

APPLICATION PROCESS

This page is intended to assist you in knowing how to apply to our program - including important dates and processes.

Application Deadlines

Please pay close attention to Loma Linda University (LLU) DPT deadlines, as failing to submit your application through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) by these dates can be problematic.

DPT Recommended Deadline – September 1st:

The DPT department strongly encourages you to submit your application by **September 1st**. PTCAS will open early in July giving you plenty of time to complete your application and submit it. Please note that to submit your application you do not need to have all of your course work completed, nor have your transcripts, letters of recommendation, or observation hours received by PTCAS. To submit your application you will have to complete all the sections, pay the fee, and click submit. Submitting your application by September 1st will place you in a sub-group that will receive preference to those that submit after September 1st.

DPT Priority Deadline – October 1:

Students that submit their application by October 1st will be in our priority group. Applicants that submit their application between September 2nd and October 1st will be in the second group to be reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Our Admissions Committee generally will fill most, if not all of our class with those that apply by our recommended and priority deadline.

Final Deadline – November 2:

The DPT department will not accept any applications after November 2.

Secondary Application: You will have two weeks to complete your secondary application upon receiving it from LLU. For example, if you receive the email from LLU inviting you to complete your secondary application on August 11th you will have two weeks to complete your application from August 11th. Our application process will officially end on December 30th. What this means is we will not be accepting any secondary applications after December 30th. Therefore, if you submitted your application on September 15th, but there has been a hold up with your transcripts and you do not receive your secondary application until December 22nd, you will only have until December 30th to complete your secondary application. At the same time, if there is a hold up with your transcripts and PTCAS does not mail your application to LLU until January 5th, you have missed the secondary application deadline and will not be considered for admissions. We strongly recommend that you submit your application early, in

July, and check your PTCAS portal weekly to ensure they have received all your transcripts and have mailed your application to the schools you have applied to.

Application Process

To begin the process with LLU, you will first need to submit an application through www.ptcas.org. PTCAS is where you will send your letters of recommendation, observations hours, and all of your college transcripts that are from a regionally accredited school. As stated earlier, you can submit your application while you are waiting for your transcripts, letters of recommendation, and observations hours to be received.

When filling out your PTCAS application we recommend that you have a set of transcripts in front of you. There will be a “coursework” section where you will need to enter every class that you have taken, the amount of units, which term you completed the class in, and the grade you received. PTCAS will then use your official transcripts to verify this information.

Once you have submitted your application through PTCAS you will be coded as “received”. PTCAS will need your transcripts to verify your application. It is important that you request an official transcript be sent from each college you have attended directly to PTCAS. Transcripts can hold up your application from being verified, so it is important to request your transcripts early. PTCAS will not evaluate and verify your application until an official transcript has been received from each school you have attended. To be considered “official transcripts” they must be sent directly from each school to PTCAS. After your application has been “verified” PTCAS will mail your application to LLU.

Each year we have individuals who submitted their application to PTCAS in a timely manner, but then transcripts were never received by PTCAS and so their application was not verified and sent to Loma Linda University. We strongly recommend that you log in to PTCAS on a regular basis and monitor the receipt of your transcripts by PTCAS. If they are not receiving a transcript from a particular school, be sure to follow up until a transcript is received.

LLU will email you a link for the secondary application 2-5 business from when we receive your application from PTCAS. You will have two weeks to complete the secondary application. There are no fees associated with the secondary application. You are not an official LLU applicant until your secondary application has been received.

Transcripts

All transcripts will need to be sent to PTCAS. You will want to make sure that PTCAS does indeed receive your transcripts. Do not assume that just because you requested your transcripts

to be sent, that PTCAS did receive them. Sometimes transcripts get lost in the mail and it would be prudent to follow up and see that all your transcripts have been received. LLU will not need official transcripts to be sent in directly to LLU unless you have been accepted.

Letters of Recommendation

We require a total of three letters of recommendation. It does not matter who writes your letters of recommendation except that we will not accept them from family members. We recommend that you select three individuals that between the three of them, can give a well-rounded picture of who you are. There will be a section on PTCAS where you can enter your recommenders email address and PTCAS will forward a form for them to fill out and email back to PTCAS.

When you are filling out the secondary application, you do not need to list the same names that you have already listed on PTCAS. It is appropriate to state "See PTCAS."

Observation Hours

A total of 80 observation hours will need to be completed before the program begins in June; 20 hours in an in-patient setting, 20 hours in an out-patient setting, and the remaining 40 hours may be completed in a setting of your choice. You may have your hours verified through PTCAS by entering the physical therapist's email address on your PTCAS application. You do not need to have all of your hours completed by the time you submit your application, but we strongly recommend that you have completed some of your hours by this point.

It is best to submit your hours through PTCAS as then all schools that you have applied to will receive the information. However, if the clinic has given you written documentation of your hours, you can mail a copy of that documentation to LLU.

Updates

If you have finished a class and need to have your file updated with your new grade please email Heather Hebron-Roybal at hhebron@llu.edu to have your application and evaluation updated. Yes, PTCAS does have an update option, but LLU will not receive the update until after we have selected our class. To be used in the Admission process, updates with unofficial grades need to be emailed to Heather by December 23.

Interviews

The DPT department will interview about 200 applicants with the Committee granting interviews solely based on GPA. During the transcript evaluation process we will prescreen every applicant. You must have a 3.3 prescreened science GPA to be moved on to the next round. The DPT department reserves the right to deny any applicant who has a prescreened GPA lower than 3.3 at the time the application is reviewed. If you have a 3.3 prescreened science GPA or higher

your file will be sent to our Admissions office to have an official evaluation completed. Your GPA on the official evaluation will be the deciding factor on who will receive an interview. If you are granted an interview the Committee will take into consideration your work experience, volunteer hours, mission service, grades, and letters of recommendation.

Interviews are one-on-one with a faculty member and will last about 30 minutes. We will have first and second year students here to speak with you about the program and to take you on a tour of the campus. Interviews may begin as early as September or October, but are not guaranteed to begin until December. Decisions for acceptance are usually made in December and January with our program beginning in June.

Grades

To be considered competitive for our DPT program one will need a 3.6 GPA across the board (science, non-science, and overall) and in the past several years our accepted students have averaged a 3.7 GPA. We are recommending that applicants be at a competitive GPA level by the end of summer as we cannot promise we will wait for fall term grades.

Retaking a Course

If you retake a course we will count the most recent grade, up to two retakes (your third time taking a class). If you received a “C” in General Chemistry I and retake the class now receiving an “A”, we will drop the “C” and count the “A”.

If for some reason you do not do well the second time or third time you take the class and take the class for a fourth time, we will count the grade you received on your third attempt.

Review of Application Process

1. Apply early to www.ptcas.org (shortly after July 1)
2. Request official transcripts be sent to PTCAS
3. Monitor receipt of official transcripts by PTCAS
4. PTCAS will verify your application and send it to all the schools you applied to
5. Expect an email from LLU within one week after your PTCAS application has been sent to us that will include the link to the secondary application
6. Submit your secondary application within two weeks of receiving the email
7. Interviews granted in December
8. Admissions granted in December and/or January
9. Feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions on the process – you are not bothering us - that is what we are here for. Heather Hebron-Roybal (hhebron@llu.edu), Larry Chinnock (lchinnock@llu.edu)