

**California State University, Long Beach**  
**Department of Physical Therapy**

**Guidelines for Admission and Prerequisites**  
**Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program**

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 write 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 apply to the University and to the Physical Therapy Department simultaneously, using two separate applications. Application to the University is through the Office of Enrollment Services at [www.csulb.edu/web/depts/enrollment](http://www.csulb.edu/web/depts/enrollment) or on-line at [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu). Applications are accepted from October 15 to January 15 for entrance into the program the following fall semester. Application to the department is through the Physical Therapist Centralized application Service at [www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org). Applications are accepted from July 15 to January 15.

Admission as a graduate student in physical therapy (conditionally classified) guarantees admission to the physical therapy professional program (unconditionally classified) contingent upon completion of all \* courses with a minimum of "B" in each course or an average of 3.0 across courses within one year of conditional acceptance and a 3.0 overall graduate GPA.

Admission as a graduate student in physical therapy is on a competitive basis using the Selection Criteria described below.

**Requirements for Admission:**

In addition to meeting the University's academic standards for admission, an applicant to the Physical Therapy Program must:

1. Have a Bachelor's Degree in any field (Biology preferred).
2. Have completed by the end spring semester in the year of acceptance, all lower division prerequisite courses listed on page 2 of these guidelines.
3. Complete an application with PTCAS, meeting all department requirements including:
  - a. verified work experience (paid or volunteer) in the following areas of physical therapy:
 

rehabilitation	geriatric
pediatric	acute/general hospital

 A hospital setting and work in all 4 areas is strongly suggested.  
 100-200 hours is recommended.
  - b. 3 letters of recommendation, one from each of the following:
    - registered physical therapist
    - instructor (from a pre-requisite course)
    - employer
4. Send the following directly to the department:
  - a. official scores from the Graduate Record Examination
  - b. adult CPR certification
  - c. a health statement from a physician

**CSULB Lower Division Prerequisites to the MPT program:**

Each course must be a semester in length or equivalent quarter units. A quarter unit is equal to 2/3 of a semester unit. All Biology, General Chemistry and General Physics courses must have a lab section. An average >3.0 is strongly suggested.

<b>CSULB COURSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>SEMESTER UNITS</b>
Biology 208	Human Morphology (Anatomy)	4
*Biology 111 & 212	General Biology I & II	4, 4
Biology 213 or 207	General Biology III OR Hum Physiology	4, 4
Biology 260	Biostatistics	3
*Chem 111 A & B	General Chemistry	5, 5
Physics 100 A & B	General Physics	4, 4
Psy 100	General Psychology	3

\*Biology & Chemistry sequence must be for Biology Majors.

**Selection Criteria:**

The admission committee will primarily consider:

1. all college/university academic work completed including:
  - a. overall grade point average (GPA) - a realistic overall GPA for applying to the program is 3.0 or higher,
  - b. the GPA in all lower division pre-requisite courses (provided by PTCAS)
2. scores from the Graduate Record Examination.
3. review of all requirements for admission.

**CSULB \* Coursework:**

Upon acceptance into the program, students are considered conditionally classified graduate students and complete the CSULB \*coursework with a B in each course or a 3.0 average within one year of acceptance and an overall graduate GPA of 3.0 to advance to the professional program as unconditionally classified students.

<b>CSULB COURSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>SEMESTER UNITS</b>
Biology *341	Physiology for Therapist I	4
Biology *441	Physiology for Therapist II	3
HHS *374	Psychosocial Aspects of Disability	3
HHS *401	Applied Anatomy I	3
HHS *402	Applied Anatomy II	3
HHS *403	Tissue mechanics and aging	3
HHS *460	Neuroanatomy	4
HHS *471	Pathology	3

\*courses are only offered at CSULB.

Students who are undergraduates at CSULB may take some \* courses as requirements for some undergraduate degrees. For example, Biology, Physiology Option allows substitution of nearly all \* courses as requirements for the degree and Kinesiology, Exercise Science Option allows many \* courses as electives. Undergraduates must earn a "B" average in \* courses.