

Strategies for PT (Physical Therapy) School



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Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Growth Outlook for Employment
 - 17% increase in employment 2021-2031
- Median Pay 2021: \$95,620 per year
- Terminal Degree Needed: Doctorate of Physical Therapy (Clinical Doctorate)

- Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Physical Therapists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapists.htm> (visited March 16, 2023).



Work Environment

Offices of physical, occupational and speech therapists, and audiologists	36 %
Hospitals; state, local, and private	29 %
Home health care services	11 %
Nursing and residential care facilities	5 %
Offices of physicians	3 %



Education

- **Accredited Program** (CAPTE) (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education) <http://www.capteonline.org>
 - Over 287 programs (13 developing programs)
 - <https://www.capteonline.org/programs/developing-physical-therapy-programs/developingPT>
- **Licensed Profession**
 - Must pass National Physical Therapy Exam
 - Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
 - (<https://www.fsbpt.org/>)
- **Clinical residency programs after graduation**
- **Board-certified specialists** (<http://www.abpts.org/home.aspx>)
 - Cardiovascular and Pulmonary
 - Clinical Electrophysiology
 - Geriatrics
 - Neurology
 - Orthopaedics
 - Pediatrics
 - Sports
 - Women's Health
 - Wound Management
 - Oncology



Courses in DPT Curriculum (YOUR CLASSES ARE RELEVANT)

- Biomechanics
 - Anatomy
 - Physiology
 - Exercise Physiology
 - Neuroscience
 - Pharmacology
 - Evidence-Based Practice
 - Clinical Rotations
 - Cohort based Education
-
- Basic Sciences Patho-Sciences Rehab Sciences
 - 80% didactic – 20% clinical



Cost of Programs - Do Your Homework

Cost of Professional Education

Table 4. Average Annual Tuition, Fees, and Other Costs by Type of Institution FY 2021-2022 (\$)

*One program has historically reported a \$0 cost and has been removed from the analysis as of 2018.

		Public In-State*	Public Out-of-State*	Private
Annual tuition	Range	\$4,232-\$91,842	\$10,578-\$122,200	\$22,985-\$122,550
	Median	\$19,379	\$36,332	\$38,030
	Mean	\$21,249	\$37,297	40,538
	STDEV	\$12,057	\$16,430	\$13,502
Annual fees	Range	\$0-\$12,938	\$0--\$12,938	\$0-\$31,176
	Median	\$2,832	\$2,832	\$1,199
	Mean	2,838	\$3,145	2,323
	STDEV	\$2,197	\$2,197	\$3,356
Other program expenses	Range	\$0-\$39,324	\$0-\$39,324	\$0-\$52,100
	Median	\$3,090	\$3,090	\$3,200
	Mean	\$4,828	\$4,828	\$4,436
	STDEV	\$5,125	\$5,125	\$5,448
Total cost of professional program	Range	\$24,758-\$120,743	\$32,606-\$217,728	\$47,223-\$194,516
	Median	\$66,709	\$120,386	\$114,210
	Mean	69,826	\$116,202	\$120,656
	STDEV	\$21,582	\$29,913	\$24,162



