



Technical Standards Acknowledgement Form Physical Therapist Assistant

The attached list of Technical Standards has been prepared to assist you in understanding the essential physical and behavioral requirements for participating in and successfully completing the Physical Therapist Assistant program. These standards must be satisfied by all students in all aspects of the program, with or without a reasonable accommodation, including in the classroom, laboratories, and externship.

Please note that you must carefully review these technical standards. Once reviewed, please complete all of the information below and submit it to **HEALTH SERVICES BY JULY 1**. If you are an individual with a disability who seeks reasonable accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services, Building 27/2nd Floor, 755-4785 for information concerning the College's accommodation process.

Your signature below shall confirm and verify that you have reviewed the program's technical standards and are capable of performing those standards, with or without a reasonable accommodation. Failure to perform the program's essential technical standards shall result in a student's removal from the program.

1. _____
Print your full name

2. _____
Sign your full name

3. _____
Student ID number (found on your acceptance letter)

4. _____
Date of signature

Please return this form to Health Services, building 20/room 320 by July 1.

Springfield Technical Community College
School of Health and Patient Simulation
Technical Standards
Essential Functions for the Physical Therapist Assistant

Program Essential Functions

The essential functions included are: psychomotor, sensory, communication, cognitive and affective abilities.

Psychomotor Abilities that enable the student to:

- Maintain and assume a variety of positions including sitting for up to 2 hours continuously, frequent standing, walking, bending, squatting, kneeling, stair climbing, reaching forward, reaching overhead, turning, and movement of the trunk and neck in all directions.
- Work in a clinical setting for 8 to 10 hours a day.
- Perform manual material handling and manipulation of various sizes and weights including lifting and transferring patients, guarding patients during gait training on level surfaces/uneven surfaces/ramps/stairs, pushing and pulling to provide resistance and to assist in maneuvering patients. Specific requirements include:
 - The ability to safely lift up to 50 pounds independently.
 - The ability to safely lift up to 200 pounds with assistance as with patient transfers.
 - The ability to safely push and pull up to 200 pounds.
- Apply therapeutic agent modalities that may have manual, visual, and/or audible controls such as ultrasound, electrotherapy and traction.
- Apply resistance to limbs and body movements of patient while maintaining own balance.
- Set up and use therapeutic exercise devices for patient.
- Independently perform some aspects of emergency patient care, such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
- Legibly record/document patient progress notes in medical records.

Sensory Abilities that enable the student to:

- Inspect condition of skin, including color, temperature, moisture, and texture.
- Observe posture, facial expression, and quality and speed of movement.
- Be able to execute the correct procedure to monitor blood pressure and pulse readings.
- Palpate anatomical structures.
- Adjust and monitor equipment controls.

Communication Abilities that enable the student to:

- Use oral or written forms of the English language for expression during communication with faculty, staff, members of the healthcare team, patients, families and peers in the educational, clinical and community environments.
- Receive and interpret oral and written forms of the English language.
- Communicate effectively, professionally and appropriately through email.
- Receive and interpret visual information, such as body language and movement.
- Record in writing information expressed orally by an individual.
- Express one's self in the written English language, including completing written assignments and maintaining written records.
- Complete reading assignments.
- Use therapeutic communications appropriately, such as attending, clarifying, coaching, facilitating, and touching.
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity in patient care and community environments.

Cognitive Abilities that enable the student to:

- Comprehend, organize, prioritize, memorize, analyze and synthesize information from scientific and clinical sources.
- Recognize two- and three-dimensional relationships, particularly those occurring in anatomical structures.
- Recognize relative direction, speed, and consistency in human movement.
- Use computer applications for searching, recording, storing, and retrieving information.
- Search for scientific literature.
- Apply information and complete decision-making and problem-solving tasks in a timely manner.
- Apply creative and intuitive processes.
- Participate in multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Recognize the psychosocial impact of dysfunction and disability.

Affective Abilities that enable the student to:

- Exhibit appropriate professional conduct and to represent the profession effectively in a variety of educational, clinical, and community settings.
- Demonstrate appropriate behaviors and attitudes in order not to jeopardize the emotional, physical, mental, and safety of patients and other individuals in academic and clinical settings.
- Establish and maintain professional, trusting, and empathetic relationships with a variety of individuals.
- Demonstrate respect for individual differences and to engage in non-judgmental interactions regardless of individual lifestyle, culture, or medical status.
- Comply with the ethical standards of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- Work effectively in groups and to meet external deadlines.
- Fulfill commitments and to be accountable for actions and outcomes.
- Maintain general good health, self-care, and hygiene in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and individuals with which one interacts.

- Assess personal strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop personal goals and to follow through to achieve them.
- Develop self-confidence and self-motivation.
- Use positive coping skills in circumstances perceived as stressful.

These functions were adapted from the technical and essential standards from the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Programs from Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts and American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Revised: April 2016

Approved by Professional Board Association: April 8, 2016

Effective Date: For incoming class of 2017