



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

# *Doctor of Physical Therapy Program*

Group Advising Session

*Program Information*

*Applying to the program*

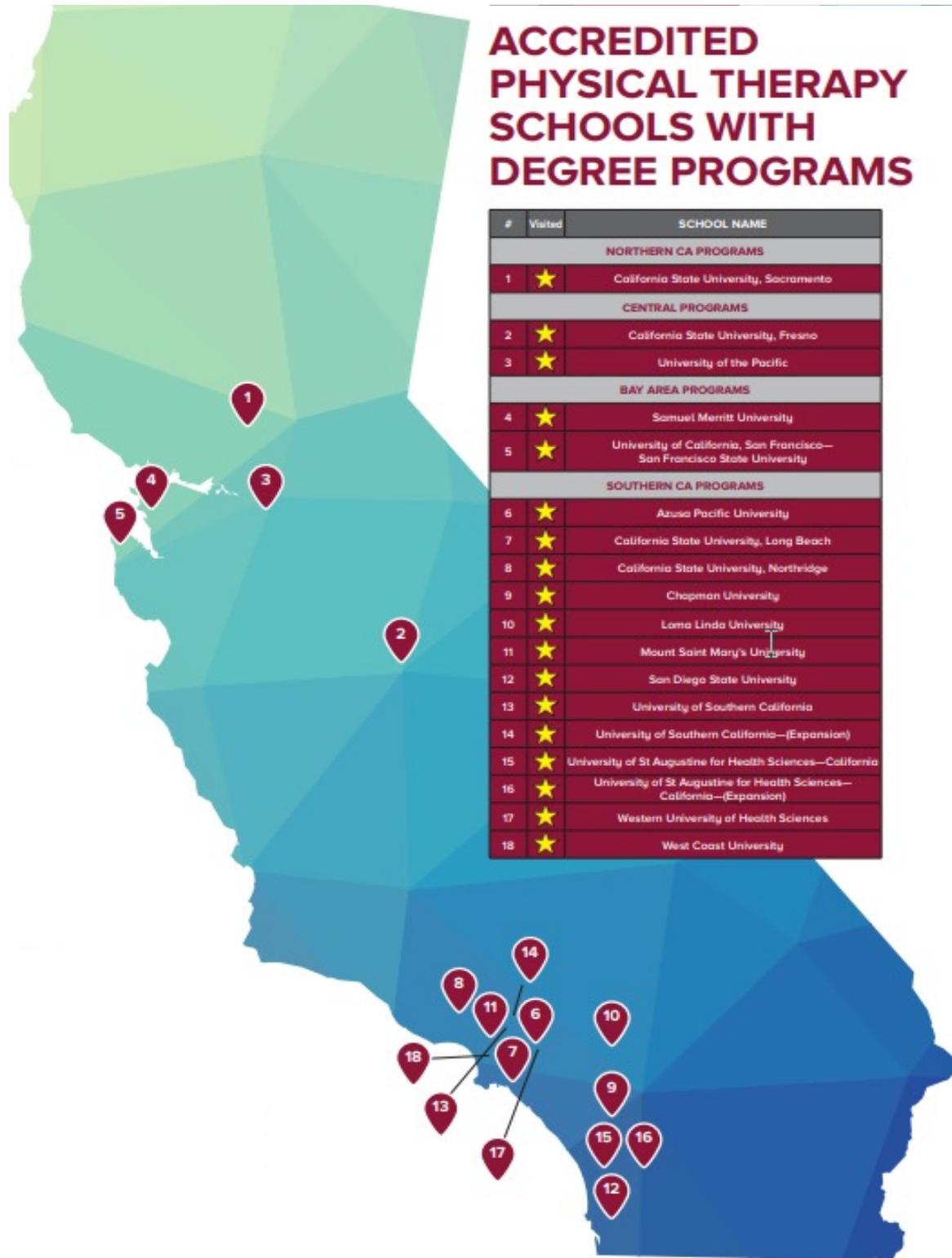
*Tour of Facilities*

*Redefine the Possible™*

# California DPT programs



# ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOLS WITH DEGREE PROGRAMS



#	Visited	SCHOOL NAME
<b>NORTHERN CA PROGRAMS</b>		
1	★	California State University, Sacramento
<b>CENTRAL PROGRAMS</b>		
2	★	California State University, Fresno
3	★	University of the Pacific
<b>BAY AREA PROGRAMS</b>		
4	★	Samuel Merritt University
5	★	University of California, San Francisco— San Francisco State University
<b>SOUTHERN CA PROGRAMS</b>		
6	★	Azusa Pacific University