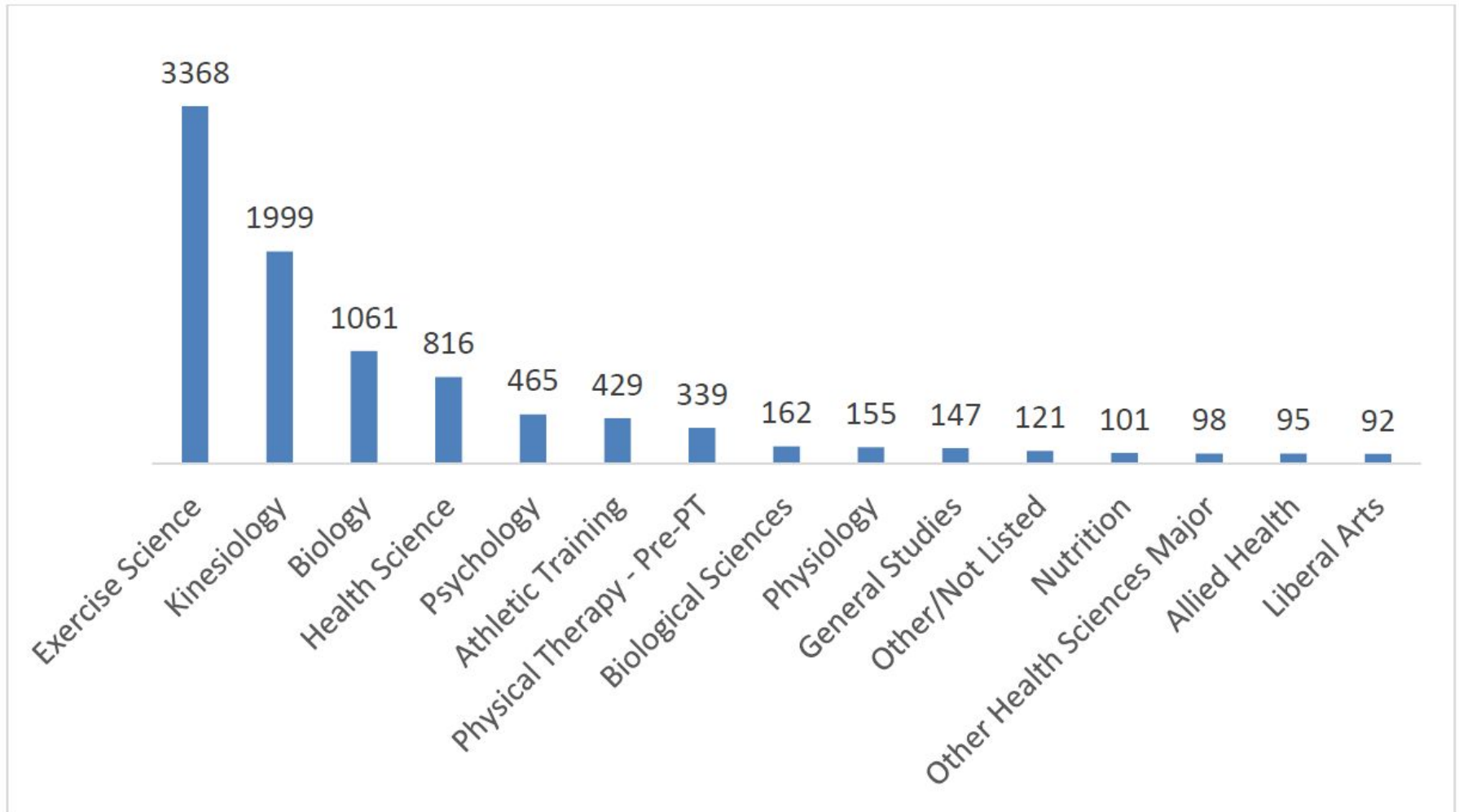
Competitive Field

Stats for Accepted PT Students for 2017-2018

Mean Cum GPA	3.57
Mean Pre-Req GPA	3.42
Mean Quantitative GRE	51%
Mean Verbal GRE	55%
Mean Analytical Writing GRE	56%



Figure 17: Top 15 Majors for Accepted PTCAS Applicants



CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN LUIS OBISPO	CA	37	25	68%
CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY - POMONA	CA	30	10	33%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - BAKERSFIELD	CA	9	3	33%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - CHANNEL ISLANDS	CA	2	1	50%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - CHICO	CA	43	18	42%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - DOMINGUEZ HILLS	CA	18	4	22%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - EAST BAY	CA	27	11	41%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - FRESNO	CA	51	16	31%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - FULLERTON	CA	79	34	43%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - LONG BEACH	CA	114	47	41%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - LOS ANGELES	CA	25	7	28%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - MONTEREY BAY	CA	16	5	31%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - NORTHRIDGE	CA	103	41	40%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - SACRAMENTO	CA	51	20	39%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN BERNARDINO	CA	39	12	31%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN MARCOS	CA	32	9	28%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - STANISLAUS	CA	14	5	36%

Was 29%



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Applications:


How to Start Finding and Comparing Schools

- What schools offer PT and how do I compare them?
- Where can I find information on the program specifics (class size, faculty: student ratios, tuition, outcomes (board pass rates) etc) and if the program is accredited?
 - <https://aptaapps.apta.org//accreditedschoolsdirectory/captedirectory.aspx>
 - <http://www.ptcas.org/Directory/> (Scroll down!)
- **CAPTE:** Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
- **PTCAS:** Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service
- Flex or Hybrid Programs in California
 - USC
 - St Augustine



Starting YOUR Journey



Log in 

Search



Join / Renew



PTCAS Directory of DPT Programs



PTCAS Application Preparation



Start your PTCAS Application

Scroll Down



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<https://www.apta.org/cas/ptcas>

What schools offer PT and how do I compare them?

ptcasdirectory.apta.org

Dashb... Congratulations, yo... Notion - Log in Canvas Login - CSU... Your AmazonSmile... Alameda Health Clu... STORK FLC-Writing OSF | Positive Resul... XM Online Survey Soft... Se

PTCAS
Provided by **APTA**

About [Login](#)

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Search PTCAS Programs

[Participating Programs](#) [Non-Participating Programs](#)

Name


[View List of Programs](#) [Search](#)


Welcome to the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service Programs Directory!


