

Physical Therapy Technical Standards

The abilities that a physical therapist must have to practice safely are those described in accreditation standards for the physical therapy program. *Candidates for the degree must be able to meet these minimum standards for successful completion of degree requirements.*

When a student is admitted to the Physical Therapy Program, a list of the technical standards is sent with each acceptance letter. **Students must respond in writing whether they can meet the standards with or without accommodations.** If accommodation is requested, the student must submit documentation of disability with proposed accommodation from a certified specialist to the Office of Student Affairs and Program Director. The University will determine and provide reasonable accommodation to qualified students with a disability to enable them to meet these technical standards.

Standards

- **Observation:** Observation requires the functional use of vision, hearing and somatic sensations. A student must be able to participate in lecture and laboratory demonstrations, and must be able to observe a patient accurately, observe digital and waveform readings and other graphic images to determine a patient's condition.
- **Communication:** Communication includes speech, language, reading, writing and computer literacy. Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients to elicit information regarding mood and activities, as well as perceive non-verbal communications. Students must also be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with other members of the health care community to convey information essential for safe and effective care.
- **Sensory and motor function:** Students are required to possess motor skills sufficient to directly perform palpation, auscultation, muscle testing, range of motion and other examination procedures. Students must be able to execute motor movements required to provide general and therapeutic care, such as positioning heavy and/or immobile patients, gait training using therapeutic aids and orthotics, positioning and performing manual mobilization techniques, performing non-surgical wound debridement, and placing electromyography electrodes. These skills require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, the integrated use of touch and vision.
- **Intellectual abilities:** To effectively solve problems, students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information in a timely fashion. The student must be able to synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a patient's history and examination findings to develop an effective treatment program.
- **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** A student must possess the psychological ability required for the full utilization of their intellectual abilities, for the exercise of good judgment, for the prompt completion of all responsibilities inherent to diagnosis and care of patients, and for the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to a changing environment, display flexibility and function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. Students must demonstrate ethical behavior both in the classroom and during clinical experiences.

I have read and understand the technical standards and that I must be able to meet these minimum standards for successful completion of degree requirements.

Sign X _____

_____ Date

Print Name _____