

Last updated 11/20/08. The information in this guide is subject to change. Please review a current catalog of the campus of your choice and consult with a counselor. Additional articulation information for some institutions may be available at <http://www.assist.org/>.

Physical therapists (PTs) are health care professionals who diagnose and treat individuals who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. Physical therapists provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes. State licensure is required in each state in which a physical therapist practices.

If you are applying to a physical therapy program, it helps to have a high overall grade point average (GPA) and a high GPA in courses such as biology, chemistry, and statistics. Admissions officers also look for volunteer experience as a physical therapy aide, involvement in school and community activities (e.g. sports, clubs, social organizations), a history of leadership, letters of recommendation from physical therapists or science teachers, and strong writing and interpersonal skills.

All PTs must receive a graduate degree from an accredited physical therapist program before taking the national licensure examination that allows them to practice. The minimum educational requirement is a post-baccalaureate degree from an accredited education program. While some programs offer a master's degree, a growing majority of programs offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. After graduation candidates must pass a state-administered national exam. Other requirements for physical therapy practice vary from state to state.

The CORE Prerequisite courses which are offered at SRJC and are required for admission to most PT programs are: ANAT 1; PHYSIO 1; CHEM 1A, 1B or CHEM 4A, 4B; PHYS 2A/3A, 2B/3B; PSYCH 1A

Some programs require additional courses such as: MATH 15; PSYCH 5; CHEM 8 or 12A; MICRO 5; BIO 2.1 and/or BIO 2.2; Biochemistry; Computer Science; Calculus

Upon successful completion of the MPT program, students are awarded the Master of Physical Therapy degree and are eligible to sit for the California Licensure Exam. **Information about the Physical Therapy Association is at <http://www.apta.org/>. The web sites for each of the colleges listed on this document will provide more detailed information about specific criteria required for admission and degrees awarded by that university.**

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) currently lists the following fourteen California universities as being accredited in the field of physical therapy and offering Masters and/or Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees.

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.apu.edu/bas/physicaltherapy/dpt/>

CSU FRESNO

Master of Physical Therapy - <http://www.csufresno.edu/physicaltherapy>

Consult the CSU Fresno catalog or Physical Therapy Department for details on the major in Interdisciplinary Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, with Pre-Physical Therapy Option.

CSU LONG BEACH

Master of Physical Therapy - <http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/chhs/departments/pt/>

For transfer students, CSULB recommends early contact with the Dept. of Biological Sciences to work toward a bachelor degree in Biology. If a degree option other than Biology is selected, the prerequisite courses must also be completed which may necessitate completing a number of courses beyond basic requirements for a bachelor's degree. For additional information see the web site or contact the Dept. of Physical Therapy (562) 985-4072.

CSU NORTHRIDGE

Master of Physical Therapy - <http://hhd.csun.edu/pt/>

CSU SACRAMENTO

Master of Physical Therapy - <http://www.hhs.csus.edu/PT>

For additional information, contact the web site or the CSUS Physical Therapy Dept. (916) 278-6426.

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Master of Physical Therapy - <http://www.chapman.edu/wcls/pt/>

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Master or Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/pt/>

See <http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/transfer/sntarosa.pdf> for Loma Linda requirements.

MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.msmc.la.edu/pt>

SAMUEL MERRITT COLLEGE

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.samuelmerritt.edu/>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO / SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Science in Physical Therapy (MS) – Doctor of Physical Therapy

<http://www.ptrehab.medschool.ucsf.edu/Education> or <http://www.ucsf.edu>

The MS student may take their licensing examination and proceed with their studies in the DPT, which is approved by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and meets all of the requirements for Physical Therapy education. (The DPT* program is not currently accredited by CAPTE).

All of the Graduate Programs in Physical Therapy are jointly offered by UCSF and SFSU. These graduate programs are not only integrated within the Graduate Divisions of both universities, but are part of the School of Medicine at UCSF and the College of Health and Human Services at SFSU.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.usc.edu/pt>

UNIVERSITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.usa.edu/dpt.htm>

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.pacific.edu/pharmacy/dpt>

WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Physical Therapy - http://www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/cahp/dpt_about.xml

The APTA web site <http://www.apta.org/> contains the official directory of schools and programs accredited in the field of Physical Therapy throughout the United States. Two of those schools are listed below.

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY - Flagstaff, Arizona

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.nau.edu/hp/dept/pt/>

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND - Tacoma, Washington

Doctor of Physical Therapy - <http://www.ups.edu/>