The Physical Therapist Centralized Application Services (PTCAS) is a centralized application service that streamlines the admissions process for many PT programs. Carefully review the PTCAS Directory pages by clicking the 'List of Programs' link above to view important program-specific admission requirements and descriptions.

Compare Program Admission Requirements

[+ VIEW MORE](#)

 Comparison of Course Prerequisites by Program

 Deadlines by Program Name

 Deadlines by Date

PTCAS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES FOR PROGRAMS AND APPLICANTS

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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/39/List-of-PTCAS-Programs?qdl=14>

Map of Programs





✓ Participating Programs

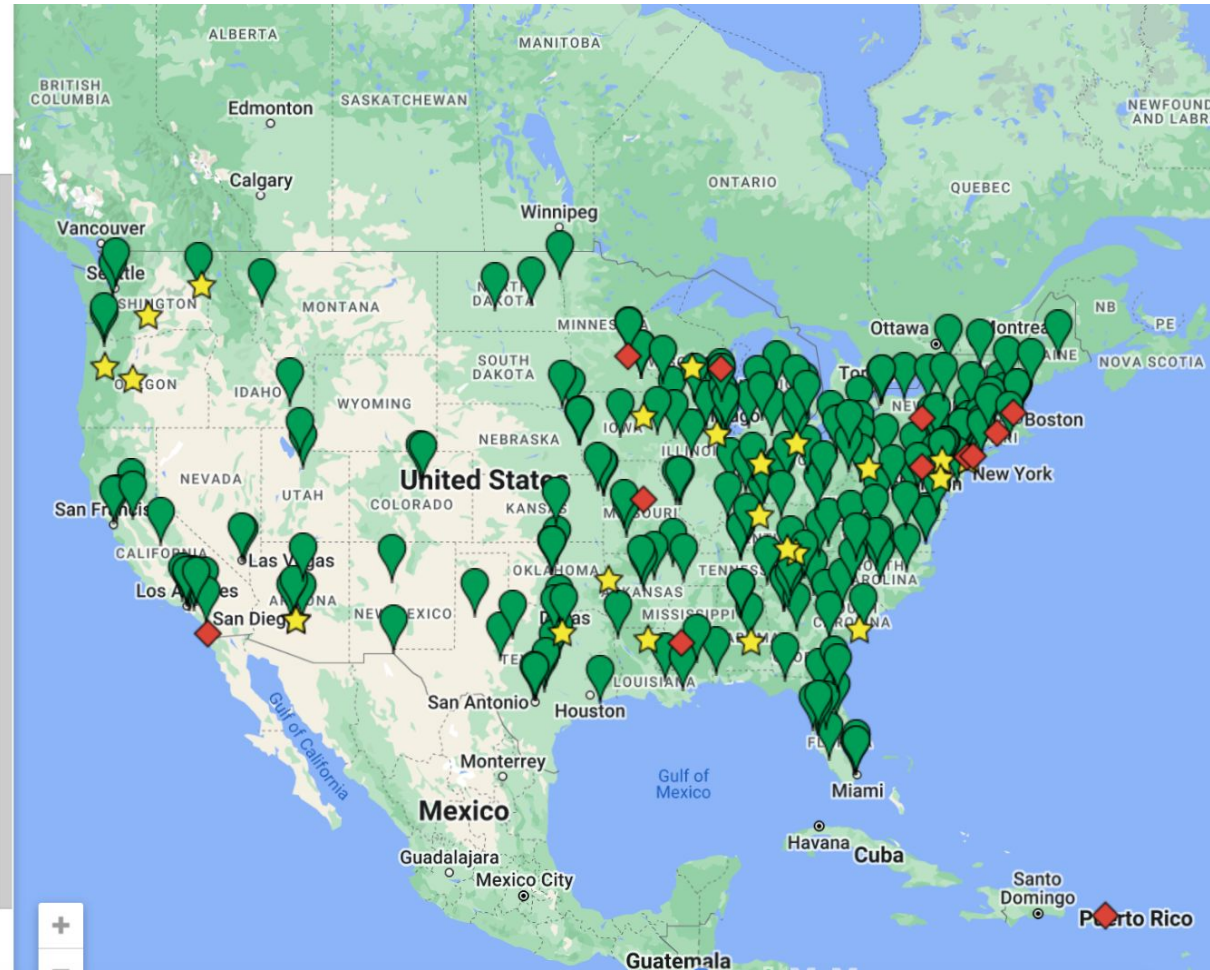
- ▼  AdventHealth University
-  Alabama State University
-  Alvernia University
-  American International College
- ... 241 more

✓ Participating Programs - New for 2021-2...

