

**Washington University Program in Physical Therapy**  
**Doctor of Physical Therapy Curriculum**  
**Technical Standards for Matriculation**

Washington University Program in Physical Therapy does not discriminate against qualified people with disabilities in the admissions process. We do require all students to meet the Program's technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations. These standards are necessary to allow success during the academic and clinical phases of study, and the capacity to pass licensure requirements and attain future employment. The standards are intended to protect the health safety of students, faculty, and patients. An offer for admission may be withdrawn if an admitted student is not able to articulate how he or she would meet the program's goals and objectives, even with accommodation. The faculty expects graduates to be prepared to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and render a wide spectrum of patient care.

The technical standards apply throughout the duration of the curriculum. However we do use clinical sites that may have different standards or not be able to offer the same accommodations as provided by the Program. Students with questions should call the admissions office at 314-286-1402 or the Associate Director for Professional Curriculum at 314-286-1413.

Program faculty, in accordance with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy and the Standards of Practice in Physical Therapy, identifies the following fundamental skills for our curriculum and for the profession:

- Problem solving on the basis of verbal, visual and written information, within a limited time frame
- Clinical reasoning and decision making within a limited time frame
- Insight and judgment for safety and prognostication
- Visual-spatial integration
- Perceptual motor integration
- Repetitive motion
- Effective communication among group members
- Planning and organizing for treatment prescription
- Frequent lifting, pushing, and pulling up to 20 pounds
- Occasional lifting, pushing, and pulling of 20-50 pounds
- Time management to coordinate course and clinical requirements

The admitted student must possess the following skills and abilities:

Observation: The ability to observe demonstrations and visual aids used in lectures and laboratories. Students must be able to observe patients at varying distances. This requires vision and somatic function.

Communication: A candidate must be able to speak, hear, and observe patients to elicit information, perceive nonverbal communication, describe changes in mood, and sensitively and effectively communicate with and instruct others. Communication will include speech, reading, and writing. Communication with the health care team will be in oral, written, and electronic form, and be effective, efficient, and timely.

Motor Function: A candidate must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients through palpation, auscultation, percussion, and movement of limbs and trunk. He or she must be able to provide care to patients that involves exercising, lifting, transferring, and assisting during walking, all while assuring safety for themselves and others. A candidate should be able to provide basic and emergency care for patients. These activities require coordination of movement, equilibrium, and sensation.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities: Candidates must be able to use conceptual, integrative, and quantitative thinking abilities to problem solve. He or she must be able to comprehend 3-dimensional relationships, spatial relationships of structures, and use these skills to analyze and apply this information for problem-solving and decision-making. Candidates must be able to organize, prioritize, analyze, and evaluate complex information individually, in small groups, in clinical settings, and within a limited time frame.

Behavioral and Social Skills: Candidates must have the emotional health to fully use his or her intellectual ability, exercise good judgment, complete all responsibilities, self-assess, accept criticism, and assume responsibility for maintaining professional behavior. He or she must be able to develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with others. Being able to tolerate physical and emotional stress and functioning effectively is necessary. Candidates must exhibit adaptability and flexibility and be able to function in the presence of uncertainty. He or she must have high levels of compassion for others, motivation to serve, and a consciousness of social values. A candidate must be able to interact positively with people from all socioeconomic and ethnic levels, and respect the belief systems of others.