## fresno state university physical therapy

**fresno state university physical therapy** is a distinguished program that provides comprehensive education and training for aspiring physical therapists. This program is designed to equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and clinical experience to excel in the field of physical therapy. Fresno State University's commitment to academic excellence, combined with its state-of-the-art facilities and experienced faculty, makes it a prime choice for those pursuing a career in rehabilitation sciences. The curriculum integrates theoretical coursework with hands-on practice, ensuring students are well-prepared to meet the healthcare needs of diverse populations. Additionally, the program emphasizes evidence-based practice, professional ethics, and community engagement, fostering well-rounded healthcare professionals. This article will explore various aspects of Fresno State University physical therapy, including program details, admission requirements, clinical opportunities, and career prospects.

- Program Overview
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## **Program Overview**

The Fresno State University physical therapy program is designed to prepare students for licensure and professional practice as physical therapists. The program offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, which is a clinical doctorate focusing on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of movement disorders. Fresno State ensures that students gain a solid foundation in both the sciences and the art of physical therapy, integrating anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, and therapeutic techniques.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), which guarantees that it meets rigorous national standards for quality education. Students graduate with the skills necessary to provide high-quality care in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers, and community health organizations.

#### **Mission and Vision**

Fresno State University physical therapy aligns its mission to produce competent, compassionate, and ethical physical therapists who are leaders in their field. The vision emphasizes advancing the profession through innovative education, research, and community service. The program fosters

lifelong learning and professional development to adapt to evolving healthcare needs.

#### **Curriculum and Coursework**

The curriculum of Fresno State University physical therapy is comprehensive and structured to cover theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The program typically spans three years of full-time study, culminating in a DPT degree. Coursework is carefully designed to build expertise progressively, beginning with foundational sciences and moving toward advanced clinical practice.

#### **Core Courses**

Students engage in a series of core courses that cover essential topics in physical therapy, including:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Kinesiology and Biomechanics
- Neuroscience for Rehabilitation
- Pathophysiology and Medical Conditions
- Therapeutic Exercise and Modalities
- Pharmacology related to Physical Therapy
- Clinical Reasoning and Evidence-Based Practice

## **Interprofessional Education**

Fresno State emphasizes interprofessional collaboration, encouraging students to work alongside other healthcare professionals. This approach promotes comprehensive patient care and prepares students to function effectively in multidisciplinary teams.

## **Admission Requirements**

Admission to the Fresno State University physical therapy program is competitive and requires applicants to meet specific academic and experiential criteria. The program seeks candidates who demonstrate academic excellence, commitment to the profession, and strong interpersonal skills.

### **Academic Prerequisites**

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree or be in the final stages of fulfilling one, with

prerequisite coursework including:

- General Chemistry with Lab
- · Biology with Lab
- Physics with Lab
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Psychology
- Statistics

#### **Additional Requirements**

Beyond coursework, applicants are expected to provide:

- GRE (Graduate Record Examination) scores
- Letters of recommendation
- Documentation of observation or volunteer hours in physical therapy settings
- A personal statement outlining career goals and motivations

Applicants may also undergo interviews as part of the selection process to assess communication skills and professionalism.

## **Clinical Education and Practical Training**

Practical experience is a critical component of the Fresno State University physical therapy program. Students participate in multiple clinical rotations that allow them to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings under professional supervision.

#### **Clinical Rotations**

Clinical education takes place in a variety of healthcare environments, including:

- Acute care hospitals
- Outpatient rehabilitation clinics
- · Skilled nursing and long-term care facilities

- Pediatric and geriatric specialized centers
- Community health and wellness programs

These rotations provide exposure to diverse patient populations and a range of physical therapy interventions, fostering clinical competence and confidence.

### **Simulation and Laboratory Work**

In addition to clinical placements, Fresno State offers simulation labs equipped with advanced technology to enhance hands-on learning. These labs allow students to practice assessment techniques, manual therapy, and therapeutic exercises in a controlled environment before entering clinical sites.

### **Faculty and Facilities**

The Fresno State University physical therapy program boasts a team of experienced and dedicated faculty members who are experts in various specialties within physical therapy. Faculty members are involved in both teaching and research, contributing to the program's dynamic academic environment.

## **Faculty Expertise**

Faculty qualifications include clinical certifications, advanced degrees, and active participation in professional organizations. Their expertise spans orthopedics, neurology, pediatrics, sports medicine, and geriatrics, ensuring a broad spectrum of knowledge to support student learning.

#### **Facilities and Resources**

The program is housed in modern facilities that include:

- State-of-the-art laboratories for anatomy and movement analysis
- Dedicated classrooms with multimedia capabilities
- Simulation centers with mannequins and virtual reality tools
- Physical therapy clinics providing outpatient services to the community

These resources enhance the educational experience and prepare students for clinical excellence.

### **Career Opportunities and Outcomes**

Graduates of the Fresno State University physical therapy program are well-prepared to enter the workforce as licensed physical therapists. The program's strong reputation and comprehensive training contribute to high employment rates and diverse career opportunities.

