



A Course of Study for

## PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical Therapists (PT) are licensed health care professionals who help patients improve or restore mobility and reduce pain. PTs examine each individual and develop a treatment plan to promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability. Physical therapists also teach patients how to manage their condition. 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.

To become a physical therapist, students must graduate from a Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) program and then pass a state-administered national exam to receive their license.

Admission requirements for most DPT programs include completion of a Bachelor's degree in any major, specific prerequisite coursework, volunteer experience in the profession, and GRE (Graduate Record Examination) scores. Typical DPT prerequisite courses include anatomy and physiology with labs, two semesters of physics with labs, two semesters of chemistry with labs, two semesters of biology, a general course in psychology, another course in psychology, and statistics. Additional requirements may vary by school.

### SMC EQUIVALENT PREREQUISITE COURSES

ANTMY 1  
 CHEM 11 **and** 12  
 PHYSC 6 **and** 7  
 PSYCH 1 **and** 11; 14 **or** 19 (*may vary by school*)  
 MATH 54  
 PHYS 3  
 BIOL 21, 22 **and** 23

*Some courses may be satisfied through AP course credit, but may vary by program.*

***Additional course requirements vary by school; review each school's requirements to ensure you meet all application requirements.***

### DPT SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FACTORS

#### SCIENCE and UNDERGRADUATE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

DPT schools are looking for science grade point averages and cumulative grade point averages in the range of 3.0 or higher for admissions consideration.

#### SCORE ON GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE)

The GRE assesses verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing skills. A minimum score of 150 on each component of the test are recommended for competitive DPT schools.

#### BACHELOR'S DEGREE

DPT applicants must have earned a Bachelor's degree in any major.

#### WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

A minimum of 150 hours of clinical experience in a physical therapy setting is required. This work requirement can be completed in a volunteer or paid capacity.

**RESOURCES**

American Physical Therapy Association <http://www.apta.org>  
Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service <http://www.ptcas.org>  
U.S. News & World Report Rankings <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools>

**DPT SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA**

Azusa Pacific University  
California State University:  
    Fresno  
    Long Beach  
    Northridge  
    Sacramento  
    San Diego  
    San Francisco State - University of California, San Francisco (*joint program*)  
Chapman University  
Loma Linda University  
Mount Saint Mary's University  
Samuel Merritt University  
University of the Pacific  
University of St Augustine for Health Sciences - California  
University of Southern California  
West Coast University  
Western University of Health Sciences