

TOURO UNIVERSITY NEVADA

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Technical Standards for Admission and Continued Enrollment

Every applicant who seeks admission to the School of Physical Therapy or is a continuing student is expected to possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty. Once enrolled in the program each candidate for the DPT degree must be able to quickly and accurately integrate all information received, perform as a member of a healthcare team, and demonstrate the ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize information and data.

The School of Physical Therapy will make every effort to provide reasonable accommodations for physically challenged students based upon evaluation by a recognized practitioner in the area of disability. However, in doing so, the program must maintain the integrity of its curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the acquisition of knowledge and demonstration of technical and decision-making skills required for the practice of physical therapy. Students entering the program with, or acquiring deficits of these standards while enrolled, will be evaluated by a team of faculty to determine if accommodation is feasible. Accommodations to meet technical requirements will be at the student's expense.

In consideration of the technical requirements of the practice of physical therapy, the School requires each student to assure necessary ability in the following:

- 1. Observation:** Students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at distances and for close details. Students must have sufficient visual skills to scan the area for environmental safety factors.
- 2. Communication:** Students must be able to write, speak, hear, and observe in order to elicit information, examine, educate, and provide interventions, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive non-verbal communication. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing. Students must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.
- 3. Motor Function and Strength:** Students must have sufficient motor function and strength to execute movements reasonably required to provide physical therapy interventions to patients in a therapeutically effective and safe manner. Examples of interventions reasonably required for Physical Therapists are cardiopulmonary resuscitation; lift and transfer of patients; provide balance stability and falls guarding during transfers, gait, exercise and functional activities; administer manual therapy techniques, set up and move equipment. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of proprioceptive, vestibular, and tactile senses.

4. **Sensory:** PT students need enhanced sensory skills in coordination, proprioception, vestibular, and tactile senses in order to complete the examination, evaluation, and application of interventions to patients in a therapeutically effective and safe manner.

5. **Mobility:** Mobility in body movement and locomotion is required to provide interventions to patients and participate in emergency care if necessary.

6. **Visual Integration:** Consistent with ability to assess asymmetry, range of motion, and tissue color and texture changes, and monitor patients during activity, it is essential for the student to have adequate visual capabilities for the integration of evaluation techniques and treatment of the patient.

7. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** The student must be able to demonstrate ability in measurement, calculation, reasoning, comparison and contrasts, application, critical analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. Candidates and students must demonstrate ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships, to understand spatial relationships of structures, assess threats to safety, and to apply research methods to practice.

8. **Behavioral and Social Abilities:** Students must possess the emotional / psychological health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, ability to prioritize and complete responsibilities in a timely manner, and the development of mature, culturally sensitive relationships with faculty, other students, patients, and others in the professional environment. Students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in professional education and the workplace as well as treating the problems of patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are personal qualities will be assessed during the admissions and education process. Students must possess the ability to work effectively as a team member.

9. **Participation in Skills Laboratories:** Active participation in all laboratory sessions is an admission, matriculation, and graduation requirement. In the laboratory setting, students are required to participate as patients, therapists, and observers with a variety of people representing different physical attributes, gender, age, disabilities, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and ethnic backgrounds to simulate the diversity expected in the practice setting.

Students with concerns about their ability to meet these technical standards should discuss them first with their academic advisor or a member of the student services staff. If the student requires accommodation of or exemption from educational activities the Director of the School of Physical Therapy must be notified in writing. Students requiring exemption from any of the activities included in these technical standards on a temporary basis of greater than 90 days may be requested to resign from the program.

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Technical Standards Certification

Touro University Nevada is committed to ensuring that otherwise qualified disabled students fully and equally enjoy the benefits of a professional education. Touro University Nevada will make reasonable accommodations necessary to enable a disabled student who is otherwise qualified to successfully complete the degree requirements for a Physical Therapist.

However, Touro University Nevada insists that all students meet the minimum essential requirements to safely, efficiently and effectively practice as a Physical Therapist. Please read the attached Technical Standards for admission.

I, _____, hereby certify that I have read the above mentioned portions of the Touro University Nevada's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and that I can meet all requirements listed therein, either without accommodation or with reasonable accommodation from the university.

Signature: _____

Date: _____