- ▼  Allen College
-  Arkansas Colleges of Health Education
-  Bowling Green State University
-  Charleston Southern University
- ... 18 more

✓ Non-participating Programs

- ▼  Bellin College
-  Hunter College (CUNY)
-  Ithaca College
-  Lebanon Valley College



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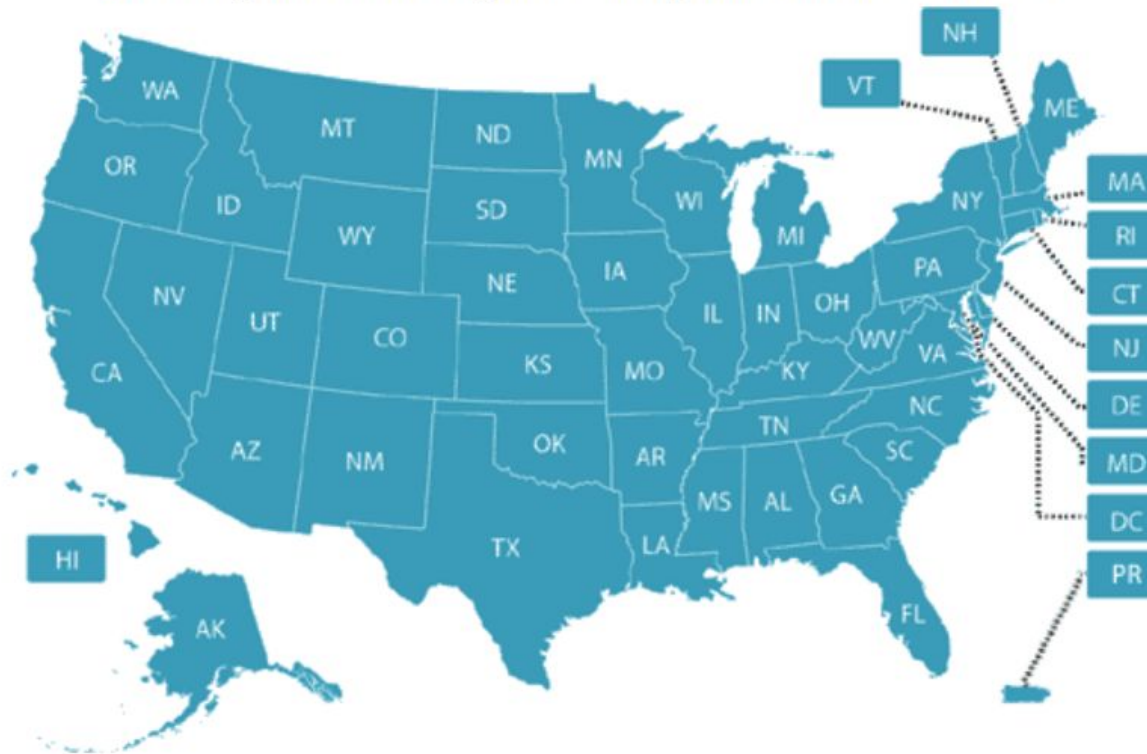
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1OV5Cy6kPMeduDYvmsVExnry2Vcw&hl=en&ll=34.43476339608641%2C-111.9575817593983&z=3>

Accredited PT & PTA Programs Directory

Search for Accredited Programs

Select a list type, then select a program location.

PT Programs PTA Programs Programs Outside of The US



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<https://aptaapps.apta.org/accreditedschoolsdirectory/>

Visit the Websites of each Program

California State University, Northridge
 Department of Physical Therapy

2023-24 Print


Department of Physical Therapy, Jacaranda Hall RM 1537, 18111 Nordhoff Street,
 Northridge, CA, 91330-8411, United States

PHONE +1 818.677.2203 EMAIL DPTADMISSION@CSUN.EDU
 WEBSITE HTTP://WWW.CSUN.EDU/HEALTH-HUMAN-DEVELOPMENT/PHYSICAL-THERAPY

Program Information Admission Requirements Course Prerequisites Deadlines **Contacts 1**

Featured Videos


The CSUN Doctor of Physical Therapy Program



Watch later Share


Watch on YouTube

Website



http://www.csun.edu/health-hu...

Contacts



Admissions
Coordinator

+1 818.677.2203
PT@csun.edu

Program Description

Welcome to the Department of Physical Therapy at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) offering an entry level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Degree. CSUN's Physical Therapy program is proud of its over fifty-five year history of graduating outstanding Physical Therapists who serve the public in the State of California and throughout the United States. CSUN's DPT program has maintained accreditation throughout its history. Our Graduation Rate is 100% and an average of 99% 1st-attempt pass rate on the Board Exam. One hundred percent of our students are employed within 6 months.

Our program offers unique experiences in International PT (travel elective and doctoral project experiences abroad), Pilates Certification elective and a curriculum that includes Movement Science and Complementary Integrative Wellness for all students. We have a long standing relationship with the L.A. Dodgers/Campanella Foundation offering scholarships to our students and a spring practice internship opportunity.

