

D.P.T. (Doctor of Physical Therapy)

Advising Sheet

Physical therapists (PTs) help patients improve or restore mobility, especially following surgical procedures and/or accidents. PTs tailor a plan to meet each patient's needs, using treatment techniques that help restore function, reduce pain, and prevent disability without using prescription medication or invasive surgeries. The goal of PTs is to prevent the loss of mobility and treat movement problems by developing fitness. Physical therapists work in many settings, ranging from hospitals, private practices, nursing homes, and schools.

Students who are interested in physical therapy must meet a given school's minimum GPA requirement, complete all prerequisite coursework, earn an acceptable score on the GRE, and have built their PT volunteer experience. PTs are required to complete a graduate degree, either a masters or clinical doctorate, from an accredited program.

Prerequisites		
Course	CSUF Course	Notes
Biology	BIOL 151^ & BIOL 152	^Both courses meet GE biological sciences requirements
Chemistry	CHEM 120 A**^ & CHEM 120B	* Must take CHEM 115 or pass Chem placements exam ^ Meets GE physical science requirements
Physics	PHYS 211 (LAB : 211L)* PHYS 212 (LAB: 212L)	MATH 115 or 125 and MATH 130 are prerequisites
Human Anatomy w/ Lab	BIOL 361* OR BIOL 191A**^ AND 191B	*BIOL 361 prerequisites: CHEM 120B, BIOL 251 **BIOL 191A prerequisites: 3.0 GPA, 30 units ^BIOL 191A and 191B are the same as KNES 191A and 191B
Human Physiology w/ Lab	BIOL 362* OR BIOL 310** and 310L OR BIOL 191A***^ AND 191B	*BIOL 362 prerequisites: CHEM 120B, BIOL 251 **BIOL 310 prerequisites: BIOL 151 or 152; must be taken with 310L ***BIOL 191A prerequisites: 3.0 GPA, 30 units ^BIOL 191A and 191B are the same as KNES 191A and 191B
Statistics	MATH 338*	* Most major required STATS courses will suffice
Psychology	PSYC 341*^ & PSYC 361*^	* Generally two courses in psychology are required - abnormal (341) and developmental (361). Check school specific requirements ^ PSYC 341 meets GE D.3; PSYC 361 meets GE E
Common Additional Coursework	KNES/NURS 205 Medical Terminology KNES 348 Physiology of Exercise PUBH 350 Nutrition	Check with your preferred school to make sure you meet specific requirements

Updated 2025. Pre-requisites vary greatly among DPT Programs, and can change on a yearly basis. Please view your schools of interest to determine the proper pre-requisites for their program.

*Most AP scores are not acceptable to meet the requirements for PT Schools. Contact your DPT school of interest to determine if it will be acceptable. Schools vary in their required course works prior to applying, and can change on a yearly basis.