

## UCSF/SFSU Graduate Program in Physical Therapy Advising Information

Academic Preparation	Standardized Test Requirements	Clinical Experience	Research Experience	Letters of Recommendation	UCSF/SFSU
<p>Most schools look at academic performance in a number of ways:</p> <p><b>Overall GPA</b> <b>Science GPA</b> <b>Prerequisite GPA</b></p> <p>Most graduate schools require that students have, at least, a 3.0 GPA in:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">All Bachelor-level work/ or Last 60 units in order to be considered for entry.</p> <p>Each graduate school establishes its own requirements for entry, therefore, some schools will accept GPAs of 2.5 or 2.7 for a conditional entry. You must look at each school's bulletin to determine the specific entry requirements.</p> <p>Most graduate schools require that students maintain a 3.0 GPA in all graduate course work, however, that may vary depending on the school. Check each school's bulletin to determine academic requirements.</p> <p>Most PT schools require the following pre-requisite course work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One year Inorganic Chem with Lab.</li> <li>One year Physics with Lab.</li> <li>Human Anatomy with Lab</li> <li>Human Physiology with Lab.</li> </ul> <p>(few schools accept a combined anat./phys.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kinesiology/Biomechanics</li> <li>Abnormal Psychology</li> <li>Statistics (Ed., Psych., Math., Biom.)</li> <li>Exercise Physiology</li> </ul> <p>Many schools require or highly recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cell or Microbiology</li> <li>Organic Chemistry</li> <li>Motor Control/Motor Learning</li> <li>Developmental Psychology</li> <li>Computer Use</li> <li>Speech/Public Speaking</li> <li>Neurosciences</li> </ul>	<p>Most graduate schools require some form of standardized entry exam. The most common requirement is:</p> <p><b>Graduate Record Examination (GRE)</b> Most schools evaluate scores from the Verbal and Quantitative Sections, however, many schools now evaluate the Analytical Sections scores also.</p> <p>Many schools require at least an overall score of 1000 in two tests or a 1500 in the three test sections. Some schools require a minimum of 500 in each section.</p> <p>Information about taking the GRE can be obtained from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) (510) 653-5400 or check local number. ETS Special Administration (510) 654-1200 Tests are now offered by computer which will allow you to receive your scores immediately. Be sure to review information on the computer test before taking it because the format is different from the pen and paper exam.</p> <p><b>Miller's Analogy</b> This exam is more frequently required for entry into a psychology program, however, several PT schools use it as an entry exam.</p> <p><b>Allied Health Exam</b> Few schools require this exam. You may be told to take it as a specialty exam by an advisor but it will not increase chances of admission if it is not a required test.</p> <p><b>Tips:</b> Do prepare. At least read through a GRE self prep. book available in your library or in any book store for testing tips. Some students, esp. those who have been out of school, find taking a prep. course valuable.</p>	<p>All PT programs require applicants to have some clinical experience, either as a volunteer or as a paid aide. Check each school for specific requirements because the number of required hours varies greatly from 50 to 1000. Work must be under the supervision of a physical therapist.</p> <p>Schools require clinical hours to ensure that you have a reasonably broad understanding of the field of physical therapy. Most schools do not want you to have all your clinical experience in one area, i.e. sport physical therapy.</p> <p><b>Recommended experiences are:</b> Inpatient or Acute Care Outpatient Therapy, and/or Sports Rehabilitation (major disability) Skilled Nursing Facilities School System Work with young, adolescents, adults and elderly.</p> <p>To find volunteer or aide opportunities contact your local hospital or physical therapy clinics. Some larger hospitals and clinics have formalized programs requiring a commitment of a specific number of hours.</p> <p><b>Tips:</b> Working with an occupational therapist or an athletic trainer is usually not accepted as clinical experience in physical therapy.</p> <p>Start accumulating hours very early in your process so you aren't trying to work too many hours while maintaining a high GPA</p> <p>Be professional in manner and appearance when working as a volunteer or aide. Your attitudes may be reflected in your letters of recommendation from the clinician.</p>	<p>Many schools, especially those associated with major research universities, are looking for students who show experience or an interest in research.</p> <p>If possible, work with a faculty member on a research project in some capacity. Most faculty are engaged in some level of research. Research assistant positions are often available in medical schools/research centers, particularly for students with strong basic science backgrounds. However, research experience in any field is better than none. Class required research activities other than obvious independent senior research projects or master's degree research is usually unacceptable. Volunteering as a research subject is not considered a research experience.</p> <p>At minimum, be able to display knowledge of the place of research in physical therapy through reading research journals etc.</p> <p><b>Community Service</b></p> <p>Most schools are seeking well-rounded students who show some interaction with their community. Activities such as, Special Olympics, CP Games, Wheelchair Games, or community-based work with persons with disabilities is recommended, however, there are many ways to show your commitment to service.</p> <p>For information on PT Programs in U.S: <b>American Physical Therapy Association</b> 1111 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria, VA 22314 1 (703) 684-2782</p>	<p>All schools require LOR. Most from faculty and clinicians. These are important. Always ask first if someone will write you a positive letter. Be sure they know you well enough to assess you. Help them write a complete letter by preparing a one page summary of your association with them and other information that may be helpful. Give clear due dates for the letter. Complete all information and provide all addressed and stamped envelopes.</p> <p><b>Tips:</b> Faculty and clinicians work with many students and they may not remember all the great things about you. Prepare a one page summary of your association with the person highlighting grades or papers that were particularly good. Remind person of the dates when you were associated with him/her.</p> <p>Put request for a letter in a distinct folder with DUE DATES clearly marked. Provide pre-addressed envelopes. DO NOT EXPECT A ONE DAY TURN AROUND FOR LETTERS!</p> <p><b>General Tips</b> If you are returning to school after a long absence, do not return until you are ready to commit fully to the task of doing very well in your academic work. Extensive hours of clinical experience will not make up for a poor academic record.</p>	<p><b>GPA</b> Minimum 3.0 GPA in undergraduate work; science &amp; pre-requisites. Average GPA 3.6 Range 3.0-4.0 No Fs No pattern of Ws</p> <p><b>GRE</b> 1000 total for verbal &amp; quantitative (450 verbal); and 4.5 in analytic</p> <p><b>CLINICAL</b> Minimum 150 hr Prefer varied experiences in acute, outpatient and rehabilitation</p> <p><b>LETTERS REC.</b> Three, two from faculty, one from clinician.</p> <p><b>RESEARCH</b> Recommended to have some "hands on" work.</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY</b> Recommended highly Returning students should take one semester full course load before applic.</p>

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