Our full time, 3 year program begins in the Fall (late August) of each year. Acceptance into the DPT program requires a Bachelor's Degree prior to beginning the first semester of courses. The Bachelor's Degree may be in any field (except Physical Therapy) and from any accredited college or university, as long as the other CSUN admissions requirements are fulfilled. Students should select and complete a major in which they have an interest and in which they can also make progress in completing the prerequisite courses for Physical Therapy. A Masters degree is not required to apply. We often have, and welcome, career change applicants in our program.

Please explore more on our website at www.csun.edu/health-human-development/physical-therapy for detailed information about our program, including the list of our DPT curriculum on our PT Department Brochure. You should plan to attend one of the regularly scheduled Group Advisement Sessions (Please see Group Advisement Schedule on our webpage). The PTCAS essay is not required for our program but may be reviewed if submitted. Kira asynchronous online interviews may be conducted as part of the Admissions process. Please keep in mind that all forms of communications with the department, including emails and phone calls, will also be taken into consideration when evaluating applications, regardless of status.

Qualities of interest: Professionalism, Positive Attitude, Well-Rounded, Diversity Equity Inclusivity (DEI) Oriented

Thank you for your interest in the Program. We look forward to hearing from you!

General

Program offers a guaranteed freshman admission pathway? No

Dual Degrees

Will the professional (entry-level) PT program offer a satellite or branch campus to applicants during the upcoming admissions cycle? No

Admission Interviews

Program conducts interviews as part of the admissions process? Yes

Additional information about interviews
 Our program will invite a select group of applicants to complete a virtual interview via Kira Talent. Additionally, all forms of



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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/39/List-of-PTCAS-Programs>

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Compare Program Admission Requirements

[+ VIEW MORE](#)



Comparison of Course
Prerequisites by Program



Deadlines by Program Name



Deadlines by Date

**PTCAS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
UPDATES FOR PROGRAMS
AND APPLICANTS**

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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/>

Prerequisite Courses for each Program



Comparison of Course Prerequisites by Program

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Search:

Program Name	Anatomy and Physiology				Biology / Biological			Chemistry			Physics			Social / Behav Sci		Statistics	Math	Exercise Physiology	Medical Terminology	English Composition / Writing	Communication/Speech	Humanities	Ethics	First Aid / CPR	Nutrition, Health, Wellness	Other		
	Anatomy	Anatomy & Physiology I	Anatomy & Physiology II	Physiology	Biology / Biological Science	Biology I	Biology II	Chemistry	Chemistry I	Chemistry II	Physics	Physics I	Physics II	Psychology	Social/Behavioral Science													
California State University, Fresno	1			1	1				1	1		1	1	2		1												
California State University, Long Beach	1			1		1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1												
California State University, Northridge	1			1	1				1	1		1	1	2		1												
California State University, Sacramento	1			1					1	1		1	1	2		1	1										1	
Southern California University of Health Sciences		1	1		2				1	1		1	1	1		1			1									
University of California, San																												

Need help? Click Here!



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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/5287/Comparison-of-Course-Prerequisites-by-Program>

Deadlines by Program Name

Deadline Instructions

APPLY EARLY! Many DPT programs have multiple deadline dates (i.e., preferred, priority, or early deadline). All applications must arrive at PTCAS (and not at the program). You should e-submit your application as soon as it is available.

Disclaimer - This summary information is provided as a service to applicants. APTA, PTCAS, and participating programs are not responsible for any errors or omissions. Admission requirements are subject to change. Please check all PTCAS web pages, but

Most have rolling admissions! Apply early!

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Search:

Program Name	State	PTCAS Deadline	PTCAS Deadline Type	Soft Deadline Close Date
California State University, Fresno	CA	October 3, 2022	Final Deadline	
California State University, Long Beach	CA	November 1, 2022	Final Deadline	
California State University, Northridge	CA	October 3, 2022	Final Deadline	
California State University, Sacramento	CA	October 3, 2022	Final Deadline	
Southern California University of Health Sciences	CA	May 15, 2023	Final Deadline	
University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco State University	CA	October 3, 2022	Final Deadline	
University of Southern California	CA	December 1, 2022	Final Deadline	
Western University of Health Sciences - California	CA	November 1, 2022	Final Deadline	

Showing 1 to 8 of 8 entries (filtered from 288 total entries)



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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/5259/Deadlines-by-Program-Name>

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Compare Program Admission Requirements

[+ VIEW MORE](#)



Comparison of Course
Prerequisites by Program



Deadlines by Program Name



Deadlines by Date

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UPDATES FOR PROGRAMS
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Program Requirements

Compare program admission requirements:



Comparison of Course Prerequisites by Program



Deadlines by Program Name



Deadlines by Date



PT Observation Requirements by Program



Reference Requirements by Program



Supplementals



GRE Requirements and Codes by Program



Total Cost of Education Comparison



Observation Hours

Review the PTCAS instructions to properly report your PT observation or work experience.

