

# Student Requirements and Policies

To acquire knowledge and skills to practice as a physical therapist, students must be able to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and provide a wide spectrum of patient care. PTRS has established technical standards that students must possess to enroll in and continue in the program for the DPT degree. These skills and abilities are divided into five areas: observation, communication, physical performance, coordination and function, cognition and behavioral and social attributes.

## Technical Standards

**Students must be able to meet minimum technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.**

**Observation:** A student must have adequate sensory skills. Standards include:

- Observation of movement patterns performed by fellow students, patients, simulated patients, caregivers, volunteers, faculty and through video.
- Observation of activities and behaviors demonstrated by fellow students, patients, simulated patients, caregivers, volunteers, faculty and through video.
- Observation of signs indicating patient or simulated patient status, such as: color and temperature of skin, soft tissue, wounds, respiratory rate, heart rate, heart and lung sounds, muscle tone, facial expressions, tone and volume of voice.
- Reading information from course materials, patient medical record, diagnostic tests, and equipment.
- Monitoring dials, displays and parts of equipment related to patient care, clinical environments, and classrooms.

**Communication:** A student must have adequate communication skills. Standards include:

- Professional communication with fellow students, faculty, staff, patients, caregivers, health care team members and the public.
- Reporting orally and in writing using the English language to fellow students, faculty, staff, patients, caregivers, health care team members and insurance companies.
- Obtaining and accurately recording patient history, evaluation and plan of care.
- Receiving and responding effectively to verbal, nonverbal, and written communications from fellow students, faculty, staff, patients, caregivers and other health care team members.

**Physical Performance, Coordination, and Function:** A student must have adequate motor skills. Standards include:

- Gross Motor Skills
  - Ability to lift, push, pull and carry patients, simulated patients, and equipment necessary for educational and clinical activities.
  - Ability to generate and apply force (strength and power) with all body parts necessary for educational and clinical activities.
  - Adequate joint and soft tissue range of motion and flexibility to perform educational and clinical activities.

- Applying timely reactions to maintain safety of patients, simulated patients, caregivers, and equipment necessary for educational and clinical activities.
- Applying body mechanic principles to maintain safety of self, fellow students, patients, simulated patients, caregivers, and equipment necessary for educational and clinical activities.
- Fine Motor and Coordination Skills
  - Applying performance skills to safely examine fellow students, patients, simulated patients, and equipment necessary for educational and clinical activities.
  - Applying performance skills to safely manage and perform therapeutic interventions with fellow students, patients, simulated patients, and equipment necessary for educational and clinical activities.
  - Utilizing hand dexterity for safe fellow student, simulated patient, patient, caregiver, and equipment management as required for educational and clinical activities.

**Cognition:** A student must have adequate cognitive ability and intellectual skill. Standards include:

- Measurement, calculation, analysis, comprehension, integration, and synthesis of a large body of knowledge.
- Assimilation and comprehension of information from written sources such as textbooks, published literature, internet, and presentations.
- Utilization of a variety of verbal, non-verbal, and electronic communications.
- Self-assessment of performance to continually improve professional skills.
- Integration of cognitive with psychomotor skills.
- Utilization of critical thinking skills and creation of effective solutions in all aspects of the program.
- Performance of emergency procedures such as CPR.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes:** A student must have maturity, emotional health, and physical abilities required to fulfill all responsibilities. Standards include:

- Recognition and demonstration of respect for cultural, spiritual, ethnic, ethical, and value differences among faculty, students, staff, patients, caregivers, and other health care professionals.
- Effective harmonious relationships with diverse populations.
- Participation in collegial productive group and team activities.
- Demonstration of professional behaviors that protect the safety and well-being of fellow students, faculty, staff, patients, simulated patients, and caregivers.
- Management of personal stress that may be physically, emotionally, or intellectually challenging in a timely professional manner.
- Ability to tolerate physically taxing workloads.
- Demonstration of flexibility and adaptability to changing situations and uncertainty.
- Maintenance of personal hygiene at all times.
- Adherence to timeliness and attendance requirements

## Accommodations

PTRS acknowledges Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and PL 101- 336, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), but maintains certain minimum technical standards that must be present in the prospective candidate and enrolled student in the DPT program. In accordance with applicable federal and state laws regarding disabilities, PTRS is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for any qualified individual with an identified disability. It is the responsibility of the applicant or student to disclose the disability to the University if reasonable accommodation is potentially needed. PTRS has designated the campus Office of Educational Support and Disability Services to receive disclosures from students and applicants about disability and engaging in the preliminary process for documenting a disability and determining reasonable accommodation.

Please contact the office via the on-line form or email:

<http://www.umaryland.edu/disabilityservices>

Office of Educational Support and Disability Services

SMC Campus Center

621 W. Lombard Street, Room 317

Baltimore, MD 21201

410-706-5889 - [disabilityservices@umaryland.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@umaryland.edu)

Disability Disclosure and Reasonable Accommodations Form:

<https://www.umaryland.edu/disabilityservices/for-students/how-to-request-accommodations/>

Hearing impaired - Maryland Relay Service 711 in Maryland or 800-735-2258 elsewhere.

### **Reporting of Changes in Health Status/Physical Condition**

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Academic Development Specialist and the Director for Student Affairs of any change in their health status or physical condition that occurs after entry into the program, that affects the student's ability to fully perform the technical standards identified by the program as necessary for all enrolled students.

The Office of Educational Support and Disability Services (ESDS) will meet with the student, review any medical or health- related documentation presented by the student, receive the student's request for accommodations, and assist the student in developing ADA accommodations that can be recommended to the program. After the requested accommodation has been approved, notification will be given to the Academic Development Specialist. The student will be responsible for contacting the current Block Leader(s) to discuss how accommodations will be incorporated into block activities.

Students must resubmit requests for accommodation to ESDS each semester.

When the change in health status/physical condition affects the student's ability to fully perform the technical standards, the student will need a signed medical clearance form to return to full participation in the didactic and/or clinical education curriculum.