

TECHNICAL ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Upon admission, a student who discloses a properly certified disability will receive reasonable accommodations but must be able to perform the essential functions of the curriculum and meet the standards for the physical therapy. Students seeking disability may contact Disability Services (<http://www.astate.edu/a/disability/>). Technical standards for the A-State Physical Therapy students are as follows:

Motor Skills

Candidates for admission to the Department of Physical Therapy must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other evaluation procedures. Candidates must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general physical therapy, including the physical strength to stand and ambulate with a walker, cane, or crutches. Candidates must have the physical strength to lift and transfer patients.

Therapeutic physical therapy procedures require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the sense of touch and vision. For this reason, candidates for admission to the Department of Physical Therapy must have manual dexterity and the ability to engage in procedures involving grasping, fingering, pushing, pulling, extending and rotation.

Sensory/Observational Skills

Candidates for admission to the Department of Physical Therapy must be able to observe demonstrations and participate in laboratory experiments as required in the curriculum. Candidates must be able to observe patients and be able to obtain an appropriate medical history directly from the patient or guardian. Such observation necessitates the functional use of vision, hearing, and other sensory modalities. Candidates must have visual perception, which includes depth and acuity.

Communication Skills

Candidates for the admission to the Department of Physical Therapy must be able to communicate in English effectively and sensitively with patients. In addition, candidates must be able to communicate in English in oral and written form with faculty, allied personnel, and peers in the classroom, laboratory and clinical settings. Such communication skills include not only speech, but reading and writing in English. Candidates must have the ability to complete reading assignments and search and evaluate the literature. Candidates must be able to complete written assignments and maintain written records. Candidates must have the ability to complete assessment exercises. Candidates must also have the ability to use therapeutic communication, such as attending, clarifying, coaching, facilitating, and touching. These skills must be performed in clinical settings, as well as the didactic and laboratory environments.

Intellectual/Conceptual, Integrative, and Qualitative Skills:

Candidates for admission to the Department of Physical Therapy must have the ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data. Problem solving and diagnosis, including obtaining, interpreting, and documenting data, are critical skills demanded of physical therapists which require all of these intellectual abilities. These skills allow students to make proper assessments, sound judgment, appropriately prioritize therapeutic interventions, and measure and record patient care outcomes. Candidates must have the ability to use computers for searching, recording, storing, and retrieving information. In addition, candidates must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of anatomic structures.

Behavioral/Social Skills and Professionalism:

Candidates for admissions to the Department of Physical Therapy must demonstrate attributes of empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation, as such qualities are assessed not only during the admissions process but throughout physical therapy education. Candidates must possess the emotional well-being required for use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of sound judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the evaluation and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Candidates must be able to adapt to ever-changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties and stresses which are inherent in the educational process, as well as the clinical problems of many patients.

Candidates must have the ability to be assertive, delegate responsibilities appropriately, and function as part of a physical therapy team. Such abilities require organizational skills necessary to meet deadline and manage time.

(From: Technical Standards/Essential Functions. APTA Education Section. AASIG, September 1998. University of Tennessee-Memphis.)

The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable, in that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of observation and selection. Students must sign the technical standards form ([Appendix S](#)) when accepting their slot into the DPT program.

See Appendix S form on next page. Please read, fill out, and return to Diana Artero King at darteroking@astate.edu. Forms can also be faxed to 870-972-3652

Appendix S- Technical Abilities and Skills
Arkansas State University College of Nursing & Health Professions
Department of Physical Therapy

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS & FUNCTIONS FOR ADMISSION & RETENTION

The essential requirements identify the minimum technical standards required for admission, retention, and graduation of students. Graduates are expected to be qualified to enter the field of Physical Therapy. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the student with disabilities to request those accommodations that he/she feels are reasonable and are needed to execute the essential requirements. Requirements for accommodations must be fully documented.

I certify that I have read and understand the Arkansas State University Physical Therapy Program's Technical Skills and Abilities Essential Requirements for admission and retention.

_____ I can meet the Physical Therapy Program's Technical Abilities and Skills

_____ I can meet the Physical Therapy Program's Technical Abilities and Skills reasonable accommodations. I require:

_____ I cannot meet the Physical Therapy Program's Technical Abilities and Skills

Student Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____