



Pre-Physical Therapy Advising Sheet

Physical therapists must receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from an accredited physical therapist program before taking the national licensure examination that allows them to practice. Other requirements for physical therapy practice vary from state to state according to physical therapy practice acts or state regulations governing physical therapy.

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program are usually three years long. Generally speaking, the first two years are focused on academic and clinical course work including relevant clinical rotations. The third year consists predominately of challenging clinical experiences as well as advanced courses and seminars.

Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-physical therapy” is **not** a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Biology and Kinesiology are often popular majors selected. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary.

Students applying to physical therapist programs need to plan carefully and complete not only the physical therapist requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

Suggested courses for most Physical Therapy School:

One Year of General Biology with Lab—
Requirements vary by campus. Some schools require no courses while other require either 1 semester or 2 semesters

One Year of General Chemistry with Lab

One Year of Physics with Lab

One Semester of Anatomy

One Semester of Physiology

General Psychology

One course in Statistics

One Semester English Composition

Suggested GCC courses:

BIOL 122 or
BIOL 101 and 102

CHEM 101 and 102

PHYS 105 and 106 or PHYS 101, 102, 103

BIOL 120

BIOL 121

PSYCH 101

MATH 136

ENGL 101

Lower Division subjects required or recommended by some U.S. Physical Therapy Schools

Public Speaking/Speech SPCH 101

One Year Organic Chemistry with Lab CHEM 105 and 106

Upper division Psychology Abnormal, Developmental, Adolescent or Sports Psychology course that must be taken at the university in the upper division level

Note: All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit.

Physical therapist requirements vary, check with the individual campus for their specific requirements.

Physical Therapist Selection Criteria

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited university.
- **GPA** in terms of overall college grades or pre-physical therapist coursework grades, depending on the school.
- Some schools may require **admissions tests** such the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Check with the individual campus schools you plan to apply to for information.
- Physical Therapy schools expect applicants to have experience in documented **community service**.
- To determine oral and written communication skills, physical therapy applicants are required to participate in physical therapy **interviews**.

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up to date information.

Salary Information

The median wage in 2014 for Physical Therapists in California was \$88,586 (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

Recommended Websites

American Physical Therapy Association www.apta.org

Select Physical Therapy School Websites

Azusa Pacific University	www.apu.edu/bas/physicaltherapy
California State University, Fresno	www.csufresno.edu/chhs/depts_programs/physical_therapy
California State University, Long Beach	www.csulb.edu/colleges/chhs/departments/pt
California State University, Northridge	http://hhd.csun.edu/pt
California State University, Sacramento	www.hhs.csus.edu/PT
Chapman University	www.chapman.edu/crean/academic-programs/graduateprograms/physical-therapy/
Loma Linda University	www.llu.edu/allied-health/sahp/pt/programs.page?
Mount St Mary's College	www.msmu.edu/graduate-programs/physical-therapy
Samuel Merritt College	www.samuelmerritt.edu/physical_therapy
University of California, San Francisco	http://ptrehab.ucsf.edu/education/dpt
San Francisco State University	
University of Southern California	http://pt.usc.edu
University of the Pacific	www.pacific.edu/Academics/Schools-and-Colleges/Thomas-J-Long-School-of-Pharmacy-and-Health-Sciences/Academics/Doctor-of-Physical-Therapy.html
Western University of Health Sciences	http://www.westernu.edu/