

California State University, Fresno
MASTERS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY-DOCTORATE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY (MPT-DPT)*
Admission Application Instructions for Fall 2010

Two (2) separate Applications are Required.

The online application filing periods for Fall 2010 entry into the MPT-DPT Program are as follow:

1. MPT-DPT Departmental Application via Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS): www.ptcas.org

Application is available beginning July 15, 2009. Firm deadline is December 1, 2009.

2. CSU Graduate Online Application: www.csumentor.edu

Application is available beginning October 1, 2009. Priority filing deadline is November 30, 2009.

All applicants must create a username and password on PTCAS to complete application and retrieve required forms, if needed. There is NO fee until an applicant is ready to submit their application. It is strongly recommended that all applicants also read and follow instructions set by PTCAS to avoid delays in the submission of your application.

All instructions apply whether you are applying for the 3-year or 4-year MPT-DPT program. If you are applying to the 3-year MPT-DPT program, ALL of the pre-professional courses must also be completed with a grade of C or better and a 3.0 GPA (in addition to the 7 pre-requisite courses) by Fall 2010.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Minimum criteria for program admission:

1. Hold or be eligible to receive a bachelor's degree by the end of the spring semester prior to admission to the program.
2. Have completed or be currently enrolled in the specified 7 lower-division prerequisite courses at the time of application. The 7 prerequisite courses are Inorganic/Organic (2 semesters) Chemistry or Bio-Chemistry with labs; Physics with labs (2 semesters); Human Physiology with a lab; Intro to Psychology; and Statistics. All prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to admission to the program. Receive a grade of C or better in each prerequisite course (or equivalents) and maintain a minimum total prerequisite GPA of 3.0. CR/NR grades, correspondence courses or independent study courses cannot be used for prerequisite requirements. Student should verify equivalent coursework if courses are taken at colleges other than Fresno State (check California colleges using www.assist.org). To calculate your GPA go to <http://advising.csufresno.edu/gpa.html>
 - Pre-Professional courses include PH TH 105, 106, 107, 119, 125, 126, 127, BIOL 166, PSYCH 169 & KINES 118.
3. Receive an overall GPA of 3.0 on all upper-division coursework.
4. Take the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) at least 6-weeks before the application deadline date and arrange for ETS to send your official GRE scores directly to Fresno State PT program. Our institutional code is 4321. Please find our address on the last page. Students are encouraged to take the GRE early to avoid delays in acceptance for graduate work.
5. Provide evidence of knowledge of physical therapy through employment, volunteer work, or observation in a physical therapy facility for a minimum of 100 hours; fifty (50) hours of which must be in in-patient care setting (hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc). All observation hours must be verified and under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, and be completed by the application deadline. No Exceptions. *Please see page 2 for instructions on reporting observation hours.*
6. Arrange for three (3) letters of recommendation (reference letters) to be sent to PTCAS on your behalf; ideally one and/or two each from a licensed physical therapist and a non-physical therapy professor. For a complete list of acceptable reference sources, go to www.ptcas.org/CSUFresno.html. *Please see page 2 for instructions on recommendation letters.*
7. Use the "PTCAS Transcript Request Form" to arrange for ALL of your official transcripts to be received in the PTCAS office by the application deadline! Transcripts should be requested prior to the end of the term.
8. It is required for all Fresno State PTCAS applicants to complete a personal essay in response to a standard PTCAS essay question.

A complete application packet includes the following:

1. Submissions of (1) the MPT-DPT Departmental Application for Fall 2010 via PTCAS and pay all required fees, and (2) CSU Graduate Online application for Fall 2010 along with the required \$55.00 fee. This also applies to re-applicants and Fresno State students who will be earning a Baccalaureate degree in Spring or Summer 2009. *Both applications must be submitted by assigned deadlines. NO EXCEPTIONS!*
2. Submission of your official GRE scores directly to the PT Department by the deadline. See our mailing address on the last page. Keep in mind it takes 10-15 days to receive the results of your GRE scores therefore schedule your exam no later than September 2009 so you will have your scores at the time you submit your application. Our institutional code is 4321.
3. Submission of official transcripts from each college and/or university attended to PTCAS by application deadline. See last page for mailing address.
4. Verification of 100 physical therapy observation hours, including fifty (50) hours in in-patient care (hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc). It is **REQUIRED** to have all of your observation hours be verified by a licensed physical therapist and submitted by the application deadline. No Exceptions! Please see instructions on reporting observation hours below:
 - a. **Preferably**, log in to your PTCAS application and use the online electronic PT Hours signature process to verify your PT observation hours. All verifications must be electronically submitted by the application deadline. Alert the PT to watch for an automated email from PTCAS with the subject "PTCAS Observation Hour Verification Request". If the physical therapist does not receive an email from PTCAS, instruct the PT to check spam/junk email folders or provide you with an alternate email address.
 - b. OR, if needed, the PT Observation Hours paper option is also available on the PTCAS website for signature and arrange for the signed form to be mailed directly to PTCAS. If the physical therapist previously signed a different (non-PTCAS) form to verify your hours, attach it to the PTCAS form and send both forms to PTCAS in a single envelope. Send only one signed form per PT experience. Please find the mailing address on the last page.
5. Three (3) letters of recommendation (reference letters): ideally one and/or two from a licensed physical therapist and a non-physical therapy professor. Go to www.ptcas.org/CSUFresno.html for a complete listing of acceptable reference sources. Please see instructions on submitting recommendation letters below:
 - a. **Preferably**, log in to your PTCAS application and use the electronic Letters of Reference (eLOR) option. Alert your evaluator to watch for an automated email from PTCAS with the subject "PTCAS Reference Request". If your evaluator does not receive an email from PTCAS, ask your evaluator to check all spam and junk email file folders or provide an alternate email address.
 - b. OR, if needed, recommendation letters can be submitted by regular mail. Paper references take longer to duplicate and send to your designated PT programs. If the evaluator does not have Internet access, log in to your application and print the PTCAS Reference Form (PDF). Each PTCAS reference form is unique to the applicant and evaluator. The evaluator should complete the paper form and attach it to a signed letter. PT programs may not accept paper references unless a completed form and letter are attached. PTCAS does not verify your references are complete. Paper references must be mailed to PTCAS in a sealed envelope on the evaluator's signed official institutional or business stationery. The letter of reference and PTCAS reference form must arrive together in a single envelope. PTCAS will not accept paper references mailed by applicants. Arrange for only one paper reference to be sent to PTCAS per evaluator.
6. Complete the standard PTCAS essay question.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Application Acknowledgment

