for scheduled clinical internships. Students must maintain an overall average of 3.0 while enrolled in the curriculum, may earn no more than 2 grades of C+ in the curriculum, and must earn a grade of 80 or better in all practical examinations of patient assessment skills. Students must complete a
capstone project under the direction of a faculty advisor and perform satisfactorily on a comprehensive examination. Students must complete all scheduled clinical internships and required immunizations, criminal background checks, and medical examinations. All courses except Neuroscience are taught on the Stratford campus. The Neuroscience course meets on the Rutgers-Camden campus.

In general, students in the DPT Program are expected to complete the degree requirements in thirty-six months. Clinical affiliations are scheduled at affiliated sites throughout the country.

**Description Of The Profession**
Physical therapy is a dynamic profession. Physical therapists are health professionals who examine, diagnose, and provide interventions for people with a variety of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities. Physical therapists assess the musculoskeletal, neurological, integumentary, cardiopulmonary, and other systems of the body. In consultation with the patient or client, physical therapists develop goals based on examination findings and individual needs. Physical therapists screen patients for medical conditions and may refer patients to other health professionals. Physical therapists also work in wellness, health, promotion, and disease prevention settings.

Physical therapy is a people-oriented profession. Physical therapists have many opportunities to improve the quality of their clients' lives. Physical therapists must have excellent observational, psychomotor skills, cultural awareness, and clinical decision making abilities.

Physical therapists are involved with restoring function and independence at all levels. Physical therapists practice in a variety of settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, private physical therapy offices, community health centers, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, clients' homes, schools, pediatric centers, and academic institutions. Physical therapists provide patient care, conduct research, teach, engage in scholarly work, and provide community service.

Physical therapists are valuable members of the interdisciplinary health care team. Patients come to physical therapists directly or by referral from physicians, podiatrists, or dentists depending upon the jurisdiction. New Jersey is one of the many states that allows for direct access to physical therapy services.
**Full-time and Part-time status**
This is a full-time, block-scheduled program. One class enters the program each year in May. Transfer and nonmatriculated students are generally not accepted into the program.

**Department Faculty**
Please see the department faculty under Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences department/Stratford campus.

**Primary Campus Location**
The program is based in the Stratford campus with assigned clinical sites.

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

**Mission/Goals/Objectives**
The primary mission of the program is to educate students to become generalist physical therapists prepared to advance towards autonomous practice and committed to humanistic principles through education, scholarship, community service, and clinical practice.

**Major Clinical Affiliates**
The DPT Program has over 300 contracts with clinical sites across the United States at which students complete their clinical experiences. Students should be prepared to travel outside the Stratford area for their clinical affiliations.

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

Tel: (703) 706-3240
Contact: Mary Jane Harris, PT, MS, Director

**Date of accreditation:** MPT Program full accreditation 1996-2006. DPT program full accreditation 2006-2016
Admissions Requirements
The admissions process for this joint program is handled through the Graduate Admissions Office of Rutgers University, Camden campus. On-line application is required. Supporting documents should be sent directly to the DPT Program in Stratford.

Applications for admissions for the upcoming year open on July 15th. Electronic applications must be submitted by October 15th. All supporting documentation must be received by November 15th. (In those years when the 15th of the month falls on a weekend, the deadline will be the Monday to follow.) Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree in any field by the time of initial matriculation, completed the Graduate Record Examination general test, and completed all prerequisite courses prior to matriculation into the program.

Please refer to the list of admissions requirements and supporting documentation.

G.P.A. minimum requirement/credentialing requirement
The program is open to any qualified applicant regardless of race, religion, color, age, gender, national origin, handicap or sexual preference. The nature of the curriculum and the profession of physical therapy necessitate the ability to perform skills that require physical strength and endurance. Applicants must be able to meet the SHRP and Program’s Essential Standards with reasonable accommodations.

In order to graduate from the program, students must earn an overall grade point average of 3.0 and complete all program requirements. Students must meet the requirements and complete the application process for licensure in the state of their choice in order to practice physical therapy.

For more information
For information on the professional course requirements and/or schedule please contact the program:
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
RBHS - School of Health Related Professions
Marie Koval-Nardone, Program Director
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