

Technical Standards

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

South Plains College's Physical Therapist Assistant program has established technical standards and essential functions for the program. The ability to meet these standards and essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, is required in order to satisfactorily complete the program.

The college does not discriminate in admission or access to programs on the basis of any characteristic protected by law, including disability. Persons with disabilities are eligible for admission, as long as they can carry out classroom and laboratory assignments; pass written, oral and practical examinations; and meet all of the requirements of the program and generally accepted requirements of the profession, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Disability & Accommodations Services: If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive support services and/or accommodations intended to assure you an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the program. Reasonable accommodations for students with disability related needs will be determined on an individual basis taking into consideration the technical standards and essential skills which must be performed to meet the program objectives. To receive more information or to apply for services, please contact the Student Disability Services 806-716-4675 (Reese/ATC/Plainview) or 806-716-2577 (Levelland).

Requirements	Standards
Physical Demands ❖ Communication ❖ Mobility ❖ Motor Skills ❖ Hearing ❖ Vision	A. The ability to meet the physical demands of the job by: a. Demonstration of the ability to communicate with individuals in a competent manner using verbal, written, and electronic formats to meet the needs of patients/family members, peers, and others. b. Skills needed include hearing, speech, active listening, clinical reasoning, and professionalism. c. Endurance and strength to manage patient care activities. Abilities needed include being able to lift at least 50 pounds safely, balance to control not only your mobility but also patient stability, walking and being on your feet for a large portion of the day.
Cognitive Demands	B. Academic abilities to maintain at minimum a grade of "C" in all program required classes. PTA Program core classes "C" = 75. a. Read technical PT-based text b. Perform technical PT skills requiring knowledge, physical interaction, and self-evaluation of performance. c. The ability to consistently use generic abilities skills in classroom, lab, and clinical situations d. Passing lecture exam and lab exams and completing course assignments in a timely manner e. Ability to handle the stress of an intensive training program including academic classes and clinical situations.
Critical Thinking Demands	c. The ability to achieve entry level competency in all physical therapy procedures which include, but are not limited to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrate ability to meet the physical demands to lift and guard patients safely during bed mobility, transfers, and gait. Consistent use of correct body mechanics. b. Demonstrate the ability to determine correct and appropriate assistance levels. c. Demonstrate knowledge of indications, contraindications, and precautions for various conditions and interventions. d. Demonstrate knowledge and use of various assistive devices, modalities, and other equipment used in the PT clinic. e. Know and use appropriate infection control measures as demonstrated through hand washing, clean technique and sterile technique. f. Communicate effectively with patient, caregiver, and other healthcare providers in a clear and concise manner. g. Demonstrate ability to apply various modalities in a safe and effective manner, including indications, contraindications, and precautions for each treatment. h. Demonstrate ability to grade muscle strength for the purpose of determining patient strength, correctly measure ROM of joints and applying exercise techniques for strengthening and stretching. i. Demonstrate clinical reasoning and problem solving to set up and perform treatments based on variety of cases and diagnosis. j. Ability to work collaboratively with a variety of individuals with different moral, value, and cultural beliefs in both academic and clinical situations.
Safety Demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Perform appropriate PT data collection, to provide information to patient care stakeholders, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cardiovascular, Lymphatic, and Pulmonary systems b. Musculoskeletal system c. Neuromuscular and Nervous systems d. Integumentary system E. Understand disease and conditions that impact effective treatment for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cardiovascular, Lymphatic, and Pulmonary systems b. Musculoskeletal system c. Neuromuscular and Nervous systems d. Integumentary system e. Metabolic and Endocrine systems f. GI system g. Genitourinary system h. Multi-system interaction F. Use critical thinking to develop and demonstrate treatment interventions, based on PT POC and goals, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cardiovascular, Lymphatic, and Pulmonary systems b. Musculoskeletal system c. Neuromuscular and Nervous systems d. Integumentary system e. Metabolic and Endocrine systems f. Multi-system interaction G. The use of equipment, devices, and technology commonly found in PT clinics including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for common assistive devices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for common prosthetics. c. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for common thermal modalities d. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for iontophoresis. e. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for common electrotherapy modalities. f. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for phonophoresis. g. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for ultrasound. h. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for traction. i. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for compression. j. Application, adjustment, indications, contraindications and precautions for common therapeutic exercise and therapeutic activities. k. Patient safety and emergency procedures. <p>H. Aware of and adheres to critical safety requirement associated with interventions and diagnosis for various body systems.</p> <p>I. Use generic abilities to demonstrate professional responsibility.</p>
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- Standards based on NPTE-PTA Exam Content Outline 2018
- PTA Standards found on <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/31-2021.00>