

**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

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,

