

TECHNICAL STANDARDS (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS)

Access to College of the Canyons facilities, programs, and services is available to students with disabilities. We actively collaborate with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and create a respectful accountable culture through our specialized disability support. We are committed to excellence in accessibility and *encourage students with disabilities to disclose and seek accommodations*.

This list of Technical Standards is provided to inform incoming and enrolled students of the performance abilities and characteristics that are necessary to successfully complete the requirements of the PTA curriculum and provide effective and safe healthcare. To matriculate (enroll) the student must meet technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations and maintain related satisfactory demonstration of these standards at all times in order to progress through the program.

If you are or become unable to perform these required essential functions, you may pose a risk of harm to patients, fellow students, or yourself. Your inability to perform these functions may result in your being unable to meet course objectives and progress through the PTA Program. If you find that you are not able to demonstrate the following standards and skills without accommodation, or if you aren't sure what avenues are available to you, you should reach out to the Academic Accommodations Center in Seco Hall.

The following Technical Standards represent the essential non-academic requirements of the College of the Canyons PTA Program. These standards are not intended to exclude individuals with disabilities, but rather to ensure the safety of patients and students and the integrity of the educational experience. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reasonable accommodations will be considered for any individual who, despite a disability, can meet the essential functions of the program with or without accommodation.

Technical Standard	Description	Example
Cognitive Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate critical thinking sufficient for collecting, analyzing, and integrating information to safely and accurately process instructions, promote positive patient outcomes, and for constant professional behavior Exhibit ability to create, apply and/or adapt interventions within the plan of care established by the Physical Therapist Exhibit ability to organize & prioritize tasks Exhibit awareness of, and ability to work with, diverse populations Exhibit ability to function effectively under stress and time constraints Exhibit ability to follow policies and procedures required in clinical and academic settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform measurements and calculations Maintain focus and attention in class and clinical sessions Interpret information from team members accurately Solve problems in patient care. Organize and prioritize multiple tasks; integrate and analyze written, verbal, and observed data regarding patient care Discuss the rationale for, and comply with, HIPAA standards, especially confidentiality Demonstrate the ability to assist accurately with all patient care duties and physical therapy procedures Follow a process from start to finish utilizing sequential established policies and procedures

Technical Standard	Description	Example
Communication Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and in a timely manner in English with instructors, peers, patients/families, and other health care providers using verbal, non-verbal, written, and/or assistive communication methods, to ensure safe and effective patient care and collaboration in clinical settings including during emergency situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interact and establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups from diverse populations Provide explanations and instructions in a manner that is clear and understandable to recipients Comprehend written and communication from various sources Provide accurate concise written and verbal or alternative format reports Interpret non-verbal communication accurately and respond appropriately
Interpersonal/Intrapersonal Skills and Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate emotional and psychological stability sufficient to function under stress and to adapt to ever changing situations Demonstrate ability to maintain professional conduct and appearance, maintain patient confidentiality, and operate within the scope of practice of the PTA Students must demonstrate the ability to maintain composure and continue to function well with patients or clients who are undergoing periods of stress and may exhibit challenging attitudes or behaviors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess the emotional health required to deliver patient care Respond professionally and appropriately to emergency situations Demonstrate empathy for patients and peers, exhibit sensitivity to the needs of others, and treat all with dignity and respect Maintain composure in clinical and didactic environments. Demonstrate professionalism in classroom, lab, and clinical settings including but not limited to appropriate personal hygiene, timeliness, preparation, and concentration
Visual Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate visual acuity sufficient to monitor and assess patient status and to read written, handwritten, and printed material with or without assistive devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discern changes in skin or wound color and condition Read numbers and letters in fine print, such as would appear on patient care equipment, in varying levels of light accurately using visual aids if necessary
Auditory Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate auditory perception or the use of alternative communication strategies or technologies sufficient to interact effectively with patients, caregivers, and the healthcare team, including the ability to detect relevant sounds in the clinical environment (e.g., alarms, cues, or verbal instructions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect high and low frequency sounds, such as faint voices, telephones, and monitor alarms using auditory aids if necessary Perceive and respond to auditory cues to communicate with patients, peers, instructors, and other members of the health care team
Tactile Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate tactile ability sufficient for patient care including physical assessment and interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify tremors, vibrations, edema, or skin changes in various body areas Identify physical characteristics such as bony landmarks, muscles, and tendons Palpate accurately carotid, radial, femoral, and pedal pulses using appropriate techniques or tools
Olfactory Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to assess patients and healthcare environment Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to detect unusual odors/smells emanating from patients and/or the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detect malodorous or unusual odors from bodily fluids and wounds Distinguish smells which contribute to assessing and/or maintaining the patient's health status and environment (fire, noxious fumes, etc.)

