**WKU Essential Functions for DPT Admission**

[**Minimum Requirements for Prospective Physical Therapy Students**](http://pt.unlv.edu/prerequisite-minimum.html)

The program is open to qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, marital status, or the presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability.

WKU is dedicated to the quality of educational opportunity and the creation and maintenance of a campus environment free of barriers that effectively discriminate against those with disabilities. Equality in access is achieved through reasonable classroom accommodations, and reasonable adaptation of examination and evaluation procedures. In the same vein, becoming a physical therapist requires the completion of a professional education program that is both intellectually and physically challenging. The candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Reasonable accommodation does not mean that students with disabilities will be exempt from certain tasks. **Please refer to the current Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Policies and Procedures concerning Essential Tasks and Reasonable Accommodations for further information.**

The following are minimum requirements which applicants are expected to meet in order to participate in the WKU DPT program and professional practice:

**Observation**

The applicant must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in basic and applied sciences, human anatomy, physiology, and neuroscience as well as in didactic courses in physical therapy theory and practice for normal and pathological states. The applicant must be able to observe a patient at a distance and close at hand for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. Observation requires the use of common sense, as well as the functional use of the senses of vision, audition, olfaction, and palpation.

**Communication**

An applicant must be able to read, write, speak, and understand English in order to meet the DPT program expectations. The applicant must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients in order to elicit information, describe mood changes, and assess non-verbal communication. Applicants must also be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with all members of the health care team.

**Motor**

Applicants must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, manual positioning of body segments and to perform other evaluative procedures. An applicant must possess all skills necessary to carry out diagnostic or therapeutic procedures (physiological measures, manual muscle testing, gait analysis, balance assessment, etc.) and be able to interpret appropriate examinations and procedures. Applicants should also be able to execute reasonable motor movements required to provide general treatment of patients, including gait training and transfers, and provide general care and emergency treatment to patients independently, and without the help of ancillary staff when appropriate.

**Conceptual-Integrative and Quantitative Abilities**

The applicant must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize complex information. Problem solving and clinical judgment are critical skills demanded of physical therapy practitioners and both require all of the aforementioned intellectual abilities. In addition, the applicant should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of anatomical structures.

**Behavior and Social Attributes**

Applicants must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all evaluative responsibilities, diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients. Applicants must also be able to tolerate physically-taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, and function in the ever-changing clinical environment. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all qualities which each applicant should possess.