7	★	California State University, Long Beach
8	★	California State University, Northridge
9	★	Chapman University
10	★	Loma Linda University
11	★	Mount Saint Mary's University
12	★	San Diego State University
13	★	University of Southern California
14	★	University of Southern California—(Expansion)
15	★	University of St Augustine for Health Sciences—California
16	★	University of St Augustine for Health Sciences— California—(Expansion)
17	★	Western University of Health Sciences
18	★	West Coast University

# Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) Data: National Applicant Trends

2023:

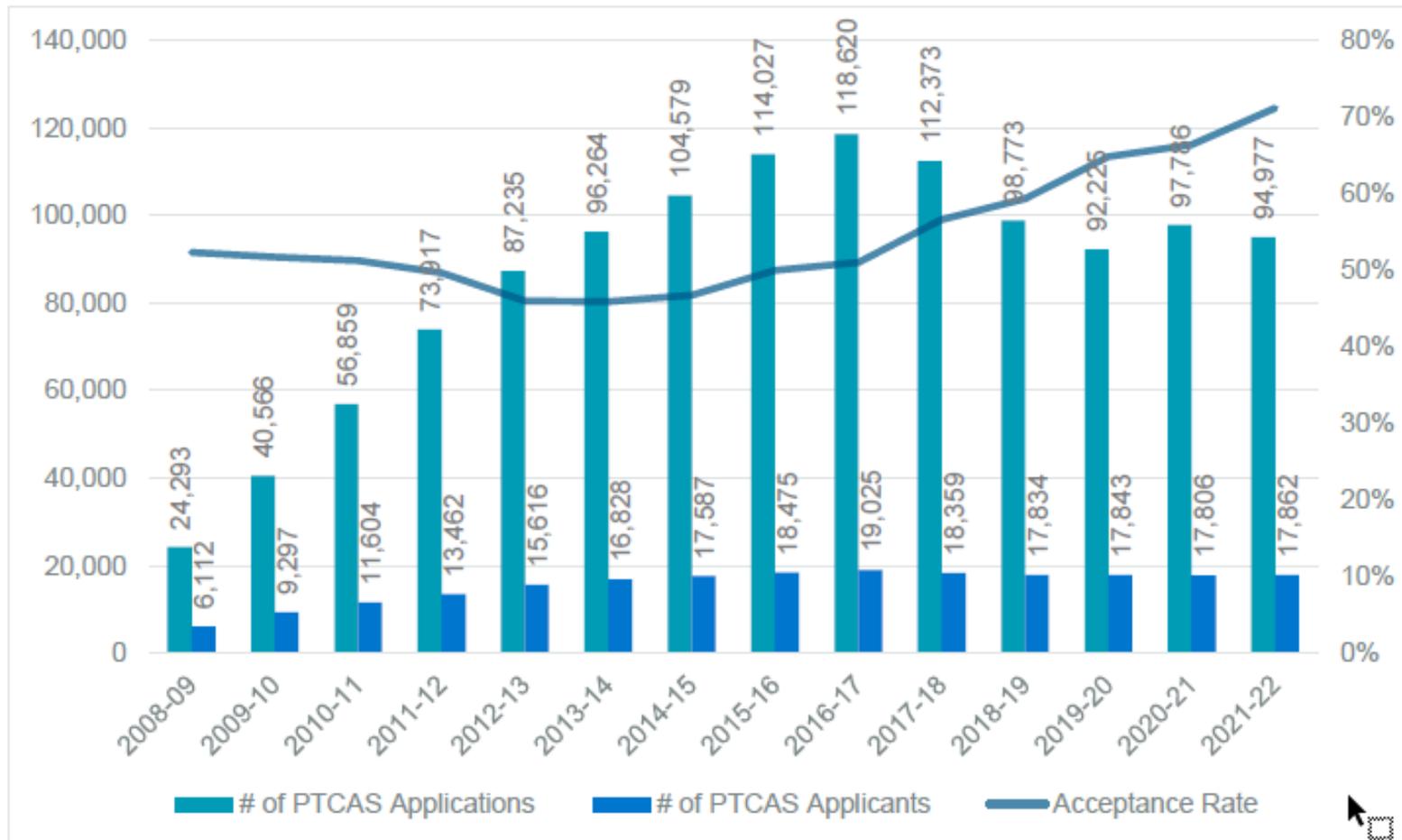
- 17,517 unique applicants submitted 77,273 applications to an average of 4.41 programs/applicant