Carefully review the program pages for important information about the PT observation requirements. PTCAS does not determine if you have completed the appropriate number of hours for a particular program.

- PT hours are required - a licensed PT must verify hours w/ signed form uploaded or online via PTCAS
- PT hours are required - no verification by a physical therapist
- PT hours are not required but are highly recommended
- PT hours are not required but are considered
- PT hours are not required or considered
- Other

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Search:

Program Name	Required	PT Observation Hours	
		Minimum	Recommended
California State University, Fresno	PT hours are required - a licensed Physical Therapist (PT) must verify hours w/signed form uploaded or online via PTCAS	100	500
California State University, Long Beach	PT hours are required - a licensed Physical Therapist (PT) must verify hours w/signed form uploaded or online via PTCAS	100	
California State University, Northridge	PT hours are required - a licensed Physical Therapist (PT) must verify hours w/signed form uploaded or online via PTCAS	200	
California State University, Sacramento	PT hours are required - a licensed Physical Therapist (PT) must verify hours w/signed form uploaded or online via PTCAS	100	



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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/5257/PT-Observation-Requirements-by-Program>

Many have removed minimum observation hours

Now looking for...

“An understanding of the profession”

Consider...

- Observation hours at diverse settings (in-patient, out-patient) and with diverse patient populations (ortho, neuro, pediatrics, geriatrics, etc.)
- Hours can come from paid, internship, or volunteer experiences
- Conveying in your personal statement your experience/understanding



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References

Reference Requirements by Program

Summary of Requirements for Programs Participating in PTCAS

[Review the PTCAS reference instructions.](#)

Carefully review the directory pages for important information about the reference requirements. PTCAS does not determine if you have sent the appropriate reference type or number for a particular program.

- Applicant must send one reference from this SPECIFIC type of evaluator
- Applicant must send a reference from one or more evaluators in these categories to fulfill program's requirements.
- Evaluator type is accepted
- NOT Accepted
- Required reference number varies
- Reference packet required
- Reference packet recommended
- No reference packet policy

Search:

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Program Name	Requ...	Refe...	Phys...	Phys...	Prof...	Prof...	Acad...	Sup...	Teac...	PTA	Pre...	Poll...	Heal...	Frie...	Fami...	Co-Wo...	Clergy	Other
AdventHealth University	3	—	✓	✓	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	✗	✗	OK	OK	OK
Alabama State University	3	—	✓	OK	OK	✓	OK	OK	✗	✗	✗	✗	OK	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Allen College (for class beginning in January 2024)	2		OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	✗	OK	✗	✗	OK	✗	✗
Alvernia University	3	—	✓	OK	OK	✓	OK	OK	✗	OK	OK	OK	OK	✗	✗	OK	OK	✓
American International College	3	—	OK	OK	✓	✓	✓	OK	OK	✗	OK	✗	OK	✗	✗	OK	✗	OK
Anderson University	2		OK	OK	OK	OK	✓	OK	✗	✗	OK	✗	OK	✗	✗	✗	OK	✓
Andrews University	3	✗	✓	OK	OK	✓	OK	OK	✗	✗	OK	✗	OK	✗	✗	✗	OK	✓
Angelo State University	3	✗	✓	✓	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	✗	OK	✗	OK	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Arcadia University	3	—	✓	OK	OK	✓	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	✗	✗	OK	OK	✗
Arkansas College of Health Education	2		OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	✗	OK	OK	OK	OK	✗	✗	✗	OK	✗
Arkansas State University	None	✗																
Army-Baylor University	3	✗	✓	OK	OK	✓	OK	OK	✗	OK	OK	✗	OK	✗	✗	✗	OK	✗
AT Still University of Health Sciences	2	—	✓	OK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	OK	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Augusta University	3	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Augustana University	2		✓	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Avila Pacific																		



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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/5256/Reference-Requirements-by-Program>

Supplemental Fees & Application

- Yes
- Yes - for selected applicants only
- No
- Not sure at this time

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Search:

Program Name	Supplemental Fee		Supplemental	
	Required	Amount	Application	Materials
California State University, Fresno	✓	\$75	✓	✓
California State University, Long Beach	☑	\$70	☑	☑
California State University, Northridge	✓	\$70	✓	✓
California State University, Sacramento	✓	\$70.00	✓	☑
Southern California University of Health Sciences	✗		✓	✓
University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco State University	☑	\$120	☑	✗
University of Southern California	✗		✗	✗
Western University of Health Sciences - California	✗		✗	✗



