

## **DPT Program Technical Standards Disclosure Form**

The purpose of this document is to inform applicants that they must possess certain abilities and be able to complete *the following skills and tasks*, termed “Technical Standards”, as a requirement for entry into the WKU DPT Program. *Applicants must verify that they possess the following abilities or are able to complete the following skills and tasks, with or without reasonable accommodations.* Your inability to possess or complete any of the Technical Standards with or without reasonable accommodations may result in your DPT admittance being rejected due to not meeting the admissions requirements. Read the following information regarding these Technical Standards and initial each section to indicate you fully understand each described set of skills. Your signature at the end of this form indicates you understand the “Technical Standards” and agree that you possess the abilities, and can complete the skills and tasks described below, with or without reasonable accommodations.

### **Technical Standards**

Physical therapy is an intellectually, physically, and psychologically demanding profession. Throughout the DPT Program, students acquire the foundation of knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviors needed throughout a physical therapist’s career. These abilities needed for physical therapists to practice safely and competently are reflected in the Technical Standards that follow.

#### ***Observation skills***

Observation requires the functional use of vision, hearing, and somatic sensations. Students must have visual perception which includes depth and acuity. Students must be able to observe lectures, laboratory dissection of cadavers, and lecture and laboratory demonstrations. Students must be able to observe a patient accurately, as well as observe digital and waveform readings and other graphic images to determine a patient’s condition. Students must be able to observe patients and be able to obtain an appropriate medical history directly from the patient or guardian. Examples in which such observational skills are required include: palpation of peripheral pulses, bony prominences, and ligamentous structures; visual and tactile evaluation for areas of inflammation; and visual and tactile assessment for the presence and degree of edema. Students must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand noting nonverbal as well as verbal signals.

**Initial:**

#### ***Communication skills***

Communication includes: speech, language, reading, writing, and computer literacy. Students must be able to communicate effectively, sensitively, and convey a sense of compassion and empathy with patients to elicit information regarding mood and activities, as well as perceive non-verbal communications. Physical Therapy education presents exceptional challenges in the volume and breadth of required reading and the necessity to share complex information in ways that others can understand. Students must be able to communicate quickly, effectively, and efficiently in oral and written English with all members of the health care team. Students must be able to complete forms according to directions and in a timely manner.

**Initial:**

### *Motor/Psychomotor skills*

Students must possess sufficient motor function to elicit information from the patient examination, such as by palpation, auscultation, tapping, and other evaluation maneuvers. Students must be able to execute movements required to provide general and therapeutic care, such as positioning large or immobile patients, carrying out gait training using therapeutic aids and orthotics, positioning, performing manual mobilization techniques, performing non-surgical wound debridement, and placing electrotherapy electrodes. Students must have the physical strength to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other treatments to patients in the event of life-threatening emergencies. These skills require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, and the integrated use of touch and vision.

**Initial:**

### *Intellectual – Conceptual Integrative and Quantitative Analysis Abilities*

To effectively solve problems in a clinical environment, students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information in a timely fashion. For example, students must be able to synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a patient's history, physical examination, and laboratory data, provide a reasoned explanation for likely therapy, recalling and retaining information in an efficient and timely manner. The ability to incorporate new information from peers, teachers, and the medical literature in formulating treatment plans is essential. In addition, students must be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand spatial relationships of structures within the human body. Students must have the ability to use computers for searching, recording, storing, and retrieving information.

**Initial:**

### *Behavioral/Social Attributes and Professionalism*

Students must possess the psychological ability required for the full utilization of their intellectual abilities, for the exercise of good judgment, for the prompt completion of all responsibilities inherent to diagnosis and care of patients, and for the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Students must be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to a changing environment, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. As a component of their education, students must demonstrate ethical behavior.

**Initial:**

*Students must be able to possess the following abilities or be able to complete the following skills and tasks with or without reasonable accommodations in order to be accepted into the WKU DPT Program:*

1. Attend and participate in classes for 30 or more hours per week during each academic semester. Classes consist of a combination of lecture, discussion, laboratory, and clinical activities.
2. Use auditory, tactile, and visual senses to receive classroom instruction and to evaluate and treat patients.
3. Read, write, speak, and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion and development of positive patient-therapist relationships.
4. Complete readings, assignments, and other activities outside of class hours.
5. Apply critical thinking processes to their work in the classroom and the clinic, exercise sound judgment in class and in the clinic, and follow safety procedures established for each class and clinic.
6. Display interpersonal skills as needed for productive classroom discussion, respectful interaction with classmates and faculty, and development of appropriate therapist-patient relationships.
7. Participate in Clinical Rotations which typically require students to be present 40 or more hours per week on a schedule that corresponds to the operating hours of the clinical environment.
8. Perform treatment activities in class or in the clinical setting by direct performance or by instruction and supervision of intermediaries.
9. Maintain personal appearance and hygiene conducive to classroom and clinical settings.
10. Sit for two to 10 hours daily, stand for one to two hours daily, and walk or travel for two hours daily.
11. *Frequently* lift weights less than 10 pounds and *occasionally* lift weights between 10 and 100 pounds.
12. *Occasionally* carry up to 25 pounds while traveling up to 50 feet.
13. *Frequently* exert 75 pounds of push/pull forces to objects up to 50 feet and *occasionally* exert 150 pounds of push/pull forces for this distance.
14. *Frequently* twist, bend and stoop.
15. *Occasionally* squat, crawl, climb stools, reach above shoulder level, and kneel.
16. *Frequently* move from place to place and position to position at a speed that permits safe handling of classmates and patients.
17. *Frequently* stand and walk while providing support to a classmate simulating a disability or while supporting a patient with a disability.
18. *Occasionally* climb stairs and *rarely* negotiate uneven terrain.
19. *Frequently* use their hands repetitively with a simple grasp and *frequently* use a firm grasp and manual dexterity skills.
20. *Frequently* coordinate verbal and manual activities with gross motor activities.

21. Follow standards and policies specified in the Student Manual, the Clinical Education Affiliation Agreement (contract between university and clinical sites), and the Clinical Education Manual.

**Initial:**

---

By initialling, signing, and returning this form, I verify that I have read and fully understand the above “Technical Standards”. Furthermore, I verify that I possess the above abilities and am able to complete the above skills and tasks, with or without reasonable accommodations. Please indicate below if you will require reasonable accommodations to meet or complete the above skills and tasks.

\_\_\_\_\_ I attest that I possess the above abilities and am able to complete the above skills and tasks without any accommodations

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ I attest that I will require reasonable accommodations to complete the above skills and tasks  
Students requesting reasonable accommodations will be referred to the Admissions Committee, with consultation from the WKU Student Accessibility Resource Center, to determine if the necessary accommodations are considered reasonable and if admission into the WKU DPT Program will be offered.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form, save it with your last name in the file name,  
and E-mail it to the WKU DPT Program [audra.coil@wku.edu](mailto:audra.coil@wku.edu)