

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Physical Therapy

Every professional degree program has specific admissions requirements including prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed. The courses listed below are **common prerequisites** for this pre-professional pathway. They are **subject to change**. It is the student's responsibility to check the specific school for prerequisite details.

The following courses **do not lead to an associate degree specific to Physical Therapy**; however, the courses overlap with major requirements for the **Associate of Arts in Natural Sciences**, which requires a minimum of 18 units of science and mathematics courses to include at least 4 units in the Physical Sciences, at least 4 units in the Biological Sciences, and at least 3 units in Mathematics. Additionally, some of the courses will meet prerequisite requirements for our Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to **Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)** programs is very competitive. Competitive applicants will have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, which may be in any major. Common majors include exercise science, biology, kinesiology, and psychology. In addition to a bachelor's degree, college grades (GPA) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are used in preliminary screening. The GRE evaluates knowledge in analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning.

Paid or volunteer clinical experience under supervision of a licensed physical therapist is expected for most physical therapy programs. This experience is helpful to you as a prospective physical therapist as it allows you to gain valuable insight into your decision whether physical therapy is the career path for you. In addition, it may provide an opportunity to receive a letter of support from a PT professional, which may be a valuable element of your application.

Common Lower Division Preparation for Schools of Physical Therapy

Prefix	Number	Title	Units
A&P	150	Introduction to Human Anatomy	4
or A&P	200	Human Anatomy	(5)
A&P	151	Introduction to Human Physiology	4
or A&P	201	Human Physiology	(5)
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
ENGL	C1000	Academic Reading and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1000E	Academic Reading and Writing	(4.5)
ENGL	C1001	Critical Thinking and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1002	Introduction to Literature	(3)

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Prefix	Number	Title	Units
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
PHYS	102	General Physics	4
PSYC	C1000	Introduction to Psychology	3
STAT	C1000	Introduction to Statistics	4
or STAT	C1000E	Introduction to Statistics	(4.5)

California Physical Therapy Schools

- [Azusa Pacific University](#)
- [California State University, Fresno](#)
- [California State University, Long Beach](#)
- [California State University, Northridge](#)
- [California State University, Sacramento](#)
- [Chapman University](#)
- [Loma Linda University](#)
- [Mount St. Mary's College](#)
- [Samuel Merritt University](#)
- [San Diego State University](#)
- [University of California, San Francisco](#)
- [University of Southern California](#)
- [University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences](#)
- [University of the Pacific](#)
- [West Coast University](#)
- [Western University of Health Sciences](#)

Additional Resources

- [American Physical Therapy Association](https://www.apta.org) (https://www.apta.org)
- [Explore Health Careers](https://explorehealthcareers.org) (https://explorehealthcareers.org)
- [CSULB Health Professions Advising Office](https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao) (https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao)