

Saint Louis University Program in Physical Therapy Technical Standards

The Saint Louis University Program in Physical Therapy seeks to admit and retain students who have the ability and motivation to become competent physical therapists. The Program, as a unit within Saint Louis University, is committed to promote justice and equality in educational opportunities, and, as such, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, or veteran status.

In addition to the academic standards necessary for admission to and retention in the physical therapist education program, a number of technical standards are required to successfully complete the program. The technical standards set forth in this document establish the essential program requirements necessary for students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and values to function as an entry-level physical therapist and to meet the expectations of the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE).

Saint Louis University has systems in place to assist any student who has a documented physical, psychological, or cognitive disability. A student who believes she/he may not be able to perform one or more of the listed essential program requirements should discuss the issue with personnel in Disability Services (314-977-3484). When requested, the University will provide reasonable accommodations for any otherwise qualified candidate. Early self-disclosure of the disability by the student is encouraged to assure the safety of the student and patients and to enhance the likelihood of the student's successful completion of the program.

All students must demonstrate mastery of the technical standards to complete the Doctor of Physical Therapy education program at Saint Louis University. Students with a documented physical, psychological, or cognitive disability may demonstrate mastery with reasonable accommodations approved by Disability Services. In the event a student is not able or becomes unable to demonstrate mastery of the technical standards (even with approved reasonable accommodations), the student may not successfully complete coursework and may not be able to remain in the Program.

Students in the Program in Physical Therapy must demonstrate, with or without reasonable accommodations:

Ability to move sufficiently to provide safe and effective physical therapy. This includes, but is not limited to:

- moving from classroom to classroom and around healthcare facilities which may include maneuvering in small spaces
- administering CPR/AED procedures
- moving patients from one location or surface to another; guarding/assisting a patient walking; lifting, carrying, pulling, or pushing an adult sized patient or medical equipment
- using rehabilitation equipment

- applying physical resistance to a patient
- utilizing a computer keyboard, grasping objects or applying forces through hands or fingers,
- maintaining postures (e.g., sitting, standing) for extended periods of time

Ability to monitor and assess medical status, posture, and movement. This includes, but is not limited to:

- monitoring pulse, blood pressure, and respiratory rate
- monitoring alarms, emergency signals, and cries for help
- monitoring input/output devices on equipment
- perceiving differences in anatomy and movement
- observing patient posture (static and dynamic) and patient responses to tests and measures or treatments

Ability to perform physical therapy tests and measures. This includes, but is not limited to:

- movement analysis
- using examination instruments (goniometers, reflex hammers, rulers, etc.)
- discriminating temperature differences and/or anatomical tissue differences (e.g. bone vs. muscle)

Ability to question, think logically, and solve problems, and to understand the limits of knowledge in the field. This includes, but is not limited to:

- attending to, processing, and understanding information presented in written, verbal, and visual formats
- synthesizing large amounts of material
- making appropriate and timely patient care decisions
- reading and applying published evidence to clinical practice

Ability to interact effectively with a diversity of people in a culturally competent and socially appropriate manner. This includes, but is not limited to:

- interacting with peers, faculty, and clinical instructors in the classroom, lab, and clinic
- interacting with patients, families, and other individuals in the healthcare arena

Ability to communicate effectively with other persons (e.g. speaking, body language, reading, writing, and listening). This includes, but is not limited to:

- communicating with peers, faculty, and clinical instructors in the classroom, lab, and clinic
- communicating with patients, families, and other healthcare practitioners

Ability to fulfill commitments, be accountable for actions and outcomes, exhibit appropriate professional conduct, and represent the profession. This includes, but is not limited to practicing safely, ethically, and legally.

Ability to function effectively in classroom and clinic environment. This includes, but is not limited to:

- practicing in a distracting (noise, movement) environment with frequent interruptions
- tolerating exposure to substances (e.g. cleaning solutions, latex, adhesives, formalin) and pathologies (e.g.,MRSA) common to health care settings

Following their acceptance into the Program in Physical Therapy, students are required to verify that they understand and meet these technical standards without accommodations or that they believe that, with reasonable accommodations, they can meet the standards. This is accomplished using the Technical Standards Student Acknowledgement Statement.

For students who believe that they can meet these standards with reasonable accommodations, Disability Services will validate their need for accommodation and will work with the Program in Physical Therapy faculty to determine if reasonable accommodations can be made. Reasonable accommodations are those that do not fundamentally alter the nature of the educational program, jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or do not impose an undue hardship on the program or student.

Technical Standards Student Acknowledgement

I understand that I must demonstrate mastery of the technical standards either without or with approved reasonable accommodations to complete the Doctor of Physical Therapy education program at Saint Louis University. I understand that if I have a documented disability and require an accommodation to meet the essential program requirements, I will provide necessary documentation of the disability to the Saint Louis University Office of Disability Services (20 North Grand Blvd., Suite 331, St. Louis, MO. 63103, (314) 977-3484) and request appropriate reasonable accommodations. The decision regarding the reasonableness of the accommodation will be made by the Disability Services Office in consultation with the faculty of the Program in Physical Therapy.

Printed Name

Signature

Date