# National Data Applicant Trends

2023-24: 284 programs: ave. 4.41 applications per applicant; 41% racial/ethnic “minorities”.

**Figure 2. Applicant Volume vs. Acceptance Rate**



# Physical Therapist Workforce Forecast for the United States

## 2022 supply, demand and shortfall



Supply:  
233,890 FTEs



Demand:  
245,960 FTEs



Shortfall:  
12,070 FTEs (5.2%)

## Projected supply and demand growth



Supply growth  
(2022-2037):  
+39,170 FTEs



Demand growth  
(2022-2037):  
+36,250 FTEs

## 2037 projected supply, demand and shortfall



Projected supply: 273,070 FTEs  
Projected demand: 282,210 FTEs



Projected shortfall:  
9,140 FTEs (3.3%)

# Sacramento State

## Department of Physical Therapy

- Accept 35 students every Fall Semester
- Program is 9 semesters in length
- There are 3 full-time clinical experiences, 12 weeks each
- Students participate in multiple community clinics (mentored practice) during their coursework which include:
  - Geriatric – available to community members with balance concerns
  - Ortho – available for students, faculty, staff and community members
  - Neuro – available to patients with stroke or other neurological conditions

# Applying to Sacramento State

- Admission Requirements
  - Bachelor's Degree prior to matriculation
  - 10 Prerequisite courses
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
  - Observation (volunteer/work) hours:  $\geq 50$
  - Letters of Recommendation: 3
  - Panel Interview

# Change in Admission Requirements due to COVID

- Credit/No Credit grades accepted for required classes taken Spring 2020 -2022 only
- Virtual labs accepted for required classes taken during the years 2020, 2021 and 2022

# How to Apply

## Step 1: Prepare to Apply

- Review Admission Requirements listed on our webpage and on PTCAS to verify you have met all minimum requirements
- Make sure you are on track to complete your prerequisite coursework
- Complete your volunteer/work hours by October 1 deadline
- Identify who will be willing to write your letters of recommendation
- Schedule to take the GRE before the deadline

## Step 2: Apply

- Submit **complete** PTCAS application at [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org) by the deadline.

# What does a complete application look like?

- Prerequisites are completed by the required deadline with a minimum 3.00 GPA.
- DPT Prerequisite Supplemental Worksheet completed and submitted with PTCAS application.
- GRE exam taken by application deadline and within the last 5 years
- Volunteer/work hours completed and verified in PTCAS by deadline date.
- All letters of recommendation received in PTCAS by deadline date.
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended sent to PTCAS.
- PTCAS application submitted by October deadline.

