



## Essential Function Requirements for Admission to and Progression in the Physical Therapy Program

The successful completion of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Florida Southern College requires that a candidate possess the ability to meet all the Essential Function Requirements as set forth in the skills, abilities and attributes outlined below:

### **1. Observation**

- The student must be able to participate actively in all demonstrations and laboratory exercises throughout the curriculum.
- The student must be able to accurately make observations both near and at a distance.
- Observation and information acquisition requires the functional use of vision and sense of touch and is enhanced by the functional use of all of the other senses.

### **2. Communication**

- The student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and assess non-verbal communications.
- The student must be able to effectively and efficiently transmit information to patients, fellow students, faculty, staff and all members of the health care team.
- The student must possess required communication skills include speaking, reading and writing, as well as the observation skills described above.

### **3. Motor**

- The student must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers.
- The student must be capable of performing basic laboratory tests, possess all skills necessary to carry out diagnostic procedures, and execute the motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients.
- The student must have sufficient postural control, neuromuscular control and eye-to-hand coordination to perform profession-specific skills and tasks (for example, move at least 50 pounds vertically and horizontally).

### **4. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities**

- The student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities.

- The student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- The student must have the capacity to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely fashion.

### **5. Behavioral and Social Attributes**

- The student must be able to fully utilize his/her intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment. Prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients is required.
- The student must be capable of developing mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and others.
- The student must also be able to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.
- The student must have compassion, integrity, concern for others, effective interpersonal skills, willingness and ability to function as an effective team player, and interest and motivation to learn.
- The student must practice safely, ethically, and legally.

### **6. Workload and Professionalism**

- Attend all coursework (lecture, lab, community experiences) 30 or more hours per week during each academic semester. Coursework typically consists of a combination of lecture, laboratory, and clinical activities within the community. When on clinical practicum, students are typically present at the clinic 40 or more hours per week on a schedule that corresponds to the operating hours of the clinical facility.
- The student must possess attributes consistent with the seven core values (accountability, altruism, compassion, caring, excellence, integrity, professional duty, social responsibility), and the Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, and in addition demonstrate empathy, honesty, and tolerance.
- The student must be able to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and be able to deliver care to all patient populations including but not limited to children, adolescents, adults, developmentally disabled persons, medically compromised patients, and vulnerable adults.

Participation in the DPT Program requires that a candidate possess the ability to meet the Essential Function requirements of the program. The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at Florida Southern College, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including changes made by the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008, does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities.

Candidates with disabilities who may require special accommodations to meet these Essential Functions must inform the Physical Therapy (PT) Program Director, who will then contact the Associate Vice President for Student Support. The Associate Vice President for Student Support, in consultation with the PT Program Director, will identify and discuss what accommodations, if any, the College would need to make that would allow the candidate to complete the curriculum. The Associate Vice President for Student Support has the authority to make the final decision on accommodation. Florida Southern College is unable to grant accommodations that alter the educational standards of the curriculum. Students must meet the Essential Functions for the duration of enrollment in the DPT program.

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND I AM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS.**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

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**PRINT NAME**

References:

- American Physical Therapy Association. Minimum Required Skills of Physical Therapist Graduates at Entry Level. BOD G11-05-20-449.
- Gardner, K. (2011). Guide to Physical Therapist Practice.
- Ingram, D. (1997). Opinions of Physical Therapy Program Directors on Essential Functions, *Physical Therapy*, 77(1).

The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the Florida Southern College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave. Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call Dr. Nancy Nuzzo at 863.680.5126 or email [nnuzzo@flsouthern.edu](mailto:nnuzzo@flsouthern.edu).