



## **Xavier–University of Southern California Doctor of Physical Therapy Early Assurance Program**

(updated 4/22/19; copy and paste URLs or keywords if links do not work)

[The Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy at the University of Southern California \(USC PT\)](#) and Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) have established an Early Assurance Program (EAP) to advance the success of students who desire to attend and complete physical therapy school and enter the physical therapy profession in order to contribute as leaders in the physical therapy workforce. The EAP is not an accelerated program. Rather, it is a competitive program offered to students at XULA in their sophomore year who are committed to a career in physical therapy. The EAP is designed for students who wish to make the most of their undergraduate experience without having to apply to multiple schools in their final year of college. The collaboration offers an opportunity for students to develop skills in their preparation for physical therapy school through junior summer experiences and interactions with USC PT faculty and staff. USC PT seeks applicants who will benefit from these experiences and who will add to our community of learners through the diversity of their background and experiences.

### Application Requirements:

- Academically qualified students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher and a science GPA of 3.2 or higher at the end of their sophomore year (spring semester) may apply to the USC PT EAP. Classes that are included in science GPA are as follows:
  - Biological Sciences: General Biology I & II, Anatomy, & Physiology
  - Chemistry: General Chemistry I & II, Biochemistry I & II (if taken instead of or as a supplement to General Chemistry)
  - Physics: General Physics I & II
- Students will be required to submit at least three (3) letters of recommendation as a part of the EAP application. The recommendations should come from individual faculty members who taught the applicant and, if available at the time of EAP application, a physical therapist who supervised the applicant during shadowing/observation opportunities.
  - NOTE: If the applicant is granted conditional acceptance via EAP and did NOT submit a recommendation letter from a physical therapist during the initial EAP application process, the student will be REQUIRED to submit a letter from at least one (1) physical therapist(s) as a part of the [PTCAS](#) application (i.e. summer between junior and senior years).
- Before completing their undergraduate degree, applicants must complete the courses currently required by USC PT: (it is strongly encouraged that the following courses be completed at XULA)
  - **Biological Sciences:** A general biology series (Biology I and Biology II) with labs (8 semester hours).
  - **Chemistry:** A general chemistry series (Chemistry I and Chemistry II) with labs (8 semester hours). A biochemistry series (Biochemistry I and Biochemistry II) with labs (8 semester hours) will also satisfy this requirement.

- **Physics:** A general physics series (Physics I and Physics II) with labs (8 semester hours).
- **Anatomy:** A human anatomy course with lab (4 semester hours).
- **Physiology:** A human physiology course with lab (4 semester hours).  
*NOTE: A combined two-course sequence in Anatomy & Physiology with lab (8 semester hours) will also satisfy the Anatomy and the Physiology requirements.*
- **Psychology:** Two courses in psychology (totaling 6 semester hours). These courses may include general psychology, abnormal psychology, developmental psychology, psychology of disability, etc.
- **Statistics and Mathematics:** One college-level statistics course is required (3 semester hours). Courses taken within the biology, mathematics and psychology departments are acceptable. An additional college-level geometry or trigonometry course is recommended (but not required).
- Students applying to the USC PT EAP are strongly encouraged to successfully complete the following classes prior to submitting an application after their sophomore year (i.e. the completion of the spring semester of sophomore year):
  - **Chemistry:** A general chemistry series (Chemistry I and Chemistry II) with labs (8 semester hours).
  - **Biological Sciences:** A general biology series (Biology I and Biology II) with labs (8 semester hours).
- If accepted via EAP, students will be required to take the GRE and submit official scores to USC before they enroll. It is recommended that EAP accepted students prepare to take the GRE as early as the summer after junior year (e.g. June-July) but no later than the end of the fall semester of senior year (December). GRE scores will be used primarily for advising and course placement.

#### Application Process:

- The USC PT Early Assurance Program (EAP) application will be made available to students early in the spring of sophomore year.
- At least three (3) letters of recommendation must be submitted as a part of the EAP application. The recommendations should come from individual faculty members who taught the applicant and, if available at the time of EAP application, a physical therapist who supervised the applicant during shadowing/observation opportunities.
  - NOTE: If the applicant is granted conditional acceptance via EAP and does NOT submit a recommendation letter from a physical therapist during the initial EAP application process, the student will be REQUIRED to submit a letter from at least one (1) physical therapist as a part of the [PTCAS](#) application (i.e. summer between junior and senior years).
- The EAP application deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup> following the spring semester of the applicant's sophomore year.
- After preliminary review of the application by the Admissions Committee, qualified students will be invited to interview at USC in the summer following their sophomore year.
- The USC PT Admissions Committee will make decisions regarding acceptance into the EAP. The Committee considers academic record, background, diverse experiences and perspectives, career potential for leadership, maturity, strong letters of support, and a passion for service as key factors in the selection decision.

- Students will be notified of a final decision in the fall semester of their junior year. Students who are NOT accepted into the EAP may apply to USC PT as a regular applicant through the [PTCAS](#) pathway during their senior year or later and are encouraged to do so.
- Candidates admitted to the EAP must reply with their decision to accept or decline the offer within two weeks of the initial offer. Students accepting the invitation to join the EAP are required to submit an early decision application through [PTCAS](#) to USC PT in the summer before their senior year (PTCAS typically opens in early July). Students may not apply to other physical therapy programs through PTCAS without first withdrawing from the USC PT EAP.

#### Additional Benefits to EAP Accepted Students:

- Once admitted to USC PT EAP, students will receive mentoring and individualized attention to help them achieve success in their education and become leaders in their field.
- Summer opportunities will be available (but not required) for students to gain research and clinical experience.

#### Requirements for Maintaining Eligibility of EAP Acceptance to USC PT:

- Students will be required to complete a minimum of 150 hours of clinical experience in a physical therapy setting by the beginning of their senior year. This work requirement can be completed in a volunteer or paid capacity.
- Acceptance to USC PT is contingent upon the continued performance of the student at a comparable level for the last two years of their undergraduate degree while carrying a normal course load. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 is required. Continued commitment to service is expected.
- Students will be required to take the GRE and their official scores must be received by USC before they enroll. It is recommended that EAP accepted students take the GRE as early as the summer after junior year (e.g. June) but no later than the end of the fall semester of senior year (December). GRE scores will be used primarily for advising and course placement.
- Students accepting the invitation to join the EAP are required to submit an early decision application through [PTCAS](#) to USC PT in the summer before their senior year (PTCAS typically opens in early July). Students may not apply to other physical therapy programs through PTCAS without first withdrawing from the USC PT EAP. Satisfactory completion of all of USC PT prerequisite courses prior to graduation.
- Students who did NOT submit a recommendation letter from a physical therapist during the initial EAP application process will be REQUIRED to submit a letter from at least one (1) physical therapist as a part of the [PTCAS](#) application (i.e. summer between junior and senior years).
- Any disciplinary actions or charges brought against the student by his/her college or civil authorities will mandate a review of the application and may result in a revocation of the acceptance.