All applicants can expect to receive an application acknowledgement within 2-3 weeks of application submission or deadline, whichever occurs first by the applicant. An applicant is invited to participate in a personal interview only if all of the above items are met and submitted by the application deadline. Interviews will be conducted for selected applicants by early February.

The number of applications received is greater than the number of spaces available for the program. Therefore, admission into the Physical Therapy program is competitive. Class sizes are limited to 20 students.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL TRANSFER/OUT-OF-STATE TRANSFER COURSES. To avoid any confusion or delay in processing your application, we recommend you verify course equivalents for any courses not taken at Fresno State with our College Admissions Advisor PRIOR to submitting your application. For our College Admissions Advisor to determine if a course is equivalent, you may be asked to bring in or send a copy of the course syllabus, copy of the course description from the catalog, number of units and grading system. A form of verification from our College Admissions Advisor or the PT Department Chair needs to be included in your application materials (a memo and/or copy of the verification email is appropriate).

- **California School Transfer Courses:** Go to www.assist.org and copy the articulation agreement for any course you are substituting. If there is not a course listed using assist.org, then you need to speak with our College Admissions Advisor, Penny Lacy at (559) 278-6579 or by email: pennyl@csufresno.edu to verify any equivalent courses.
- **Out-of-State Transfer Courses:** Please contact our College Admissions Advisor, Penny Lacy at (559) 278-6579 or via email: pennyl@csufresno.edu to verify any equivalent courses.

FALL 2009 IN-PROGRESS COURSES. Applicants enrolled elsewhere for Fall 2009 must submit a copy of their transcripts or verification of their Fall 2009 grades directly to Physical Therapy Admissions (address below) as soon as they are available to avoid any delays in your application and in order to be considered. Enter your updated fall coursework on your PTCAS application during the Academic Update.

If you are a re-applicant:

If you are a re-applicant from Fall 2009, all documents in your application file will be brought into your Fall 2010 application file. Previous applicants are required to re-apply through PTCAS, however, you will only need to submit (1) a new PTCAS application, (2) all official U.S. transcripts and (3) pay the correct PTCAS fee. Repeat applicants are not required to submit references or any materials unless you wish to submit new additional documents such as experience or coursework. Re-applicant must also submit a Graduate CSU Graduate Application through CSU Mentor. A formal letter indicating that you wish to re-apply to the program must be submitted to the PT Department with a list of any 'new' documents, course grades, etc you wish the committee to consider.

If you are an International Student:

The MPT-DPT program has selective admissions and is a competitive profession in the United States. Fresno State has a limited class size of 20 students. Many students apply more than one time before admitted. As an International student you would be eligible to maintain pre-professional post-baccalaureate status for 2 years. If you were not admitted to the MPT-DPT program you must be accepted in a graduate program at Fresno State to maintain your student status.

PTCAS Application and Troubleshooting

Applicants: Please contact PTCAS directly (info below) if you encounter any problems or have questions when completing the application online. You can also view the FAQ section for answers.

PTCAS Contact and Mailing Information

Arrange for your PTCAS materials to be sent to the address below:

PTCAS
PO BOX 9112
Watertown, MA 02471
Email: ptcasinfo@ptcas.org
Telephone: (617) 612-2040

For overnight documents only (e.g. FedEx), use the street address below:

PTCAS
c/o Liaison International
311 Arsenal Street, Suite 15
Watertown, MA 02472

PLEASE NOTE: PTCAS will not receive your express package if the suite number is missing from the address, or if it arrives on a weekend or Federal holiday. Express delivery does not guarantee delivery or expedite the processing of your application file.

Department of Physical Therapy Contact and Mailing Information:

Graduate Physical Therapy Advisor
Penny Lacy
Email: pennyl@csufresno.edu
Telephone: (559) 278-6579

Physical Therapy Admissions
Department of Physical Therapy
California State University, Fresno
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Fresno, CA 93740-8031
Email: csufresnopt@yahoo.com
Telephone: (559) 278-2625
www.csufresno.edu/physicaltherapy