Technical Standard	Description	Example
Strength and Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate physical abilities and strength sufficient to perform clinical and emergency procedures with or without reasonable accommodations • Demonstrate energy and vitality sufficient to interact with people of all ages and to help them accomplish their tasks • Demonstrate ability to freely walk, stand, sit, squat, balance, climb, reach, grip, lift, pull, and push as needed in the performance of clinical duties with or without assistive devices • Demonstrate ability to move in tight quarters • Demonstrate proper body mechanics • Demonstrate ability to stand for long periods of time • Demonstrate ability to move quickly to perform direct patient care • Essential motor tasks must be performed directly or through reasonable accommodation, including the effective direction of aides or use of assistive technology, when appropriate and safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain balance in any position • Demonstrate ability to maneuver in small spaces (walk, stand, and bend over) while providing patient care with appropriate accommodations if needed • Quickly intervene for a patient's health and safety, including the ability to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), if needed • Demonstrate strength to position, lift, move, and transfer patients with or without assistance or devices • Push or pull heavy objects such as occupied hospital beds and gurneys, physical agent units, and lift and move heavy equipment with assistance • Lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds frequently and safely and occasionally more than 50 pounds, in a clinical setting with reasonable and appropriate accommodations • Demonstrate ability to effectively use appropriate ergonomic techniques (good body mechanics) and manual handling • Move quickly when necessary
Motor Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate sufficient postural control, neuromuscular function, strength, coordination and endurance to perform physical therapy interventions safely, effectively, and efficiently in the classroom, community, and clinical environments during a full workday. This includes fine and gross motor functions needed to safely operate equipment, position patients for treatment, and demonstrate desired actions for educational purposes, responding to emergent or unexpected situations in a timely manner with or without reasonable accommodations • Demonstrate physical ability sufficient to maneuver in small spaces (including standing, walking, bending, and range-of-motion of extremities) with or without assistive devices • Essential motor tasks must be performed directly or through reasonable accommodation, including the effective direction of aides or use of assistive technology, when appropriate and safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate or perform patient positioning and movement as required for therapeutic interventions • Handle equipment and tools necessary for patient care • Write legibly or produce written documentation in an accessible format • Use electronic devices • Demonstrate keyboarding skills sufficient to complete data entry and/or clinical duties in a timely manner using adaptive technology if necessary
Physical Endurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance to complete assigned periods, the required shift, and assigned tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work for 8 hours or more • Sit or stand for long periods of time, including up to 4 hours

Technical Standard	Description	Example
<i>Environmental Tolerance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to function safely in a typical clinical environment • Demonstrate awareness that the health care environment may contain latex and other allergens, including but not limited to medication (topical and ingestible), chemical, and mundane; tolerance of such allergens in the workplace must also be demonstrated • Demonstrate ability to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for extended periods of time during patient care • Demonstrate ability to tolerate prolonged periods of time amidst artificial lighting, air conditioning, dust and odors, residue from cleaning products, noise, congested workplace, and bodily fluids • Demonstrate sensitivity and ability to protect self and others from environmental risks and hazards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear gloves, mask, protective eyewear and gown for extended periods of time during patient treatment, educational study, and labs • Perform Universal Precautions to work safely in an environment that includes respiratory and blood borne pathogens • Don and remove isolation garb

ADA, ADAA, 504, and CA Govt Code § 11135 (2024) Compliance

Nothing in these PTA Technical Standards should be read as a limitation on students' rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and CA Govt Code § 11135 (2024), nor do these PTA Technical Standards limit reasonable accommodations (i.e., consistent with the aforementioned laws) written in Academic Accommodations Plans by the Academic Accommodations Center (AAC).

In keeping with applicable federal and state laws regarding disabilities and with our program philosophy, we are committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities to enable them to successfully complete their education and to perform the skills necessary to carry out the role of an entry-level physical therapist assistant. There is an expectation that every student will be able to perform the essential functions required for entry level physical therapist assistants, with or without reasonable accommodations, while practicing safely, ethically, and in a legal manner. A reasonable accommodation is any reasonable modification of the institution's rules, policies or practices. This may include, but is not limited to, environmental adjustments (such as the removal of architectural or communicative barriers) or auxiliary aids and services. An accommodation is not reasonable if it would result in undue financial or administrative burdens, require a fundamental alteration to the vertical and horizontal integrity of the physical therapy program curriculum, violate accreditation requirements, or require the waiver of essential program requirements.

I certify by my signature below that I have read and understand the above Essential Functions required of me for selection into the College of the Canyons Physical Therapist Assistant Program. I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Name _____
NAME OF STUDENT (PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____ Date _____
SIGNATURE