

Technical Standards: Physical Therapy Assistant

All Students in this program are expected to meet certain essential functions/technical standards which are essential for successful completion of all phases of the program and which reflect industry requirements and standards. To verify the students' ability to perform these essential functions, students may be required to demonstrate the following technical standards:

| Standard | Definition of Standard | Example(s) of Technical Standard |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to collect, interpret, and integrate information and make good decisions within range of abilities and scope of practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medical records, and other forms of data. |
| MOBILITY/MOTOR SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to manipulate equipment through adequate gross and fine motor skills, stoop, bend, or turn while providing safe patient care Sufficient strength to assist patient(s) who may have physical strength deficits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to use equipment as indicated, i.e. wheelchairs, lifts, stretchers, bathing chairs, walking implements. Properly position and transfer patients. |
| HEARING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to hear electronic equipment to monitor and maintain safety of the patient Ability to communicate with patients and healthcare team members and be able to understand what is being communicated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to hear monitor alarms, call bells, safety alarms, fire, evacuation, emergency, overhead alarms, announcements, heart and breath sounds and blood pressure sounds. |
| VISION SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to visually observed patients, read records and patient charts and read equipment Able to visually monitor patients during day and evening lighting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to observe and report patent changes in skin color, breathing, chewing, mobility, dressing, communication. Able to accurately record patient data/activities. Able to read/interpret a variety of equipment, i.e. thermometer, sphygmomanometers, weight/height/container measurements. |
| COMMUNICATION SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to effectively express oneself in English in verbal, nonverbal, and written formats with faculty, students, patients, and families, and other healthcare team members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer support to patients, ask direct questions and answer questions, demonstrate active listening skills, recognize and respond to non-verbal communication, able to keep accurate records and charting with medical jargon and spelling. |
| INTERPERSONAL SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to effectively communicate and collaborate with employers/healthcare workers and when working with patients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to interact in a socially appropriate manner when interacting with patients and families. Able to establish professional rapport with patients and healthcare team. Able to demonstrate socially appropriate behaviors when working with people of a variety of cultural, religious, social, emotional, and intellectual backgrounds. |
| BEHAVIORAL SKILLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to demonstrate respect toward self, patients, families, and healthcare team through consistent display of professional behaviors through attitude, communication, work ethic, commitments while adhering to professional boundaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates respect for self, patients, and healthcare team. Demonstrate initiative, cooperative and professional behaviors, and enthusiasm. Able to perform duties within the scope of practice. Maintain personal hygiene/professional appearance. |
| WEIGHT BEARING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to possess the ability to maneuver/move 40-50 pounds frequently. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of patients as noted under mobility. Positioning of patients. Movement of patients and/or equipment. |