



Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Group Advising Session

Program Information

Applying to the program

Tour of Facilities

Redefine the Possible™



Welcome!

- Introductions: Name, College
- Where you are in the process/ journey?
- Goals/ expectations/ what you want to achieve by attending this session

California DPT programs



ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOLS WITH DEGREE PROGRAMS

#	Visited	SCHOOL NAME
NORTHERN CA PROGRAMS		
1	★	California State University, Sacramento
CENTRAL PROGRAMS		
2	★	California State University, Fresno
3	★	University of the Pacific
BAY AREA PROGRAMS		
4	★	Samuel Merritt University
5	★	University of California, San Francisco— San Francisco State University
SOUTHERN CA PROGRAMS		
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:

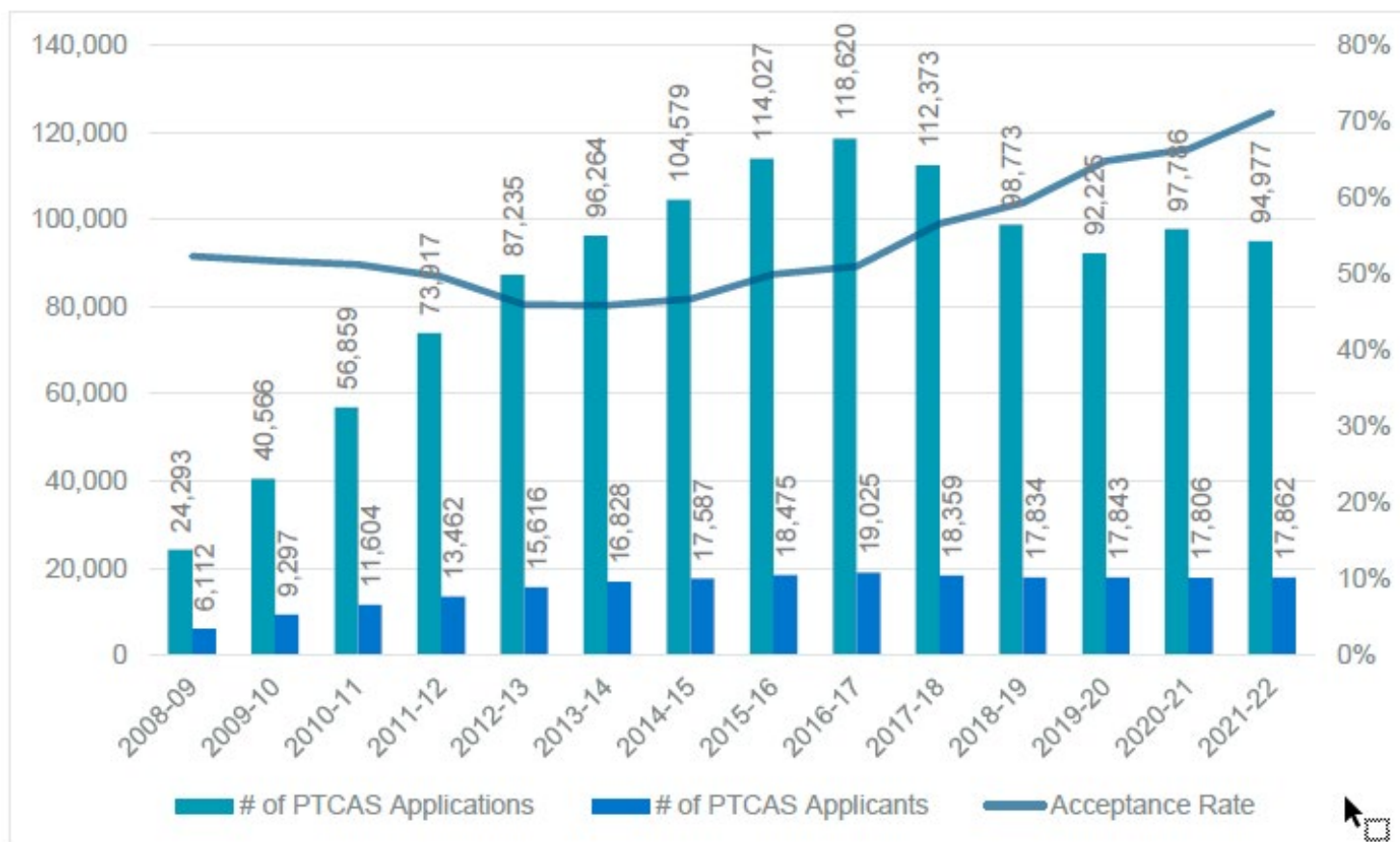
- 17,517 unique applicants submitted 77,273 applications to an average of 4.41 programs/applicant



National Data Applicant Trends

2023-4: 284 programs: ave. 4.41 applications per applicant; 41% racial/ethnic “minorities”.

Figure 2. Applicant Volume vs. Acceptance Rate





Sacramento State

Department of Physical Therapy

- Accept 34 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:
 - Ortho – available for students, faculty, staff and community members
 - Neuro – available to patients with stroke or other neurological conditions
 - STEPS – pediatric clinic for children with neuromotor impairments



Applying to Sacramento State

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

How to Apply

Sacramento State's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program participates in the Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as PTCAS. To submit your application please visit www.PTCAS.org and follow the instructions provided.

