

**New York Institute of Technology  
Program in Physical Therapy  
Certification of Student's Ability to Meet DPT Technical Standards**

Student:

Date:

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION, MATRICULATION, AND RETURN TO THE NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

**INTRODUCTION**

The New York Institute of Technology Physical Therapy Department is committed to the admission and matriculation of all qualified students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or any other legally protected status. Regarding disabled individuals, the College will not discriminate against such individuals who are otherwise qualified, but the College will expect that minimal technical standards be met by all applicants and students as set forth herein. These standards reflect what we have determined are reasonable expectations from physical therapy students in performing common and important functions, keeping in mind the safety and welfare of the patients for whom our graduates will care. These standards do not reflect what may be required for employment of the graduate physical therapist.

**TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

A physical therapist must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical settings and to render a wide spectrum of therapeutic interventions. In order to perform the activities required of a professional, a physical therapy student must be able to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data quickly, accurately and consistently. This is the process of critical thinking.

**Observation**

All physical therapy students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe classroom lab demonstrations and exercises. In the clinical setting, they must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and nearby. It is essential to have adequate visual capabilities to assess the change or abnormalities of the musculoskeletal or integumentary systems.

**Communication**

All Physical Therapy students should have the ability to clearly speak, hear, and observe in order to elicit and gather information, describe the findings and understand any non-verbal behavior. They must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with fellow students, faculty, patients, and other health care providers. This includes the ability to read and communicate, both verbally and in writing, in English, using appropriate grammar and vocabulary.

## **Sensory/motor**

All Physical Therapy students need enhanced tactile abilities and must have sufficient motor function and muscular strength to execute those movements required in the evaluation and treatment of patients. These activities may include, but are not limited to the ability to:

- Safely handle and lift patients, guard patients during ambulation and perform therapeutic procedures, such as joint mobilization.
- Adjust and position equipment and patients, which involves stooping to floor level and reaching overhead.
- Assist and/or resist patients, or to provide emergency care, which may involve prolonged sitting, standing, kneeling, or walking.
- Manipulate gauges, dials, small nuts/bolts, and or tools located on equipment or within the Physical Therapy department.
- Palpate, auscultate, percuss or perform other evaluatory skills in order to obtain information.

## **BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES**

Physical Therapy students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with others, especially with patients. This also includes the ability to apply knowledge of principles, indications and contraindications for Physical Therapy treatment interventions. Physical Therapy education requires the ability to adapt to change, including treating people of diverse cultures, economic status, age or those with emotional difficulties. This requires flexibility, and a spirit of cooperation as well as being well motivated.

- Physical Therapy students utilize touch during the evaluation and treatment procedures and must be able to touch others in a sensitive professional manner, as well as tolerate being touched as part of the learning process.
- Professional behavior is expected as well as attributes such as integrity, honesty, compassion, and strong interpersonal skills.
- Students are required to adhere to the program dress code as found in the NYIT DPT Student Handbook, which can be accessed at:  
[https://www.nyit.edu/policies/collection/physical\\_therapy\\_student\\_handbook](https://www.nyit.edu/policies/collection/physical_therapy_student_handbook)
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The standards for performance and behavior will be noted in this document. Please note: other more detailed documents such as course outlines, syllabi, and/or memorandums may supersede these.

## **CLINICAL EDUCATION**

All Physical Therapy students will participate in a total of thirty-six weeks of clinical education located in a variety of settings. This requires eight to twelve hour days not including transportation time, for eight –twelve weeks at a time. This is a full-time commitment. The student must make themselves available during the hours determined by the coordinator of clinical education. These hours will not be adjusted for the schedule of the student. Students are discouraged from working elsewhere as the clinical experience is demanding in time in the

clinic setting and independent learning outside of the clinic. There will be specific clinical education objectives that must be met with each completed experience. Students are not permitted to affiliate at a location or affiliated location where they have worked as a volunteer, an aide or an assistant. All final clinical placement decisions are made by the DCE and Assistant DCE, in conjunction with the Chair. See the Clinical Education Manual for further information at [http://nyit.edu/policies/physical\\_therapy\\_clinical\\_education\\_manual](http://nyit.edu/policies/physical_therapy_clinical_education_manual).

***This is to certify the above named student:***

\_\_\_\_\_ ***meets the DPT Program Technical standards as described above and may continue progression in the program.***

\_\_\_\_\_ ***does not meet the DPT Program Technical standards as described above and may not continue progression in the program until he/she is able to meet those standards as determined by the appropriate health care provider.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Signature of Health Care Provider***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Date***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Name of Provider (Please print)***

***Provider's stamp***

