

Physical Therapist Assistant

Technical Performance Standards for Admissions and Progression

Purpose: To provide the applicant/student with a clear understanding of the physical demands required of the program based on the tasks performed by the graduate. **Demonstration and/or documentation may be required.**

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE ABILITY (circle answer)	
			YES	NO*
Behavioral/ Emotional/ Social Coping	Ability to respond appropriately to stressful environments or during impending deadlines.	Respond appropriately to stressful environments or during impending deadlines. Display maturity, good judgment, sensitivity, and emotional stability when in academic and professional settings. Manage heavy academic schedules and deadlines. Concentrate on professional duties without distraction in all settings. Set priorities and perform all aspects of therapy services in fast-paced academic and clinical situations. Cope effectively with psychosocial issues involving illness, disability and death without hindering effective performance of duties.	YES	NO*
Communication	Communication ability sufficient for interaction with others in verbal, non-verbal and written form.	Communicate effectively in English using verbal, non-verbal and written formats with faculty, other students, patients, families, and health care workers. Describe and teach physical therapy procedures in both oral and written format. Give directions to patients and family members. Answer questions to the satisfaction of patients, co-workers, physicians and other health care providers. Keep accurate logs and records of treatment procedures and charges using appropriate medical terminology, correct spelling and grammar. Demonstrate active listening skills. Recognize, interpret and respond to non-verbal behavior of self and others.	YES	NO*
Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving	Ability to collect, interpret and integrate information and make decisions.	Collect, interpret and integrate information and make decisions. Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medical records and professional literature. Identify cause/effect relationships in the provision of health care. Identify patient problems and adjust patient goals and interventions appropriately within the health care team plan of care. Respond calmly and effectively to emergencies. Know when and how to apply universal precautions. Use effective teaching, learning and test taking strategies.	YES	NO*
Interpersonal	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to appropriately interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	Work collaboratively with all PTA students, faculty and staff, clinicians and patients in classroom, lab and clinical settings. Embody the spirit of cooperation and collegiality, employing basic conflict management skills as situations require. Establish positive and supportive rapport with patients/clients and colleagues. Participate in all lab situations to experience both clinician and patient roles, receiving and communicating empathy. Establish positive, supportive, effective and harmonious relationships in diverse settings, with diverse patient/clients and colleagues.	YES	NO*
Mobility/ Motor Skills	Sufficient motor ability to execute the movement and skills required for safe and effective physical therapy treatment.	Execute the movement and skills required for safe and effective physical therapy treatment. Demonstrate adequate coordination, balance, speed and agility to assist and safely manage patients who are walking on level and unlevel terrain to include stairs, ramps, grass/gravel, curbs, and diverse home flooring. Demonstrate and perform exercise programs and functional activities required of established patient care interventions without injuring self or others. Move, adjust and position patients or equipment, which involves bending, stooping freely to the floor, reaching overhead, lifting, pulling or guiding a weight of 200-250 lbs. Provide emergency care and administer CPR. Stand, kneel, sit, walk or crawl for 90 minutes without rest. Perform transfer and gait training techniques using correct and safe body mechanics. Manipulate with sufficient dexterity bi-manually the devices used in physical therapy, such as adjusting gauges, dials with one hand while moving thermal/electric devices with the other hand. Manipulate small nuts/bolts, and therapy equipment settings with sufficient hand strength and dexterity.	YES	NO*
Professionalism	Ability to demonstrate professional behaviors and strong work ethic.	Demonstrate unselfish, honest, moral and ethical behavior in all academic and professional settings. Take initiative; be creative, prepared, flexible, enthusiastic, cooperative, tolerant, respectful of authority, and industrious in all academic, clinical and professional settings. Demonstrate time management skills that promote punctual attendance to class, labs and clinics as required. Demonstrate a work ethic consistent with professional standards. Recognize personal limitations and request assistance as appropriate. Demonstrate responsibility for personal and professional development. Demonstrate respect for the patient, other health care providers and the profession of physical therapy. Maintain confidences. Present professional appearance and maintain personal hygiene.	YES	NO*

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE ABILITY (circle answer)	
Sensory	Sufficient auditory, visual and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual – (corrected as necessary) recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language and patient posture, identify normal and abnormal patterns of movement, discriminate color changes and interpret and assess the environment up to 20 feet; read or set parameters on physical therapy equipment. • Auditory – (corrected as necessary) recognize and respond to soft voices or voices under protective garb, auditory timers, equipment/emergency alarms, and effectively use devices for the measurement of vital signs and breathe sounds. Be able to hear patients and respond to patient critical needs when not in direct line of site. • Tactile –palpate a pulse and detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature, body segment contour, muscle tone and joint movement. 	YES	NO*

I, the undersigned, do hereby testify that I have read and understand the Technical Performance Standards for admission to the School of Health Sciences and that the above statements, as indicated, are true.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Telephone Number

Print Name

*Indicates awareness of applicant to make an appointment with Student Disabilities Services by calling (864) 250-8408 between the hours of 8:00 and 5:30 (Mon-Thurs) to determine reasonable accommodations. Demonstration may be required.