

# Requirements and Major Preparation for Pre-Physical Therapy

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Requirements to become employed as a Physical Therapist in the State of California are:

- 1) Completion of an accredited program
- 2) Passage of the National Physical Therapist Examination
- 3) Passage of the California Law Examination (CLE) which relates to the practice of physical therapy in California

The first step in pursuing a career as a Physical Therapist is to prepare for a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology, with either a Pre-Physical Therapy or Exercise Science option. All California State Universities offer Kinesiology as a major. Private schools offering a Kinesiology major include University of Southern California, Biola University, Cal Baptist University, Pepperdine University, and La Sierra University. The following universities offer master's and/or doctorate programs in physical therapy: Azusa Pacific University, CSU Long Beach, CSU Northridge, University of Southern California, and Western University of Health Sciences. Each program will vary with required pre-requisite courses. Students are encouraged to obtain information from the specific university for additional requirements. Some universities require volunteer work in physical therapy settings prior to admission to their programs.

The following MSJC courses are recommended preparation for Kinesiology majors and physical therapy programs. Not all courses may be required for a specific program:

Anatomy & Physiology	A&P 101, 102
Biology:	BIOL 100, 115, 125, 150, 151
Chemistry:	CHEM 100, 107, 101, 102
Mathematics:	MATH 105, 110, 140
Physics:	PHYS 101, 102
Psychology:	PSYC 101

An alternative option to becoming a Physical Therapist is to become a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA). The following campuses offer PTA programs: Cerritos College, Loma Linda University, and San Diego Mesa College.

**For additional information and research, students may visit the following websites:**

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)	<a href="http://www.apta.org">www.apta.org</a>
Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy	<a href="http://www.fsbpt.org">www.fsbpt.org</a>
State of CA Dept of Consumer Affairs Physical Therapy Board	<a href="http://www.ptb.ca.gov">www.ptb.ca.gov</a>



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This guide sheet is based upon university course articulation and catalog information at the time of publication. Please check [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) for other universities that might have your major besides the ones shown above.

Note that students are responsible for current major requirements upon transfer to the university. It is advisable to consult with a counselor once a semester for any changes that may occur.

In addition to major requirements, students are advised to complete general education requirements. Applications for admission to the transfer universities are evaluated for completion of lower-division major and general education requirements.

The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (I.G.E.T.C./ Option C) is for UC and CSU transfer students. The CSU General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth/ Option B) requirements are for CSU transfer students.

Note that many independent universities accept IGETC/Option C and CSU- Breath/Option B as meeting their lower division general education requirements.

### CSU Application Filing Period

\*Fall = October 1 – November 30    Winter = June 1-30    Spring = August 1-31    Summer = February 1-28

### UC Application Filing Period

\*Fall = November 1-30    Winter = July 1-31    Spring = October 1-31

\*The Majority of Transfer student are admitted for fall.

### Recommended Web Sites

- UC .....[uctransfer.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://uctransfer.universityofcalifornia.edu)
- CSU Mentor .....[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)
- AICCU (Independent Universities).....[www.aiccu.edu](http://www.aiccu.edu)

Additional resources are available at the Career and Transfer Center. Additional articulation information can be obtained through [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org).