Physical Therapy (PT) programs typically require students to first earn a bachelor’s degree that includes courses such as those noted below. Kinesiology is a common pre-physical therapy baccalaureate major although any major is acceptable. Many PT programs are at the Master’s degree level; increasingly PT is offered at the Doctoral degree level. In addition to pre-PT courses, there are university admission requirements such as English Composition, Critical Thinking, Speech Communication, and Math. Because requirements vary, you should complete the courses required by the university where you wish to earn your bachelor’s degree. PT Assistant programs are offered by some community colleges. An online directory of accredited Physical Therapist (PT) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) programs is available at http://www.apta.org/ProspectiveStudents. The COS courses PEMA 1035 – Introduction to Athletic Training and PEMA 1036 – Clinical Experience in Athletic Training provide experience in physical therapy.

Typical Physical Therapy Course Prerequisites
As an example, following are the College of the Siskiyous courses that are required to enter the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at CSU, Sacramento. Although requirements are different at each university, these courses are typical of those required by other Physical Therapy programs. Source: CSUS 2011-12 catalog.

- BIO 0891 Biology Preparation (prerequisite for COS BIO 2800)
- BIO 2700 Human Anatomy
- BIO 2800 Human Physiology
- CHEM 1000 or 2000 Chemistry
- CHEM 1100 or 2100 Chemistry
- COMS 1100 or 1200 Public Speaking or Small Group Communication
- MATH 0980 Intermediate Algebra (prerequisite for Chemistry and Statistics)
- MATH 1050 Elementary Statistics
- PSY 1001 General Psychology
- PSY_____ Another Psychology course (Abnormal or Aging or Child or Social Psych)
- PHYS 1105 General Physics I
- PHYS 1110 General Physics II

With completion of the following COS courses, all the CSU General Education requirements will be fulfilled.

- ENGL 1001
- ENGL 1502
- Area C1 Arts course
- Area C2 Humanities course
- Area C1 or C2 Arts or Humanities course
- HIST 1017 or 1018
- POLS 1001

Accredited West Coast Physical Therapy Programs
California: Azusa Pacific University, CSU Fresno, CSU Long Beach, CSU Northridge, CSU Sacramento, Chapman University, Loma Linda University, Mount St. Mary’s College, Samuel Merritt College, UC San Francisco/San Francisco State University, University of Southern California, University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, University of the Pacific, and Western University of Health Sciences.
Oregon: Pacific University.