California State University, Long Beach  
Department of Physical Therapy  

Guidelines for Admission and Prerequisites  
Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Physical Therapy at CSULB is a full-time, competency based program designed to prepare each graduate to function as a physical therapist. Students who complete the degree and internship requirements are qualified to challenge the licensing examination provided by the Board of Medical Quality Assurance. Prior criminal convictions may limit licensure in California.

Application to the Program:
The student must, simultaneously, complete two separate online applications; one to the University through <csumentor.edu>. For the class of May 2013, applications are open from October 1 to December 30, 2012. For subsequent classes, beginning with the class of May, 2014, applications are open from October 1, to December 1, in the year previous to the desired program start date, and the second to the Physical Therapy Department through <ptcas.org>. Applications are open from July 5 to November 1 in the year previous to the desired program start date. The deadlines are strictly observed.

The Department admits 32-36 students per year to the Physical Therapy program. Admission to the University as a graduate student in physical therapy is on a competitive basis using the Selection Criteria described on page 2 of this brochure.

Requirements for Admission:
In addition to meeting the University’s academic standards for admission, an applicant to the Physical Therapy Program should:
1. Hold, or be eligible to hold, an acceptable Bachelor’s Degree in any field,
2. Have attained an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (A=4.0) with at least 2.5 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted,
3. Have been in good academic, professional, and clinical standing at the last institution and if applicable in the last entry-level physical therapist educational program attended,
4. Successfully have completed all prerequisite courses listed on page 2 of this brochure with a minimum of "C" and a minimum grade point average of 3.0 by the end of the fall semester prior to the year of admission to the program. Only 2 courses may be in progress during the fall semester of application,
5. Have earned a score of 4.0 or better on the Analytical Writing Component of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the last 5 years.
6. Have knowledge of physical therapy through related paid/volunteer experience under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist in different areas of physical therapy e.g.
   a. rehabilitation  
   b. geriatric  
   c. pediatric  
   d. acute/general hospital
   A hospital setting is strongly suggested. A minimum of 100 hours is required and up to 200 hours is recommended.
7. Complete and file an application to the program through ptcas.org which must include:

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a. official transcripts of all academic work attempted,
b. minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation, attesting to your potential for success as a physical therapist and/or your scholarly potential. One letter from each of the following:
   • physical therapist with whom you have had a professional association,
   • professor for a prerequisite course which you completed,
   • if previously employed, an employer,
   • If not previously employed, a physical therapist with whom you have had a professional association.
c. written statement of purpose reflecting your commitment to physical therapy,
d. documentation of related work experience,
e. official scores from the General Aptitude Section of the Graduate Record Examination taken within the last 5 years.

8. Submit to the department after acceptance into the program:
a completed Essential Functions document attesting that you can perform the essential functions required of physical therapy education and clinical practice.

Prerequisites to the DPT program:
Each course must be a semester in length or equivalent quarter units. One (1) semester unit is equivalent to 1.5 quarter unit (e.g. 4 semester units=6 quarter units).

All Biology, General Chemistry and General Physics courses must have a lab section. Human Anatomy and Human Physiology must be taken within five (5) years at the time of application.

No course may be repeated more than once and no more than 3 prerequisite courses may be repeated. CR/NC grades, correspondence courses, or independent study courses cannot be used for prerequisite requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED COURSE</th>
<th>SEMESTER UNITS</th>
<th>CSULB COURSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Biol 208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Biology I and II</td>
<td>4, 4</td>
<td>Biol 211, 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Biol 207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Biol 260 or Kines 483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Chemistry I and II</td>
<td>4, 4</td>
<td>Chem 11A and B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Physics I and II</td>
<td>4, 4</td>
<td>Physics 11A and B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Psy 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If human anatomy and physiology are combined, the coursework ust be a 2 semester, 8 unit, sequence.

General Microbiology may substitute for either General Biology I or 2.

Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, or a combined Organic/Biochemistry course can substitute for General Chemistry II.

Selection Criteria:
The admission committee will primarily consider:
1. all college/university academic work completed including:
   a. overall grade point average (GPA),
   b. the GPA in all lower division prerequisite courses,
2. scores from the Graduate Record Examination.
3. letters of recommendation.

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