

**Ozarks Technical Community College  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Technical Standards**

Physical Therapist Assistant students must be able to perform essential functions. If a student’s ability to perform essential functions depends on the utilization of accommodations, it should be noted that students must request accommodations from the Disability Support Services Department (DSS) and must be accompanied by appropriate medical or psychological/psychiatric documentation to support this request. Contact DSS, located in Information Commons, at 417-447-8189 for further information.

All students must possess the following abilities, with or without accommodation:

Essential Function	Technical Standard	Examples of Necessary Activities(not all-inclusive)
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Critical thinking and problem-solving ability are sufficient to demonstrate appropriate clinical judgment in the lab and clinical setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify cause-effect relationships in the clinical setting.</li> <li>• Use clinical judgment and problem-solving methods to assess, plan, implement, and assess patient care.</li> <li>• Apply use of logic or scientific thinking to define problems, collect data, and draw valid conclusions.</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to make appropriate decisions in an emergency situation.</li> <li>• Use clinical judgment and assessment data to anticipate patient needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical/Motor Skills</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LIFT:</b> patients; equipment – up to 100 lbs.</li> <li>• <b>CARRY:</b> equipment, objects – 25 lbs. minimum.</li> <li>• <b>STOOP/BEND/TWIST:</b> to adjust wheelchairs, assist with patient needs; perform transfers.</li> <li>• <b>BALANCE:</b> safely maintain while assisting patients in ambulation, transfers, and balance techniques.</li> <li>• <b>CRAWL:</b> to work on a mat with patients.</li> <li>• <b>REACH:</b> to adjust equipment, to guard patient, to reach supplies.</li> <li>• <b>HANDLE:</b> equipment such as prosthetics, wheelchairs, orthotics, walkers, canes, crutches, weights, and modalities.</li> <li>• <b>DEXTERITY:</b> manipulate and fine-tune knobs, dials, goniometers, blood pressure cuffs, tools, and equipment hardware.</li> <li>• <b>PUSH/PULL:</b> wheelchairs, stretchers, patients, Hoyer lifts.</li> <li>• <b>WALK:</b> a distance of at least 2 miles during a normal work day.</li> <li>• <b>STAND:</b> for periods of at least 2 hours.</li> <li>• <b>STAMINA</b> that allows for standing, sitting, walking, bending (at the waist or knees) and staying on task for long periods of time.</li> </ul>

<b>Communication Ability</b>	<p>Written and verbal communication sufficient to accurately communicate with patients and other stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Must read, write and speak the English language</b> proficiently, enough to convey information in a concise and accurate manner.</p> <p><b>COMPREHEND:</b> oral and written language, including healthcare terminology, in order to communicate with patients, families, significant others, healthcare providers, and the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate in fluent English, both verbally and in writing, when interacting with patients, clinical personnel, peers and faculty.</li> <li>• Accurately interpret verbal responses in English, from the patient, clinical personnel and faculty.</li> <li>• Provide verbal explanations/responses using proper pronunciation and grammar. Document treatments and patient responses thoroughly and accurately.</li> <li>• Communicate and interpret complex medical/health information using proper format, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and parts of speech.</li> </ul>
<b>Interpersonal Skills</b>	<p>Skills sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.</p> <p>Demonstrate therapeutic communication, sympathy and empathy in all communications.</p> <p>Skills necessary to adapt to rigors of program and clinical requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain effective working relationships and rapport with patients, peers, the public, and clinical and college personnel.</li> <li>• Effectively function as a part of a team.</li> <li>• Respect and care for patients whose appearance, condition, beliefs and values may differ from the student.</li> <li>• Maintain a professional attitude, appearance, and demeanor.</li> <li>• Must be able to adapt to change and be able to focus and function in an environment with multiple stimuli.</li> <li>• Accept constructive feedback (academic and clinical) and alter performance as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory Skills- Visual Ability</b>	<p>Normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for observing patient physical assessment and/or treating of patient.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurately read patient ID bracelet, and other pertinent materials for safe patient care and professional practice.</li> <li>• Accurately observe patients' condition to respond appropriately.</li> <li>• Accurately read patient ID bracelet, charts, computer screens, tablet, labels, gauges, and poundage of weight.</li> <li>• If corrective visual aids are required, they must be worn during all lab and clinical assignments.</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory Skills- Hearing Ability</b>	<p>Normal or corrected/augmented auditory ability sufficient to monitor, assess, recognize, and respond to environmental stimuli (emergency call light, alarms, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be able to hear and understand verbal instructions, soft whispers of patients, and emergency signals.</li> <li>• If corrective hearing devices are required, they must be worn during all lab and clinical assignments.</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory Skills- Olfactory Ability</b>	<p>Olfactory senses (smell) sufficient for maintaining environmental and patient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguishing odors that contribute to assessing a patient's health status or environmental safety.</li> </ul>

	safety and performing accurate physical and patient assessment when appropriate.	
<b>Sensory Skills- Tactile Skills</b>	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and/or those related to therapeutic intervention. Ability to handle, manipulate, program, and run safety/quality checks on equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurately perform palpation, percussion, and any other physical manipulation of the patient required to complete assessment (rolling patient from side to side, assessing skin, assessing muscle tone, tissue restrictions, palpating pulse, etc.)</li> <li>• Tactile ability sufficient to discern texture, temperature, weight, and pressure when assessing.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Attitude and Demeanor</b>	Ability to present a professional appearance and attitude. Implement measures to maintain own physical and mental health and emotional stability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to maintain poise and self-control during stressful situations.</li> <li>• Demonstrates concern, compassion, sympathy and empathy where appropriate.</li> <li>• Demonstrates emotional stability and psychological health, in daily interactions with patients, peers, and personnel related to the educational environment.</li> <li>• Demonstrate personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect.</li> </ul>