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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/5255/Supplementals>

GRE

GRE Requirements and Codes by Program

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Search:

Program Name	Program (PTCAS) GRE Code	University GRE Code	Department GRE Code	Last Acceptable Test Date
California State University, Fresno	7798	4312		
California State University, Long Beach	7782	4389		
California State University, Northridge	7794			09/27/2022
California State University, Sacramento	7588			10/03/2022
Southern California University of Health Sciences	3932			
University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco State University				
University of Southern California				
Western University of Health Sciences - California				

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Cost Comparison

Total Cost of Education Comparison

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Search:

Program Name	State	Total Cost of Education for In-State Students	Total Cost of Education for out of State Students
California State University, Fresno	CA	\$73892	\$114812
California State University, Long Beach	CA		
California State University, Northridge	CA	\$82300	
California State University, Sacramento	CA		
Southern California University of Health Sciences	CA	\$117799	\$117799
University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco State University	CA		
University of Southern California	CA	\$214828	\$214828
Western University of Health Sciences - California	CA	\$128540	\$128540






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<https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org/8529/Total-Cost-of-Education-Comparison>

Applying to OFF PTCAS Schools

	University of Minnesota NON-PARTICIPATING	
	University of Missouri NON-PARTICIPATING	
	University of Puerto Rico NON-PARTICIPATING	
	San Diego State University NON-PARTICIPATING	
	Endicott College NON-PARTICIPATING	

	The University of Illinois - Doctor of Physical Therapy Privateogram NON-PARTICIPATING	
	Ithaca College NON-PARTICIPATING	
	University of Massachusetts Lowell NON-PARTICIPATING	
	Long Island University - LIU Post - Doctor of Physical Therapy Private Program NON-PARTICIPATING	
	University of Mississippi NON-PARTICIPATING	
	Hunter College/The Graduate Center (CUNY) NON-PARTICIPATING	
	University of Connecticut NON-PARTICIPATING	
	Lebanon Valley College NON-PARTICIPATING	



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Suggestions

1. Search for schools that you are interested in by location etc.
2. Make a spreadsheet of all information for each school.
3. Review pre-reqs and make a plan to complete the courses no later than the Fall semester you will apply
4. Start PTCAS application EARLY
5. Understand the supplemental requirements of each school
6. Start gathering your transcripts EARLY
7. Approach Professors and Clinicians for letters



Applications: How to Start

- How do I start my application on PTCAS?
- <http://www.ptcas.org/Checklist/>
 - Review powerpoint slides
- **APPLY EARLY! It can take up to 4-5 weeks for PTCAS to process your file, once it is complete.**

**Tentative Date for 2023-24 PTCAS
Application to Open
June 15th 2023**



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Help with the Application



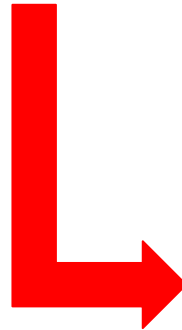
PTCAS Directory of DPT Programs



PTCAS Application Preparation



Start your PTCAS Application



[Homepage](#) > [Physical Therapy Centralized Application Services](#) > [Physical Therapist Centralized Application Services](#) > [PTCAS Application Preparation](#)

It is important to understand the PTCAS application process and required steps prior to starting your application. Applicants are encouraged to visit the [Starting Your PTCAS Application](#) and [PTCAS Quick Start Guide and FAQ's](#) in the PTCAS Applicant Help Center as well as to review the PTCAS Policies and PTCAS Applicant Responsibilities sections of this page prior to starting their application.



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<https://www.apta.org/cas/ptcas/application-prep>

My Application

Add Program

Submit Application

Check Status

Essay

Write a brief statement expressing why you would like to be considered for the programs you are applying to. Visit the [Applicant Help Center](#) for more information. DPT program faculty and admissions committees are looking for you to use this essay to persuade the reader that the physical therapy profession is the right fit for you. Please keep this in mind as you complete your personal essay.

Once you submit your application, you cannot edit this section.

* Indicates required field

Essay

* Every person has a story that has led them to a career. Since there are a variety of health professions that "help" others, please go beyond your initial interaction or experience with physical therapy, and share the deeper story that has **confirmed** your decision to specifically pursue physical therapy as your career.

0 word 0/4500

Save and Continue

- Observation Hours
- Experiences
- Achievements
- Licenses and Certifications
- Essay

USC Essay Question:

Are there personal, cultural, economic, or social experiences (NOT already addressed in your response to the general PTCAS essay prompt) that have shaped your pursuit of physical therapy? If so, how? Have any of these experiences provided unique perspective(s) that would contribute to the profession of physical therapy?