Resources

- [DPT Sacramento State Prerequisite Courses PDF](#)
- [Approved Prerequisite Course List for Other Colleges PDF](#)
- [DPT Supplemental Prerequisite Worksheet](#)
- [Physical Therapy Essential Functions and Technical Standards PDF](#)
- PTCAS.org
- [Cal State Apply](#)
- [Tuition & Fees](#)



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 www.csus.edu/college/health-human-services/physical-therapy/prerequisite-worksheet.html 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, 2025
- A minimum 3.5 or higher for the Analytical Writing component and 29th percentile (150*) 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 a minimum 50 total hours of volunteer/work experience. All hours must be under 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.

OUTPATIENT

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

INPATIENT

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

*Beginning with the 2025-26 application cycle, both inpatient and outpatient will be required, with a minimum of 16 hours in each setting

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
 - 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



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

For the 2024-2025 cycle, **395** applications were received; **74** applicants disqualified so far.

Who Matriculated at Sacramento State?

Class of	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Yr of Application	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications Received	500	562	585	541	474	477	503	486	382	399
Class Size	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	34
Offers Made	62	62	57	60	55	59	59	63	70	61
Female	19	17	13	19	18	18	15	19	18	19
Male	13	15	19	13	14	14	17	13	14	15
Average Age	25	26	24	24	25	24	25	25	25	24
% Minority	28%	44%	41%	32%	41%	41%	63%	44%	53%	59%
Prerequisite GPA	3.78	3.82	3.76	3.81	3.83	3.75	3.85	3.84	3.79	3.89
CA Resident	81%	84%	91%	97%	100%	100%	97%	100%	94%	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 34** 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	Expenses
Semester Tuition	8,598
Mandatory campus fees	871
<i>Total Semester Expense</i>	9,469
Semesters per year	3
<i>Total Annual Expense</i>	28,407
Years in the Program	3
<i>Total Program Expense</i>	85,221
Non-Resident fees*	41,580
<i>Total Non-Resident Program Expense</i>	126,801

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

*Non-residents pay an additional \$396.00 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

2025-26 Tentative Application Deadlines	
Date	Event
June 16, 2025	PTCAS 2025-26 Application Cycle Opens
October 1, 2025	Deadline to take GRE Exam
October 1, 2025	Deadline to submit PTCAS Application (11:59 pm EST)
Mid-December 2025	Interview notifications sent to all applicants
Late January 2026 (details in the fall of 2025)	On campus interviews for invited applicants
Mid-February 2026	Offers of admission until class filled
TBA	DPT New Student Orientation
TBA	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:

Sac State vs. National Data

Gender, Race/Ethnic Identity

- 2021: 17,862 applicants
 - Accepted: 61.3% female, 38.7% male
- *CSUS current 3 Doctoral Classes: 54% female, 46% male*
- Race/ethnicity accepted:
 - National average: 77% White alone
 - *CSUS most recent 4 Doctoral Classes: 45% White alone*

National Licensure Examination Results

- Pass Rate

	Total	Pass Rate	Standard Error
1st Time Test Takers from Your Program	32	96.9%	3.1%
	Total	Pass Rate	Standard Deviation
1st Time Test Takers from Selected Comparison Schools*	588	92.7%	4.6%

2020

	Total	Pass Rate	Standard Error
1st Time Test Takers from Your Program	30	96.7%	3.3%
	Total	Pass Rate	Standard Deviation
1st Time Test Takers from Selected Comparison Schools*	531	92.3%	4.6%

2021

- Comparison Schools

1.	California State University, Fresno (PT)	2021	32 Graduates	6.	University of Delaware (PT)	2021	62 Graduates
2.	California State University, Long Beach (PT)	2021	34 Graduates	7.	University of Iowa (PT)	2021	43 Graduates
3.	California State University, Northridge (PT)	2021	28 Graduates	8.	Washington University in St Louis (PT)	2021	82 Graduates
4.	University of CA / San Francisco State University (PT)	2021	50 Graduates	9.	University of Pittsburgh (PT)	2021	66 Graduates
5.	University of Southern California (PT)	2021	96 Graduates	10.	San Diego State University (PT)	2021	38 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
SACRAMENTO

Questions?





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	Human Movement Neuroscience	Pharmacology Diagnostic Imaging	Adult Neuro I	PT Educator	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)
Pathokinesiology	Therex		Musculoskeletal I	Psychosocial SDH		Neuro Pediatrics		
Pathophysiology	Foundations of Patient Management PT Interventions I		Clinical Agents	Health Care Delivery I		Musculoskeletal III		
Professional Interactions	Patient Interviews	Health, Wellness, Ergonomics	Geriatrics	Adult Neuro II		Integumentary		
Evidence Informed Practice 1	Evidence Informed Practice 2		PT Interventions II	Musculoskeletal II		Culminating Doctoral Project		
			Acute & Cardiopulmonary	Differential Dx		Community Clinics (part-time)		
			Research Electives	Doctoral Proj Proposal Research & Electives				
			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
		16

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
		16

Summer - Year 1

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



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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
		18-21

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
		16-23

Summer - Year 2

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



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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
		12-18

Spring - Year 3

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

Summer - Year 3

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

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