# Prerequisite Courses

- Human Anatomy w/lab (4 units)
- Human Physiology w/lab (4 units)
- General Psychology (3 units)
- Additional Psychology (3 units)
- Statistics (3 units)
- General Chemistry I & II w/lab (8-10 units)
- Physics I & II w/lab (8 units)
- Exercise Physiology (3 units)

# Prerequisite Requirements

- Minimum prerequisite GPA of 3.00 or higher.
- Prerequisite courses must be completed at an accredited college or university with a minimum grade of “C” or better. Course grades of “C-” or lower are not accepted.
- Applicants may have up to 4 pending prerequisite courses when submitting their application. At least 2 of pending courses must be completed by the end of fall term, and the remaining 2 courses to be completed the following spring term.
- Anatomy, Physiology, and Exercise Physiology courses must have been completed within the past 10 years.

# Prerequisite Repeat Policy

- Grades from any and all courses taken to fulfill each prerequisite will be considered in calculating your GPA.
- If a course was taken twice (2), only the higher course grade will be used.
- If a course is taken three (3) times, all three (3) grades will be averaged.
- If a course was taken four (4) times to complete one required prerequisite, application will be disqualified.
- A course is considered a “repeat” even if it is taken at a different university, or has a different course number.

# Approved Prerequisite List

## Admissions Information

[Admission Overview PDF](#)

[Admissions Requirements](#)

[Advising Powerpoint PDF](#)

[Advising Information](#)

[Application Checklist PDF](#)

[Approved Prerequisite Course List PDF](#)

[How to Apply](#)

[DPT Supplemental Prerequisite Worksheet](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

# DPT Supplemental Prerequisite Worksheet

All applicants must submit the DPT Supplemental Prerequisite Worksheet with their PTCAS application. This worksheet can be found on our website at <https://www.csus.edu/college/health-human-services/physical-therapy/> and must be uploaded to your PTCAS application by the deadline.

Applicants will submit the following information for each course:

- Name of institution where course was taken
- Course number and title
- Semester or quarter units
- Semester and year course was taken
- Number of units and grade
- In-progress or planned status for pending courses

Applications missing this document will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

# Graduate Record Examination - GRE

- GRE results taken within last five years are sent directly to PTCAS using GRE code 7588.
- The last date to take the GRE is ~October 1, 2026
- A minimum 3.5 or higher for the Analytical Writing component and 29th percentile (151\*) or higher for the Quantitative Reasoning GRE component are recommended to be competitive in the admissions rankings
- Highest component scores from multiple test dates will be used (“superscoring”)

# Observation Hours

Applicants must complete and verify on PTCAS at least 50 total hours of volunteer/work experience. All hours must be under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Hours that have not been completed and verified by the application deadline will not count towards the 50 required hours minimum, and your application will be disqualified.

Experiences across diverse practice settings, such as outpatient and inpatient care, are strongly encouraged to support a well-informed understanding of the profession, though they are not required!

## OUTPATIENT

- Physical Therapy Clinics
- Hospital Clinics
- School/Preschool
- Wellness/Prevention/  
Fitness
- Industrial/Occupational Health

## INPATIENT

- Acute care
- Rehab/Subacute care
- Extended care
- Skilled Nursing

# Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent to PTCAS. All three letters must be received by the deadline date.

- Two (2) letters from a licensed physical therapist you have volunteered or worked with.
- One from a college professor you have taken a course from.

# How to strengthen your application

- Applicants can earn additional admission points if they qualify for the following:
  - Advanced Upper Division Coursework
  - Skills and Background Characteristics
  - GRE scores above the threshold scores (qGRE  $\geq 29^{\text{th}}$  percentile; aGRE 3.5 or higher)



# Advanced Upper Division Coursework

Applicants that have completed upper division advanced coursework may be eligible for additional admission points. A maximum of four courses may be submitted for consideration. However, only one course may be submitted from each of the following categories. All Advanced coursework must have a grade of "B-" or higher, and "A" grades earn more points than "B" grades.

