



2012-13: Doctor of Physical Therapy Programs approved by CSU

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "www.calstate.edu/dpt/prerequisites/". The page header includes the CSU logo and navigation links for Home, Search, and GO. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with links: Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree, Home, About CSU DPT Programs, Prerequisites and Course Offerings (highlighted), Application Requirements, Degree Requirements, Links, and Contact. The main content area features a header image of two healthcare professionals and the title "CSU Doctor of Physical Therapy". Below this is the section "Prerequisites and Course Offerings" with a paragraph stating that applicants must have a bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.00 GPA in prerequisite courses. A bulleted list of CSU campuses is provided: CSU Fresno, CSU Long Beach, CSU Northridge, CSU Sacramento, San Diego State University, and San Francisco State University (noted as offered jointly with the University of California, San Francisco). At the bottom, contact information is listed for Content Contact (Tarita Varner) and Technical Contact (webmaster@calstate.edu). The page is dated "Last Updated: January 06, 2012".

Prerequisites and Course Offerings

Prior to admission, applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree with a minimum or 3.00 in prerequisite courses and be eligible for licensure in the State of California. Prerequisites, degree requirements, and course descriptions can be found at each campus' Department of Physical Therapy website:

- [CSU Fresno](#)
- [CSU Long Beach](#)
- [CSU Northridge](#)
- [CSU Sacramento](#)
- [San Diego State University](#)
- [San Francisco State University](#) (offered jointly with the University of California, San Francisco)

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Last Updated: January 06, 2012

Source: <http://www.calstate.edu/dpt/prerequisites/>

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Monday, October 22, 2012

Physical Therapy Doctorate Launches

The new doctoral program responds to a country-wide shortage of physical therapists.



The three-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program includes instruction, anatomy coursework, clinical laboratory experiences and clinical clerkships and internships.

Story Keywords: Education, Graduate and Research Affairs, Health and Human Services, College Area, Community, Faculty, Staff, Students, Education, Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, Health, Public Health, Research, San Diego, Campaign, Competing Globally, Engaging the Region, Facilities and Services, Home Page, Leadership Starts Here, Leading Innovation and Discovery, News, News Release, People, Graduate Students

By **Natalia Van Stralen**

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San Diego State University's College of Health and Human Services has launched a **Doctor of Physical Therapy Program** – the only state supported program of its kind in the county.

While SDSU's College of Health and Human Services offers a pre-physical therapy concentration in its **School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences**, the new DPT program responds to a growing need for physical therapy professionals across the country. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a nearly 40-percent growth in demand for physical therapists by 2020, as compared to 2010.

A Clinical Laboratory Experience



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Three-year Program
The first two years are didactic instruction while the third year consists primarily of clinical experiences.

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"The program couldn't come in a greater time of need," Marilyn Newhoff, dean of the [College of Health and Human Services](#) said. "There is an expanding population of elderly and returning wounded war veterans, among others, who are in need of physical therapists. We are excited to have a program such as this that supports a growing need in the community."

With its new doctoral program, SDSU is now one of six DPT programs offered by the California State University system. Graduates become licensed physical therapists after passing a national licensure exam and meeting the [state licensure requirements](#). The CSU currently educates one-third of the state's physical therapy graduates.

Practitioners-in-training

The three-year program includes instruction, anatomy coursework, clinical laboratory experiences and clinical clerkships and internships. Presently, SDSU has created partnerships with 50 physical therapy clinical sites offering out-patient and in-patient care, as well as skilled nursing facilities where the students will be interning.

The research component to the DPT program will have faculty and students working to advance the fields of orthopedics, neurology, and other physical therapy areas of practice.

Setting a Standard

The inaugural class of 36 students began their studies in the fall 2012 semester.

"The students are very diverse," Mitchell J. Rauh, DPT program director, said. "While most were kinesiology or biology majors; some of them have a business background; one of them won American's Finest Half Marathon this year and another was a former Aztec softball catcher."

Rauh said the charter class comes with exceptionally high overall academic success too. The class has an overall incoming grade point average of 3.75 and science prerequisite grade point average of 3.7.

Accreditation and Application

The program has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association. The pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education indicates the program is progressing toward accreditation.

Interested students can find out more information about the requirements for application [here](#).

White Coat Ceremony

SDSU's first class of Doctor of Physical Therapy students received their professional coats at the program's inaugural White Coat Ceremony on Oct. 22. Mitchell Rauh, DPT program director, robed the students and Nancy Marlin, SDSU provost, pinned on the students' official name badges.

The White Coat Ceremony marks the students' transition from preclinical to clinical studies. The students will wear their coats during their clerkships and internships.

Marilyn Newhoff, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, and Fred Kolkhorst, director and professor in the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, also participated in the ceremony.

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Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (2014) in Exercise & Nutritional Sciences (ENS)



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Overview, DPT

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- [SDSU MyGAP](#)- Info on SDSU tours, tuition, housing, health services, career services, and more!
- [Doctor of Physical Therapy Student Association \(DPTSA\)](#)

The program is a 3-year program (eight full-time semesters) intended to produce graduates with the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The first two years are didactic instruction while the third year consists primarily of clinical experiences.

DPT Program Primary Goals

- provide students with advanced knowledge and research in the natural, behavioral, applied and health sciences related to the practice of physical therapy,
- prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities related to the acquisition, interpretation, and application of evidence to the practice of physical therapy,
- become life-long learners, participate in professional self-development, and contribute best practices to the profession of physical therapy, and
- prepare students with the knowledge, skill, and attitudes necessary to pass the National Physical Therapy Examination and California Law Examination for licensure in California.



Dr. Kolly Proschler with first-year doctoral students



Mitch Rauh, Program Director

Career Prospective

The DPT is the entry-level degree for physical therapists for which there will be an increased demand as our population ages. The California Employment Development Department estimated that between 2008 and 2018, there will be a need for an additional 4400 physical therapists in the state, which represents a 29% increase. Also, an additional 1,900 DPTs will be needed to replace retirements in the next 10 years.

Accreditation

Effective July 31, 2012, the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at San Diego State University has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidacy is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation. Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates the program is progressing toward accreditation.

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Source: <http://www.dmu.edu/magazine/winter-2010/pursuing-the-path-of-totality/>