

Physical Therapy Educational Program
Minimum Skills/ Eligibility Requirements
(Technical Standards)

Applicants to the Physical Therapy program must possess aptitude, abilities and skills in the areas of observation, communication, sensory and motor function, intellectual/cognitive skills and behavioral/social attributes.

Sensory/Observational Skills

- Observe demonstrations and participate in lecture and laboratory settings as required in the curriculum
- Observe patients accurately both at a distance and close at hand
- Obtain medical history directly from the patient or guardian
- Such observation necessitates the functional use of vision, hearing, and other sensory modalities

Communication Skills

- Communicate in English effectively, in oral and written form with faculty, peers, patients and other health care team members
- Ability to complete reading assignments, writing assignments, search and evaluate the literature, and maintain written records
- These skills must be performed in the didactic environment, as well as the clinical environment.

Motor Skills

- Possess sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other evaluative procedures
- Ability to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general physical therapy including coordination, speed and agility to assist and safely guard patients who are walking, exercising or performing other therapeutic activities
- Possess the physical strength to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Possess the physical strength to lift and transfer patients or the ability to direct someone to perform these tasks
- Possess coordination of both gross and fine motor movements and equilibrium and an adequate level of manual dexterity

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

- Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data
- Engage in problem solving and diagnosis, including obtaining, interpreting and documenting data
- Demonstrate the ability to make proper assessments, sound judgments, appropriately prioritize therapeutic interventions and measure and record patient care outcomes
- Ability to use the computer for searching, recording, storing and retrieving information
- Ability to comprehend 3-D relationships and spatial relationships of anatomic structures

Behavioral and Social Attributes

- Ability to use their intellectual capacity, exercise good judgment and promptly complete all duties related to diagnosis and care of patients under potentially stressful circumstances.
- Demonstrate attributes of empathy, integrity, ethical standards, interpersonal skills, motivation and interest, not only for admission, but also throughout their careers as physical therapists

Upon admission, an otherwise-qualified student who discloses a disability (with certification) is assured of reasonable accommodation. These accommodations include: opportunities for individual and group counseling; peer counseling; linkages with community services; faculty advisory committees that are aware of disabled students and their needs; career counseling; assistance with job searches and interview skills; and other enabling services. Students seeking accommodation initiate their request in the Student Services office, College of Health Professions.

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