- Advanced Human Anatomy
- Neuroanatomy
- Neurophysiology
- Advanced Biomechanics
- Advanced Exercise Physiology or Cardiac
- General Microbiology
- Motor Learning
- Therapeutic Exercise

# Skills and Background Characteristics

Additional admissions points are available for:

- Second Language Competency
  - Proficiency
  - Fluency
- Disadvantaged Economic Background
- Disadvantaged Educational Background
- Disadvantaged Environmental Background

# Interviews

- In mid-December the top 130 qualified applicants will be invited to apply to **Cal State Apply** (\$70), and schedule an interview.
- A typical interview day consists of
  - Meeting current DPT students
  - Each applicant interviews with a 3-person Panel: 1 faculty member + 2 clinicians
  - Tour of DPT facilities
- Interviews are usually scheduled in late January.

# Common Mistakes to Avoid

- GRE scores never received by PTCAS, not in time
- Less than 50 observations hours were verified and completed by deadline
- Not all required letters of recommendation were received, or the letters were received were not from the type of correct evaluator
- Prerequisite GPA less than 3.00
- Overall GPA less than 3.00
- Too many outstanding prerequisites
- Not all college transcripts were sent to PTCAS

Admissions cycle	Applications received	Applications disqualified
2025-26	385	173
2024-25	397	89
2023-24	399	221

# Who Matriculated at Sacramento State?

Class of	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Yr of Application	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Applications Received</b>	562	585	541	474	477	503	486	382	399	397
<b>Class Size</b>	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	34	35
<b>Offers Made</b>	62	57	60	55	59	59	63	70	61	72
<b>Female</b>	17	13	19	18	18	15	19	18	19	15
<b>Male</b>	15	19	13	14	14	17	13	14	15	20
<b>Average Age</b>	26	24	24	25	24	25	25	25	24	23
<b>% Minority</b>	44%	41%	32%	41%	41%	63%	44%	53%	59%	60%
<b>Prerequisite GPA</b>	3.82	3.76	3.81	3.83	3.75	3.85	3.84	3.79	3.89	3.81
<b>CA Resident</b>	84%	91%	97%	100%	100%	97%	100%	94%	100%	100%

# Sac State Selection Process

- All application materials are reviewed to determine if they meet minimum requirements.
- **Complete** applications are then ranked according to:
  - Strength of Academic Record (Prerequisite GPA)
  - Professional References
  - Background Characteristics
  - Advanced Coursework.
- Once ranked, **top 130** are invited for an **interview**.
- After interviews, the interviewees are rank ordered.
- **Top 35** are offered **seats**, remaining applicants placed on **wait list**
- Applicants are notified of their initial status within 1 week of final interviews.

# Sacramento State DPT Tuition & Fees

Tuition and Fees (AY 2025-26)	Expenses
Semester Tuition	9,660
Mandatory Campus Fees	1,282
<b>Total Semester Expense</b>	<b>10,942</b>
Semesters Per Year	3
<b>Total Annual Expense</b>	<b>32,826</b>
Years in the Program	3
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>98,478</b>
Non-Resident Fees*	46,620
<b>Total Non-Resident Program Expense</b>	<b>145,098</b>

Compare:  
Average  
Private  
DPT program  
in 2025:  
**\$124,071**



Tuition is charged as a flat rate per semester fee and is not based on number of units.

\*Non-residents pay an additional \$444.00 per unit. Students take between 105-114 units depending on how many electives they choose to take. The minimum 105 units includes the two required elective units.

# Tentative Application Deadlines

## 2026-27 Tentative Application Deadlines

Date	Event
Mid-June 2026	PTCAS 2026-27 Application Cycle Opens
October 1, 2026	Deadline to take GRE Exam
October 1, 2026	Deadline to submit PTCAS Application (11:59 pm EST)
Mid-December 2026	Interview notifications sent to all applicants
Late January 2027 (details in the fall of 2026)	On campus interviews for invited applicants
Mid-February 2027	Offers of admission until class filled
Late-August 2027	DPT New Student Orientation
Late-August 2027	First day of instruction

# Why Sacramento State

- Excellent outcomes
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Electives (research, CSCS, pediatrics, specialty patient care)
- Community service while being mentored by faculty
- Top notch faculty
- Excellent administrative support
- Diverse student body