#### **Licensure and Certification**

Upon completion of the DPT program, graduates are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE), a requirement for state licensure. Fresno State's curriculum aligns with licensure requirements, ensuring graduates meet all professional standards.

#### **Employment Settings**

Physical therapists trained at Fresno State find employment in a variety of settings, including:

- Hospitals and acute care centers
- Outpatient rehabilitation clinics
- Sports and fitness facilities
- · Home health care agencies
- Schools and pediatric therapy centers
- Research and academic institutions

#### **Professional Growth**

The program encourages graduates to pursue continuing education and specialization in areas such as orthopedics, neurology, or pediatrics. Alumni benefit from Fresno State's strong network and support for lifelong learning and professional development.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

# What physical therapy programs does Fresno State University offer?

Fresno State University offers a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program designed to prepare students for careers as licensed physical therapists.

# Is Fresno State University's physical therapy program accredited?

Yes, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Fresno State University is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

# What are the admission requirements for Fresno State's physical therapy program?

Admission requirements typically include a bachelor's degree, completion of prerequisite courses in sciences, a competitive GPA, letters of recommendation, and relevant healthcare experience.

# Does Fresno State University provide clinical internship opportunities for physical therapy students?

Yes, Fresno State's physical therapy program includes clinical internships at various healthcare facilities to provide hands-on experience.

# What career support services are available for physical therapy students at Fresno State?

The university offers career counseling, job placement assistance, and networking opportunities with alumni and local healthcare providers for physical therapy students.

# How long is the physical therapy program at Fresno State University?

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Fresno State typically takes three years to complete after fulfilling prerequisite coursework.

# What is the tuition cost for Fresno State University's physical therapy program?

Tuition varies based on residency status; prospective students should check Fresno State's official website for the most current tuition and fee information for the DPT program.

### **Additional Resources**

- 1. Foundations of Physical Therapy at Fresno State University
  This comprehensive textbook provides an introduction to physical therapy principles taught at Fresno State University. It covers essential anatomy, kinesiology, and therapeutic techniques with a focus on practical application within the university's curriculum. Students will find detailed case studies and exercises tailored to Fresno State's clinical training approach.
- 2. Clinical Practice and Patient Care: Fresno State Physical Therapy Perspectives
  This book explores clinical best practices and patient care strategies emphasized in Fresno State's

physical therapy program. It highlights patient assessment, treatment planning, and rehabilitation methods with real-world examples from the university's affiliated clinics. The text is valuable for students and practitioners aiming to enhance their clinical decision-making skills.

- 3. Rehabilitation Science: Innovations from Fresno State University
  Focusing on recent advancements, this book presents cutting-edge rehabilitation science research conducted by Fresno State faculty and students. Topics include neurorehabilitation, musculoskeletal therapy, and adaptive technology. It serves as a resource for those interested in the latest therapeutic innovations and evidence-based practice.
- 4. Physical Therapy Ethics and Professionalism at Fresno State
  This volume addresses the ethical considerations and professional standards integral to Fresno
  State's physical therapy education. It discusses patient rights, confidentiality, and the therapist's role
  in multidisciplinary teams. The book encourages reflective practice and ethical decision-making in
  clinical environments.
- 5. Exercise Physiology and Wellness in Fresno State's Physical Therapy Curriculum
  Detailing the role of exercise physiology in physical therapy, this book aligns closely with Fresno State's educational approach to promoting wellness and injury prevention. It covers metabolic responses to exercise, therapeutic exercise prescription, and lifestyle modification techniques. The text supports students in developing holistic treatment plans.
- 6. Neurological Rehabilitation Techniques at Fresno State University
  This specialized book delves into neurological rehabilitation methods taught at Fresno State, including motor control, sensory integration, and functional mobility training. It provides clinical guidelines and therapeutic exercises for patients with stroke, spinal cord injuries, and other neurological conditions. The content is enriched with faculty research and student case reports.
- 7. Orthopedic Physical Therapy: Fresno State Clinical Applications
  Focused on orthopedic conditions, this book presents evaluation and treatment protocols emphasized in Fresno State's physical therapy courses. It includes chapters on joint mobilization, manual therapy, and post-surgical rehabilitation. The book is designed to prepare students for hands-on clinical experiences and board certification.
- 8. Fresno State Physical Therapy Research Methods and Evidence-Based Practice
  This text introduces research methodology and evidence-based practice principles as taught at
  Fresno State University. Students learn to critically appraise scientific literature, conduct clinical
  research, and apply findings to improve patient outcomes. The book promotes a culture of inquiry and
  lifelong learning in physical therapy.
- 9. Community Health and Physical Therapy Outreach: Fresno State Initiatives
  Highlighting Fresno State's commitment to community engagement, this book discusses physical
  therapy outreach programs and public health initiatives led by the university. It covers strategies for
  health promotion, injury prevention, and access to care in diverse populations. The text inspires
  students to consider the broader social impact of their profession.

