

Technical Standards for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Introduction

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at Mount St. Joseph University is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible environment that supports all students, including those with disabilities, in achieving their full potential. We recognize that students with diverse abilities are capable of becoming excellent healthcare professionals. The program will partner with the University's Department of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to ensure that students with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA;1990) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, are provided with reasonable accommodations. Students will receive confidential, individualized disability support, and we encourage students with disabilities to disclose their needs and seek accommodations.

The following technical standards outline the abilities and characteristics required to successfully complete the academic and clinical education elements of the program. All students, with or without reasonable accommodations, must be able to meet these technical standards. Additionally, in order to provide students both a complete perspective on various therapies and the opportunity to practice, students are expected to practice physical therapy techniques on one another.

Observation Skills

Students should have the capacity to observe and interpret demonstrations and client/patient interactions during classroom, laboratory and clinical education experiences using visual, auditory, and tactile senses or their functional equivalents.

Communication

Students should be able to develop and demonstrate communication skills that are effective, empathetic and foster rapport with peers, faculty/staff, clients/patients and their families, and healthcare team members.

Motor Capabilities

Students should be able to demonstrate motor function and endurance (independently or with modified independence) to perform various examination and treatment techniques, with or without equipment or instruments, including those required during emergency situations to ensure safety. Students should be able to lift, lower, push, pull and carry to allow effective patient management. Direction of others to complete certain motor functions may be determined to be a reasonable accommodation.

Intellectual-Conceptual Abilities

Students should be able to demonstrate intellectual-conceptual skills including measurement, calculation, cognitive and spatial reasoning, synthesis, and retention leading to accomplish the following:

- a) Acquire fundamental knowledge
- b) Interpret data

- c) Integrate knowledge to establish clinical judgement
- d) Make effective and safe decisions

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Students should be able to develop and demonstrate the emotional health necessary for optimal use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibility's attendant to the academic and clinical environments and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with peers, faculty/staff, clients/patients and their families, and healthcare team members.

Students should be able to develop and demonstrate proactivity, adaptability and flexibility. The program defines required professional behaviors and assesses students on their development in the following areas: commitment to learning, professional communication skills, effective use of time and resources, use of constructive feedback, responsibility, professional conduct, and stress management.

Developing Reasonable Accommodations

Students are encouraged to contact SAS (StudentAccessibilityServices@msj.edu, 513-244-4623) to confidentially discuss their individual needs with respect to meeting these technical standards. The program will work collaboratively with SAS staff and the student to explore reasonable accommodations that do not compromise safety or the educational process. The program cannot provide accommodations retroactively or independently from SAS, and certain accommodations may take time to implement. Therefore, timely requests are essential.

Certification

The program invites all applicants to carefully review these standards and consider how they align with their abilities and career goals. By signing below, students acknowledge that they have read and understood these standards.

I have read and understood the above standards and believe I can meet them:

- Without accommodations
- With reasonable accommodations

Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____