## Diversity:

# National Data vs. **Sac State** Gender Identity & Acceptance Rates

### Gender:

2021: Accepted: 61.3% female, 38.7% male

- *CSUS Doctoral Classes of 2025-2027: 54% female, 46% male*

### Applicants Accepted:

- *2024: National Ave: 296 applicants, 44 enrolled (14.9%)*
- *2024: Sac State: 397 applicants, 35 enrolled (8.8%)*



# Diversity: Sac State vs. National Data Race/Ethnic Identity

## Race/ethnicity accepted:

- National average: 77% White alone
- CSUS Doctoral Classes of 2024-2027: 45% White alone

## Race/Ethnicity graduated

Race/Ethn of 2024 grads	National Average (%)	CSUS (%)
Afri- Amer	5.3	3.2
Amer Ind	0.4	3.2
Asian	10.5	22.6
H/PI	0.3	0
Latino	8.8	22.6
White	66.9	35.5
2 or more	4.5	9.7
Unknown	3.0	3.2

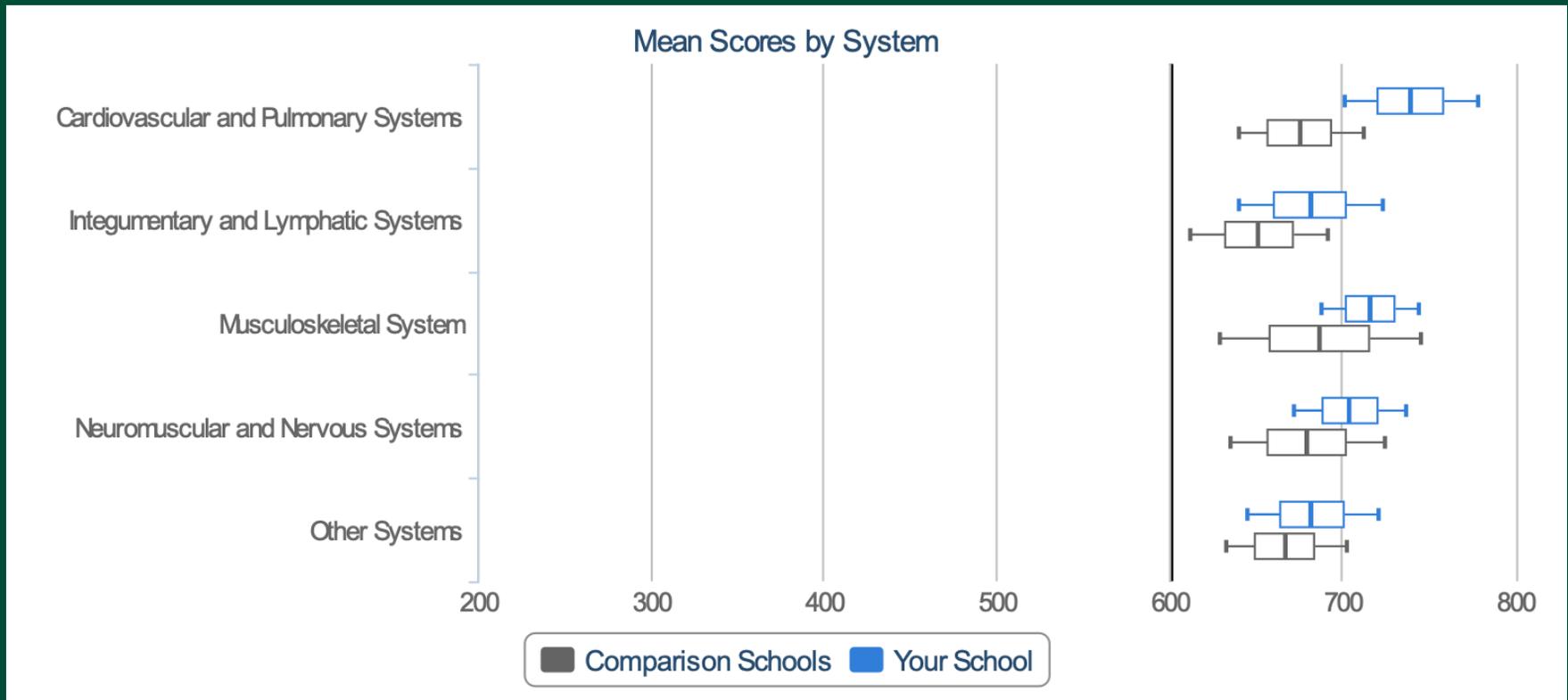
# National Licensure Examination Results