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fresno state university physical therapy: Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Health Helda Pinzon-Perez, Miguel A. Pérez, 2016-06-17 Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Health: A Multicultural Perspective provides a critical analysis of non-allopathic healing practices, including their uses, limitations, and scientific basis. The evidence-based discussion explores complementary, alternative, and integrative health (CAIH) across various cultural and ethnic groups both in the U.S. and internationally, to give you a greater understanding of the different modalities—including a literature-backed examination of proven methods and questionable practices within a cross-cultural framework. Each chapter highlights the scientific analysis of the practices relevant to each group, and guides you toward independent analysis of the risks and benefits of the practices discussed. Emphasizing the student as a future health professional, this book includes case studies, examples, questions, and discussion problems that underscore the role of health educators in educating consumers about CAIH practices.

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Darcy Umphred, this classic neurology text provides problem-solving strategies that are key to individualized, effective care. UNIQUE! Emerging topics are covered in detail, including chapters such as Movement Development Across the Lifespan, Health and Wellness: The Beginning of the Paradigm, Documentation, and Cardiopulmonary Interactions. UNIQUE! A section on neurological problems accompanying specific system problems includes hot topics such as poor vision, pelvic floor dysfunction, and pain. A problem-solving approach helps you apply your knowledge to examinations, evaluations, prognoses, and intervention strategies. Evidence-based research sets up best practices, covering topics such as the theory of neurologic rehabilitation, screening and diagnostic tests, treatments and interventions, and the patient's psychosocial concerns Information. Case studies use real-world examples to promote problem-solving skills. Non-traditional approaches to neurological interventions in the Alternative and Complementary Therapies chapter include the movement approach, energy approach, and physical body system approaches therapies. Terminology adheres to the best practices of the APTA as well as other leading physical therapy organizations, following The Guide to Physical Therapy Practice, the Nagi model, and the ICF World Health Model of patient empowerment. Updated illustrations provide current visual references. NEW chapters on imaging and robotics have been added. Updated chapters incorporate the latest advances and the newest information in neuroscience and intervention strategies. Student resources on an Evolve companion website include references with links to MEDLINE and more.

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Kathleen A. Curtis, 1999 The Physical Therapist's Guide to Health Care is the simple, clear approach
to understanding health care in today's changing environment. This book provides a strategy based
approach to help physical therapists successfully manage change and meet the challenges of clinical
practice in common practice settings. This essential text includes an introduction to health care that
covers the basics of health care financing, health care reimbursement systems, cost containment
strategies and referral services. Important issues covered in this book include trends in acute,
subacute, home health care practice, outcomes management and prevention. Chapters include
information on health care reimbursement systems and cost containment strategies, time and
caseload management, documentation requirements, quality management in physical therapy, and
the role of the physical therapist in prevention and wellness. Check out our new website dedicated
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Kathleen A. Curtis is the winner of the "President's Award of Excellence" for 2005 at California State
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fresno state university physical therapy: The PTA Handbook Kathleen A. Curtis, Peggy DeCelle Newman, 2024-06-01 The updated Second Edition of The PTA Handbook is a unique textbook that serves students from pre-admission into a physical therapist assistant program, through the academic program, up to career entry and practice as a physical therapist assistant. Dr. Kathleen A. Curtis and Peggy DeCelle Newman have updated this Second Edition to reflect current practice standards, including updated core professional documents addressing direction and supervision to align with developments in the physical therapy profession. The PTA Handbook, Second Edition expands on the popular first edition and includes an overview of the physical therapy profession, the physical therapist (PT) - physical therapist assistant (PTA) preferred relationship, evidenced-based practice and information literacy, diversity and cultural proficiency, and planning for life-long learning and leadership development. What is new in the Second Edition: • Includes key documents that guide the provision of physical therapy services and describe the relationship between delivery of care by the PT and PTA • Career development strategies for the PTA, including criteria for Recognition of Advanced Proficiency for the Physical Therapist Assistant and leadership roles in professional, clinical, and community contexts • Case studies and "Putting It Into Practice" exercises are user-friendly, realistic approaches to enhance student learning and comprehension through immediate and meaningful application of the topic being discussed • Written as a strategy-based guide to success for PTA students in meeting the required demands and expectations during a PTA program as well as in practice in the field The PTA Handbook, Second Edition also covers information that will assist advisors and counselors in college and work re-entry programs to provide guidance regarding the physical therapy profession and specifically the differing roles of the PTA and PT. This text will also serve as a key guide for groups of 21st century learners frequently seeking PTA education, including first-generation college students, adult learners, career re-entry, second-language learners, and learners with disabilities. The PTA Handbook: Keys to Success in School and Career for the Physical Therapist Assistant, Second Edition is an essential reference for students, educators, advisors and counselors, and therapy managers who want to maximize the potential for success of the PTA.

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educational transformation that included the spread of the merit system; the increase in ethnic, racial, gender, and social diversity among students and faculty; and a massive increase in research and knowledge.

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