

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

The following list has been prepared to assist you in understanding the technical standards of the Physical Therapist Assistant program in order to affiliate in the clinical agencies and ultimately practice the profession. The technical standards as stated here **are not** conditions of admission to a program of study. Rather, they reflect the performance abilities necessary for a student to successfully complete the requirements of specified health programs. It should be noted that under the Americans with Disabilities Act, “A qualified person with a disability is one who can perform the essential function of a job with or without reasonable accommodation.”

The **Physical Therapist Assistant** student must be able to meet the following technical standards:

- Lift, support and transfer patients who may be large or heavy
- Stretch, bend, kneel or squat as the need arises
- Perform bimanual activities in a smooth, coordinated, efficient and safe manner
- Function in fast paced work situations
- Maintain a high energy level throughout the day
- Work standing for long periods of time
- Read meters and small scales accurately to ensure safe treatment
- Feel comfortable working in close contact with sick or injured patients who may have multiple problems and diagnoses
- Ability to motivate a sometimes discouraged patient
- Demonstrate patience and empathy with patients
- Ability to adapt to changing demands of the workplace
- Be prepared to treat a variety of patient problems/diagnoses
- Read charts and instructions accurately
- Document patient treatment in a timely and accurate manner
- Demonstrate the emotional stability to exercise appropriate work ethics, including the maintenance of confidentiality

- Retain factual information and use it appropriately
- Have all required immunizations
- Demonstrate sensitivity to individual and cultural differences
- Rigorously follow infection control procedure
- Communicate instructions and directions orally and in writing to patients and to and from other health professionals
- Possess interpersonal skills appropriate to work with supervisors, medical staff, patients, families and other professionals in order to insure quality patient care
- Effectively attend to people, information, and tasks in a complex, highly stimulating environment during the workday
- Demonstrate skills including planning, organizing, managing resources and adhering to regulatory requirements.
- Vision/hearing normal or device corrected.