

**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. Admission to the University and the Department 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 **either** a minimum grade of "B" in each course **or** an average of "B" in all \* courses **and** a 3.0 overall graduate GPA. Students with less than either a "B" in each course or an average of "B" in \* courses will not be advanced.

The Department admits up to forty (40) 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 in this brochure. Applications for the Physical Therapy program are accepted from October 1 to January 15 for entrance into the program the following fall semester.

**Requirements for Admission:**

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

1. Have a Bachelor's Degree in any field (Biology preferred).
2. Have completed, or have in progress, all lower division prerequisite courses listed in this brochure with at least a "C" in each class.
3. Have work experience (paid or volunteer) in the following areas of physical therapy:
 

a. rehabilitation	b. geriatric
c. pediatric	d. acute/general hospital

A hospital setting and work in all 4 areas is strongly suggested. Up to 200 hours is recommended.

4. Complete and file a supplemental application with the department, which must include:
  - a. official transcripts of all academic work attempted
  - b. minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation, one from each of the following:
    - registered physical therapist
    - instructor (from a course you have had)
    - employer
  - c. official scores from the Graduate Record Examination
  - d. adult CPR certification
  - e. a health statement from a physician
  - f. documentation of related work/volunteer experience

- g. personal statement of career goals (less than 2 pages)

**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. Grades of C or better are required.

<b>CSULB COURSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>SEMESTER UNITS</b>
Biology 208	Human Morphology (Anatomy)	4
Biology 211 A & B	Biological Sciences I & II	5, 5
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

**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 3.2,
  - b. the GPA in all lower division prerequisite courses, at least a 3.0 is desired,
  - c. the GPA of the last 60 upper division units completed.
2. scores from the Graduate Record Examination. Scores above 500 are desired.
3. letters of recommendation.

**CSULB \* Coursework:**

Upon acceptance into the program, students are considered conditionally classified graduate students and must complete the CSULB \*coursework with **either** at least a "B" in every course or a 3.0 average **and** an overall graduate GPA of 3.0 to **automatically 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 some \* courses as electives. Undergraduates must earn either a "B" in each \* course or an average GPA of 3.0 in \* courses.

Students who have a Bachelors Degree and want to take some of these \*courses before applying to the program may take courses through Open University if space exists after all admitted students have registered.