



Technical Standards and Essential Functions

Health Sciences programs establish technical standards and essential functions to insure that students have the abilities required to participate and potentially be successful in all aspects of the respective programs. Students are required to meet technical standards and essential functions for the Physical Therapist Assistant program as indicated below. If an applicant or student is unable to meet all of the outlined standards, he/she may be withdrawn from the program.

The student must demonstrate the following abilities:

Categories of Essential Functions	Definition	Example of Technical Standard (Not Limited to)
Observation	Ability to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercise, and clinical experiences in the professional program component and to assess and comprehend the condition of all patients assigned to him/her for data collection and intervention. Such observation and information usually requires functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensations.	Visual (corrected as necessary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to read small print on dials and LED displays and set parameters on PT equipment. • Able to visually discriminate postural, musculoskeletal, and color changes. • Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language • Assess the environment at a distance. Auditory (corrected as necessary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and respond to soft voices, auditory timers, patient call bells and emergency alarms. • Distinguish between normal and abnormal lung and heart sounds, take blood pressure. Tactile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palpate a pulse and detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin, muscle tone, temperature and locate boney prominences.
Communication	Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, non-verbal and written formats with faculty, other students, clients, families and all members of the healthcare team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to effectively and sensitively elicit information. • Recognize, interpret and respond to nonverbal communications. • Transmit information to clients, fellow students, faculty and staff, and members of the healthcare team. • Receive, write, and interpret written communication in both academic and clinical settings. • Demonstrate active listening skills.
Motor	Sufficient motor ability to execute the movement and skills required for safe and effective care and emergency treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate adequate coordination, balance, speed and agility to assist and safely guard clients who are walking, exercising or performing other activities. • Safely lift, transfer, move, adjust and position patients or equipment using correct body mechanics. • Able to provide emergency treatment to patients. • Stand or sit for a prolonged period of time. • Possess finger and manual dexterity necessary to manipulate equipment and to perform patient care procedures.

Categories of Essential Functions	Definition	Example of Technical Standard (Not Limited to)
Intellectual	Ability to collect, interpret and integrate information and make sound decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medical records and professional literature. • Integrate, retain and synthesize information to effectively problem solve. • Utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment and complete tasks, within required time limits. • Apply knowledge to new situations and to problem solving scenarios. • Utilize effective teaching, learning and test taking strategies.
Behavioral and Social Attributes	Possess the emotional health and stability necessary to exercise good judgment and develop professional relationships with clients, patients and other members of the health care team. Possess effective time management skills, flexibility, compassion, integrity and concern for others. Demonstrate a strong work ethic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage heavy academic schedules and deadlines. • Perform in fast paced clinical situations. • Display flexibility. • Sustain professional activities for protracted periods under conditions of physical and emotional stress. • Demonstrate emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities and exercise of good judgment. • Demonstrate integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation. • Accepts responsibility and accountability for one's own actions. • Develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with clients and others. • Comply with the ethical standards of the APTA. • Acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions.

Qualified applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply to the program. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) if they feel they cannot meet one or more of the technical standards listed. Students can obtain complete information from the OSD website at: <http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/index.php> or through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes; for locations see: <http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/contact.php>

Certain minimum physical abilities and characteristics are required in health sciences professions. Are you able to meet the minimum technical skills standards for the program to which you are applying?

_____ Yes _____ No If no, please explain:

Signature of Applicant

Date