## CSUS

## Natl Ave

				Summary Performance for the School by Graduation Year			Summary Performance for All U.S.- Accredited Candidates by Graduation Year		
Graduation Year	Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Passing Candidates	Pass Rate	Mean Scale Score	Confidence Interval of the Mean	Pass Rate	Mean Scale Score	Standard Deviation Scale Score
2025	First Time	29	29	100.0%	703.6	11.3	87.6%	667.0	61.0
	Ultimate	29	29	100.0%	703.6	11.3	89.3%	668.2	59.8
2024	First Time	32	29	90.6%	692.6	14.3	85.2%	661.6	61.1
	Ultimate	32	31	96.9%	700.8	12.4	96.8%	669.8	51.9
2023	First Time	29	29	100.0%	689.1	10.7	84.8%	658.2	59.9
	Ultimate	29	29	100.0%	689.1	10.7	98.6%	668.0	48.7

# National Licensure Examination Results - 2025



1.	California State University, Fresno (PT)	2025	31 Graduates	6.	University of Delaware (PT)	2025	30 Graduates
2.	California State University, Long Beach (PT)	2025	32 Graduates	7.	MGH Institute of Health Professions (PT)	2025	67 Graduates
3.	California State University, Northridge (PT)	2025	29 Graduates	8.	Washington University in St Louis (PT)	2025	81 Graduates
4.	University of CA / San Francisco State University (PT)	2025	48 Graduates	9.	Duke University (PT)	2025	99 Graduates
5.	University of Southern California (PT)	2025	92 Graduates	10.	San Diego State University (PT)	2025	37 Graduates

# Considerations

- Location (support systems, cost)
- Facilities: space, technology
- Length of the program and your learning style
- Program philosophy congruent to yours
- Student support (available vs. “sink or swim”)
- Available options and what you want to be as a PT
- Program “feel”

# Final thoughts... debt load

- Average student debt load (for students reporting any debt) from Sac State - \$70,000  
*(data from Sac State Financial Aid and Scholarship Department c. 2021)*
- Average student debt load (for students reporting any debt) for DPT programs nationally: \$121,556  
*(Shields and Dudley-Javoroski)*

Hope to see You Here!



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
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# Questions?





SACRAMENTO STATE

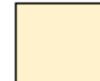
## Doctor of Physical Therapy Curriculum – Course Names

DPT – Year 1			DPT – Year 2			DPT – Year 3		
Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer
Anatomy <u>Pathokinesiology</u> Pathophysiology	Human Movement Neuroscience	Pharmacology Diagnostic Imaging	Adult Neuro I Musculoskeletal I Clinical Agents Geriatrics	PT Educator Psychosocial SDH Health Care Delivery I	Clinical Experience I 12-weeks (Full time)	Health Care Delivery II	Clinical Experience II 12-weeks (Full time)	Clinical Experience III 12-weeks (Full time)
	Therex Foundations of Patient Management PT Interventions I		PT Interventions II Acute & Cardiopulmonary	Adult Neuro II Musculoskeletal II Differential Dx				
	Professional Interactions	Patient Interviews	Health, Wellness, Ergonomics	Research Electives				
Evidence Informed Practice 1	Evidence Informed Practice 2		Community Clinics (part-time)	Community Clinics (part-time)		Community Clinics (part-time)		

