

Technical Standards for Admission and Participation in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Purpose of Technical Standards

Briar Cliff University's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program is committed to equal opportunity for all qualified applicants and students. The following technical standards outline the essential abilities required for admission and progression in the Program. These standards ensure that students have the physical, cognitive, and behavioral capabilities necessary to complete the rigorous academic and clinical components of the curriculum and to competently perform the duties of a physical therapist with or without reasonable accommodations.

Consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we do not discriminate on the basis of disability. We encourage applicants who may require accommodations to engage in an interactive process with the Office of Accessibility Services. Reasonable accommodations will be provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but students must be able to perform the essential functions of a physical therapist independently or with reasonable accommodations.

Domains of Technical Standards

1. Observation

Students must be able to acquire information through:

- Visual, auditory, and tactile means.
- Observing patients accurately for evaluation and treatment purposes.
- Perceiving non-verbal cues, including facial expressions, body language, and pain indicators.
- Reading charts, graphs, and digital displays
- Using diagnostic tools and interpreting results (e.g., goniometry, electromyography, video gait analysis).

Reasonable accommodations may include:

- Assistive technologies such as magnifiers, amplified stethoscopes, or video captioning.

2. Communication

Students must be able to:

- Receive and deliver verbal, non-verbal, and written communication clearly, effectively, efficiently, and sensitively.
- Establish rapport and exchange information with patients, caregivers, colleagues, and faculty.
- Document in clinical records accurately, efficiently, and with appropriate medical terminology.

Reasonable accommodations may include:

- Assistive communication devices, interpreters, or speech-to-text software.

3. Motor and Physical Function

Students must be able to:

- Perform motor tasks necessary for physical therapy assessment and intervention, including patient handling, manual therapy, and therapeutic exercise.
- Move within clinical environments to provide care and respond promptly to emergencies.
- Safely and effectively assist with patient mobility (e.g., transfers, gait training).
- Demonstrate sufficient physical stamina to carry out academic and clinical duties.

Reasonable accommodations may include:

- Use of adaptive equipment, modified techniques, or adjustments to clinical schedules when feasible and safe.

4. Cognitive, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities

Students must be able to:

- Learn, synthesize, integrate, and apply knowledge from multiple sources.
- Analyze, interpret, and synthesize information for decision-making.
- Comprehend, retain, and apply didactic and clinical instruction

- Critically analyze, interpret, synthesize, and problem-solve to make sound clinical judgments based on evidence and patient information.
- Have adequate attention and concentration to complete complex tasks.

Reasonable accommodations may include:

- Extended testing time, note-taking support, or alternate assessment formats.

5. Behavioral and Social Attributes

Students must demonstrate:

- Emotional stability, resilience, adaptability, and effective stress management to adapt to changing environments.
- Interpersonal skills for effective collaboration in interdisciplinary teams and with diverse populations.
- Professionalism, including ethical behavior, integrity, compassion, respect for diversity, and accountability.
- The capacity to accept constructive feedback and modify behavior accordingly.

Reasonable accommodations may include:

- Coaching or support services, adjusted schedules, or therapeutic support if needed.

Statement of Understanding

Applicants are required to acknowledge that they have reviewed and understand these technical standards. Candidates who are unable to meet these standards with or without reasonable accommodations may be deemed ineligible for admission or progression in the program.

Applicants who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the university's Office of Accessibility Services as early as possible.

Accommodations Process

Students who anticipate or experience barriers in meeting these standards are encouraged to contact:

Office of Accessibility Services

Early disclosure allows for timely implementation of accommodations, but students can initiate this process at any time.

Applicant Acknowledgement

All admitted students must affirm that they can meet the program's technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

Applicant Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the Technical Standards for admission and participation in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Briar Cliff University. I affirm that I can meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, and am committed to working with the appropriate offices to implement necessary support.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____