



Rutgers Doctor of Physical Therapy 4+3 Program

The DPT 4+3 Program is a seven-year program that combines four (4) years of coursework in a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Exercise Science from Rutgers University–New Brunswick with three (+3) years of graduate school at the Rutgers School of Health Professions Doctor of Physical Therapy Program–Newark campus. This program provides First Year students who are admitted to either the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) or School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) the opportunity to begin preparing for a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree from the moment they start their college education.

The DPT 4+3 Program is only open to First Year students who complete the required Fall semester curriculum satisfactorily.

If requirements are met, students must express formal interest before they declare their major in Exercise Science in the Spring semester of their First Year. After being accepted into the major, students are eligible to apply to the Pre-PT Concentration in Spring of First Year. Accepted students have the opportunity to apply to the DPT Graduate Program in the Summer after Second Year of their undergraduate career.

Upon completion of all requirements in the Fourth Year, accepted students will have the opportunity to begin their graduate career in the DPT Program and receive a DPT degree. Unfortunately, upperclassmen and transfer students are not eligible for this program.

Required Steps and Curriculum for DPT 4+3 Eligibility

Step 1

Accepted to Rutgers University
(SAS or SEBS)



Step 2

Express Interest in DPT 4+3 Program
by Fall First Year



Step 3

Declare Exercise Science as Major
Spring First Year



Step 4

Apply to Pre-PT Concentration
Spring First Year



Step 5

Apply to Rutgers DPT Program
Summer Third Year



Step 6

Accepted to DPT 4+3 Program–
Newark Campus Fall Third Year



Step 7

Begin DPT Phase of Graduate Studies
Upon Graduation from Undergraduate
Program Summer After Fourth Year

4 Pre-Physical Therapy Concentration

The Pre-Physical Therapy (PT) Concentration within the Exercise Science Major is required for School of Arts and Sciences and School of Environmental and Biological Sciences students who plan to apply to the Rutgers Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) 4+3 Program in their third year.

Students MUST satisfy the following requirements in the fall of their first year at Rutgers to apply to the Pre-PT Concentration:

- Maintain a minimum of 3.3 GPA during first year fall semester at Rutgers–New Brunswick
- Have no more than one C in any course (If a grade of C is received, that course must be re-taken by the time of application into the DPT Program, and a letter grade of B or higher needs to be achieved.)
- Completed 01:119:115 General Biology
- Completed 01:377:140 Foundations of Kinesiology and Health

If you cannot gain access to these courses, please contact our program directly to evaluate your eligibility

After declaring Exercise Science as a major in the spring of their first year, students who completed the requirements above can begin the formal process of applying for the Pre-PT Concentration in the spring of their first year.

Students accepted into the Pre-PT Concentration follow a set curriculum. The Pre-PT Concentration guides students to prepare them for the competitive application process to a DPT Program.

After successful completion of two years of requirements, students may apply in the summer after their second year to the Rutgers School of Health Professions DPT Program–Newark campus for potential admission.

Exceptional students who meet four years of curriculum requirements have the opportunity to be accepted through this application into a Rutgers Graduate DPT Program a year earlier.

+3 Rutgers Graduate DPT Program

The Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy has a shared mission to graduate entry-level physical therapists who are engaged in contemporary practice, with faculty and students who embody the core values of the physical therapy profession and who are committed to humanistic principles through education, scholarship, service and practice. Graduates will be knowledgeable and skilled movement specialists who use the best evidence to optimize activities and participation and promote wellness across the lifespan.

Kinesiology and Health at Rutgers

The Department of Kinesiology and Health is committed to educating the next generation of scholars to help advance the knowledge of their students in the realm of Exercise Science. The DPT 4+3 Program will provide students with guidance and professional development throughout their undergraduate academic career focusing on key factors related to the field of physical therapy.



Rutgers DPT Program—Newark Campus

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Kinesiology and Health Department
70 Lipman Drive
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

rudpt4_3@kines.rutgers.edu
rudpt43.rutgers.edu