 **Basic Science**

 **Clinical Science**

 **Critical Inquiry**

 **Professional Development**

 **Clinical Education**



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

COLLEGE OF HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES

*Doctor of Physical Therapy*

## Department of Physical Therapy Curriculum for Entry-level DPT Program

### Fall - Year 1

Course #	Title	Units
BIO 633	Human Gross Anatomy for Physical Therapists	3
PT 600	Pathokinesiology	5
PT 602	Evidence Informed Practice I	3
PT 608	PT/Patient/Professional Interactions GWI	2
PT 630	Pathophysiology	3
		<b>16</b>

### Spring - Year 1

Course #	Title	Units
PT 604	Principles of Human Movement	2
PT 606	Therapeutic Measurements & Techniques	4
PT 614	Neuroscience for PTs	3
PT 618	Foundations for Patient Management	1
PT 620	PT Interventions I	3
PT 622	Evidence Informed Practice II	3
		<b>16</b>

### Summer - Year 1

Course #	Title	Units
PT 632	Pharmacology	2
PT 634	Diagnostic Imaging for PT	2
PT 638	Health, Wellness, & Ergonomics	2
		<b>6</b>



**SACRAMENTO  
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COLLEGE OF HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES

*Doctor of Physical Therapy*

### Fall - Year 2

Course #	Title	Units
PT 624	Adult Neuromuscular Pt Management I	4
PT 625	Musculoskeletal Pt Management I	4
PT 626	Clinical Agents	3
PT 636	Geriatrics/Gerontology for PT	2
PT 640	PT Interventions II	3
PT 646	Acute Care and Cardiopulmonary PT	2
PT 660A*	Graduate Seminar I Research Elective	1
PT 696J*	Graduate Seminar I Adv Biomechanics I	2
		<b>18-21</b>

### Spring - Year 2

Course #	Title	Units
PT 627	Physical Therapy Educator	1
PT 644	Adult Neuromuscular Pt Management II	4
PT 645	Musculoskeletal Pt Management II	4
PT 648	Health Care Delivery in PT I	2
PT 660B*	Graduate Seminar I Research Elective	1
PT 660D*	Graduate Seminar I Electrotherapeutics Lab	2
PT 660G*	Graduate Seminar I CSCS	2
PT 660K*	Graduate Seminar I Adv Biomechanics II	2
PT 662	Differential Diagnosis in PT	3
PT 669	Psychosocial Issues in PT	1
PT 689	Doctoral Project Proposal	1
		<b>16-23</b>

### Summer - Year 2

Course #	Title	Units
PT 695A	Clinical Practicum/Internship I (12 wks)	6
		<b>6</b>



**SACRAMENTO  
STATE**

COLLEGE OF HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES

*Doctor of Physical Therapy*

### Fall - Year 3

Course #	Title	Units
PT 660C*	Graduate PT Seminar I Research Elective	1
PT 660E*	Research Seminar I NeuroPediatric Mgmt Lab	2
PT 660F*	Graduate PT Seminar I Adult Neuro Mgmt Lab	2
PT 660H*	Graduate PT Seminar I Cardio Wellness Clinic	1
PT 663	Integumentary Patient Management	2
PT 664	NeuroPediatric Pt Management	2
PT 665	Musculoskeletal Pt Management III	3
PT 668	Health Care Delivery in PT II	2
PT 690	Doctoral Project/culminating experience	3
		<b>12-18</b>

### Spring - Year 3

Course #	Title	Units
PT 695B	Clinical Practicum II/Internship (12 wks)	6
		<b>6</b>

### Summer - Year 3

Course #	Title	Units
PT 680	Graduate PT Seminar II	1
PT 695C	Clinical Practicum III/Internship (12 wks)	6
		<b>7</b>

**Total units for 3 year program** **105-119**

Elective courses are designated with an \*

Students are required to take a minimum of 2 elective units to graduate.

# PTCAS Data

8 MOST often identified majors of Bachelor's Degree:

- Exercise Science
- Kinesiology
- Health Science
- Biology
- Psychology
- Pre-physical therapy
- PT Assistant
- Athletic training