

Medical University of South Carolina  
Department of Health Professions  
Division of Physical Therapy

**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**

- Ability to observe demonstrations and participate in lecture and laboratory settings as required in the curriculum
- Ability to observe patients accurately both at a distance and close at hand
- Ability to obtain medical history directly from the patient or guardian
- Ability to use vision, hearing, and other sensory modalities

**Communication Skills**

- Ability to effectively use English to communicate 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

**Motor Skills**

- Ability 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 and speed and agility to assist and safely guard patients who are walking, exercising or performing other therapeutic activities
- Ability to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Ability to lift and transfer patients or direct someone to perform these tasks
- Ability to demonstrate adequate gross and fine motor movements, balance, manual dexterity and kinesthetic awareness to safely perform physical therapy procedures.

**Intellectual and Cognitive Skills**

- Ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data
- Ability to obtain, interpret, analyze, evaluate, and document data to determine a physical therapy diagnosis
- Ability to use sound judgment, prioritize therapeutic interventions, and measure and record outcomes
- Ability to use the computer for searching, recording, storing and retrieving information
- Ability to comprehend 3-dimensional and spatial relationships of anatomic structures

