



USC Division of Biokinesiology  
and Physical Therapy



**University of Southern California Division of Biokinesiology & Physical Therapy (USC PT)  
and  
Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA)  
Early Assurance Program (EAP) Frequently Asked Questions**

**1) Who is eligible to apply to the USC/XULA EAP program?**

*XULA students in their sophomore year who are committed to a career in physical therapy are eligible to apply for the USC/XULA EAP.*

**2) What are the application requirements for the USC/XULA EAP?**

- *Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher and a science GPA of 3.2 or higher at the end of their sophomore year*
  - **Classes included in science GPA:** Biological Sciences (General Biology I & II, Anatomy & Physiology), Chemistry (General Chemistry I & II, Biochemistry I & II, Organic Chemistry I & II), Physics (General Physics I & II)
- *Classes Required prior to completing undergraduate degree:*
  - **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). (A combined two-course sequence in anatomy and physiology with lab (8 semester hours) will also satisfy this requirement.)
  - **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 with lab is required (3 semester hours). Courses taken within the biology, mathematics and psychology departments are accepted. An additional college-level geometry or trigonometry course is recommended (but not required).
- *Classes that are strongly encouraged to be completed prior to applying to EAP:*
  - **Biological Sciences:** General Biology I & II with labs (8 semester hours)
  - **Chemistry:** General Chemistry I & II with labs (8 semester hours)
- *Students will be required to submit at least 3 letters of recommendation from a combination of university faculty, physical therapists, mentors, etc. (Academic letters must be written by a college level professor)*

- Submission of letters from physical therapists during applicant's Junior/Senior year is acceptable.

**3) When will the USC/XULA EAP come into effect?**

*USC will start accepting applications in spring of 2020.*

**4) How do I get access to the application for the USC/XULA EAP?**

*There will be an online link to the application that you will be able to access through XULA's Premed office/ website. Please make sure you have a working email address on file with XULA's Premed office to ensure you receive all pertinent information and documents regarding the EAP application.*

**5) When is the EAP deadline for applications being submitted in 2020?**

*May 31, 2020. May 31<sup>st</sup> will deadline for future application cycles unless specifically stated otherwise.*

**6) Do I have to take the GRE to apply to the EAP?**

*Students do not need to take the GRE before applying to the EAP, but, if accepted, they will need to take the GRE in time for their official scores to be received before they enroll. The score will be used primarily for advising and course placement.*

**7) Will interviews be a part of the application process?**

*Yes. Qualified students will be invited to interview at USC in the summer following their sophomore year.*

**8) When will I know if I am accepted into the USC/XULA EAP?**

*Applicants will be notified of a final decision in the fall semester of their junior year.*

**9) What if I am not accepted in to the USC/XULA EAP?**

*Applicants who are not accepted into the EAP may apply to USC PT as a regular applicant through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) during their senior year or later.*

**10) If accepted into the EAP, how long do I have to accept/decline the initial offer?**

*Accepted applicants must reply with their decision to accept/decline the offer from USC PT within 2 weeks of initial offer.*

**11) Will there be mentoring and other hands-on opportunities available to me if I am accepted into the EAP?**

*Yes. Summer opportunities will be available (but not required) for students to gain clinical and research experience. Once admitted to USC PT EAP, students will receive mentoring to ensure success in their education.*

**12) After I am accepted in to the EAP, do I still need to fill out the PTCAS application?**

*Yes. Accepted students are required to submit a **PTCAS application** to USC PT by the stated deadline before or during their senior year.*

**13) If accepted into the EAP, can I also apply to other physical therapy programs through PTCAS?**

*Students may not apply to other physical therapy programs through PTCAS without first withdrawing from the USC PT EAP.*

**14) What are the requirements to maintain good standing in the EAP while I finish my degree at XULA?**

- *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. (hours can be paid or volunteer experience)*
- *Continued commitment to service is expected*
- *Satisfactory completion of all USC PT prerequisite courses prior to graduation*
- *Maintain cumulative GPA of 3.2 while continuing to carry a normal case load*
- *Any disciplinary action or charges brought against the student by his/her college or civil authorities will mandate a review of the application and may result in revocation of initial acceptance*