

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Required Courses¹ (highly variable: following is for M.P.T. at Cal. State Fresno)

1 year of General Biology ²	Bio 225/225L/221/221L
1 year of General Chemistry	Chem 151/151L/152/152L
1 year of General Physics (Human Physiology) ¹ (Human Anatomy) ¹	Phys 136/137L/137/137L
1 year of Psychology ³	
1 semester of Statistics	
1 year of English	USD GE Requirement

¹ Several schools require Human Anatomy (not offered at USD), and Human Physiology (not offered at USD). Some schools will accept Evolution of Vertebrate Structure (Biology 320) and Vertebrate Physiology (Biology 478, 478L) in lieu of Human Anatomy and Human Physiology. Other schools may require Microbiology, Neuroanatomy, Neurophysiology, Calculus, Computer Science, and Communications. Also, many schools require CPR certification. The best advice is:

Consult the *Directory of Physical Therapy Education Programs* for the requirements at specific schools.

² Biology 190 is recommended before 225 or 221

³ Most schools require that one semester of Developmental Psychology (Psychology 314) and Abnormal Psychology (Psychology 355) be taken, although it may vary depending on the school.

These requirements will suffice for entry into a master's degree program to become a physical therapist. Note also that many schools are switching to offering a D.P.T. as the entry level degree for practice.

For entry into the "professional" Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) program, the requirements are the same, although most universities are stricter on GPA requirements, both cumulative and in prerequisite courses, and GRE scores. A few schools require a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy for admittance into the D.P.T. program. Some require courses in Biochemistry and community service hours.

Grades: Physical Therapy was very popular in the mid 80s to mid 90s, then declined in popularity. It is starting to pick up and applications are increasing. There are no numbers readily available, but the average matriculant at the California programs has a GPA of approximately 3.5. Most schools require a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Specialized Examinations: Most schools require the Graduate Record Examination for admission to the masters or doctoral program in Physical Therapy.

Experience: All schools require some exposure to physical therapy either as a paid employee or as a volunteer. Some of them specify a minimum number of hours required (anywhere from 40 to more than 100.) In a competitive field such as Physical Therapy, there is no such thing as too much volunteer exposure!

WEB Resources: <http://www.apta.org/> American Physical Therapy Association