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Overview



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The following essay question is required for the PTCAS application: Describe a meaningful experience in your life. Reflect on how that experience influenced your personal growth, such as your attitudes or perceptions.

The essay has a 4,500 character limit.

Requirements

- **Keep your topic general:** Follow the prompt in this section to write your statement. Keep the statement general as this essay is sent to all the programs you apply to. If you plan to only apply to one program, we still strongly recommend keeping your statement general in case you later apply to additional programs. Once you submit your application, the essay cannot be edited or changed.
- **Do not exceed the maximum length:** Refer to the number below the field in the application. This is the number of characters (not words) that you can use in your essay. As you type, you can see how many characters are still available. Characters include spaces, carriage returns, and punctuation. You cannot save your essay if it exceeds the character limit.
- **Use your own words:** Plagiarizing any part of your essay is a violation of the code of conduct and may subject you to sanctions.
- **Use simple formatting:** Formatting such as tabs, italics, multiple spaces, etc., will not be saved. To delineate paragraphs, type a double return between each paragraph.

Proofreading

Most admission's chairs realize that the essay submitted with the PTCAS application has, most likely, been worked and reworked by the applicant and the applicant's friends, parents, teachers, and great uncle Jonas. Therefore, many programs who interview ask the applicant to write an essay during the interview session.

The prompt is written by the PTCAS advisory board each November in preparation for the application released yearly on or about July 1. The prompt topic is kept confidential by the advisory board until release.



CAL STATE
EAST BAY

PTCAS GPA Calculation Rules

INCLUDED

- ✓ **Repeated Courses**
- ✓ **Failed Courses**
- ✓ **Study Abroad**

EXCLUDED:

- **Foreign Coursework**
- **AP/CLEP/IB**
- **Audit**
- **Deferred**
- **Inst/Dept Exam**
- **Incomplete**
- **Pass/Fail**
- **Withdrawn**



CALCULATED GPA

Title

GPA by School

GPA by School

Anatomy & Physiology

Biology

Chemistry

English

Mathematics

Movement Science

Other Course

Other Sciences

Physics

Psychology

Social/Behavioral Science

Science

Science and Math

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Post-Baccalaureate

Cumulative Undergraduate

Graduate

Overall

Movement Science

- Athletic Training
- Biomechanics
- Exercise Physiology
- Exercise Science
- Human Movement
- Kinesiology
- Locomotion Studies
- Motor Control
- Movement Science
- Physical Therapy
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Sensorimotor Development
- Sports Medicine
- Sports Sciences
- Therapeutic Exercise

23 different GPA calculations



**CAL STATE
EAST BAY**

Retaking Courses to Raise GPA

For example:

Lets say you had a nasty case of mononucleosis that made you sleep through your entire physiology class in college, earning you a dreaded F (ow!) You have a cumulative GPA of 2.9 at graduation, and are wondering if you should retake physiology, since your cumulative GPA is lackluster. Assuming that your bachelor's degree was completed in 128 semester units, and you will get an A in your retaken physiology class that is 5 units, that retaken class will only bump your 2.90 GPA up to a 2.94. Many bachelor's degrees are more than 128 semester units, so in reality, it may not even raise your GPA this much.

The lesson? In general, you don't retake classes for PA school in order to influence your cumulative GPA – they just don't improve it that much.



A rule of thumb is always try to have the best grades possible so you don't have any red flags on your application.

In some cases, schools are okay with you having one C in a class. Also, be careful with how many times you retake a class. Some schools only allow a class to be retaken once outside of the first attempt.



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California State University, Sacramento

Average GPA (Overall): 3.85 (their minimum is 3.0)

Seats: 32

<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/Listing.aspx?seqn=3695&navid=10737426784>

Chapman University

Average GPA (Overall): 3.50 (their minimum is 3.0)

Seats: 48

<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/Listing.aspx?seqn=2949&navid=10737426784>

Loma Linda University

Average GPA (Overall): 3.80 (their minimum is 3.4)

Seats: 70

<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/Listing.aspx?seqn=4078&navid=10737426784>

Mount Saint Mary's University

Average GPA (Overall): 3.37

Seats: 35

<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/Listing.aspx?seqn=2968&navid=10737426784>

Samuel Merritt University

Average GPA (Overall): 3.63 (their minimum is 3.0)

Seats: 38

<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/Listing.aspx?seqn=4107&navid=10737426784>

University of California, San Francisco/San Francisco State University

Average GPA (Overall): 3.60 (their minimum is 3.0)

Seats: 50

<http://www.ptcas.org/ptcas/public/Listing.aspx?seqn=3535&navid=10737426784>



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Professional Associations

- American Physical Therapy Association (APTA): <http://www.apta.org/AboutUs/>
- California Physical Therapy Association (CPTA): <http://www.ccapta.org/>

Stay Current on Developments in your Profession



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