



## Technical Standards – Physical Therapy Program

### Policy Statement

“Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified person on the basis of a disability, be excluded from the participation in or be denied the benefit of services, programs, or activities of the University, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.” The university will review requests for accommodation on a case-by-case basis.

The Department of Physical Therapy supports the Mission of Angelo State University (ASU) by providing access to a graduate, entry-level professional Physical Therapy program that prepares a globally diverse, reflective, service-oriented, and flexible physical therapist practitioner capable of multiple styles of thinking and learning. Enrolled students are expected to complete the academic and clinical requirements of the professional program. The purpose of this document is to broadly delineate the cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills deemed essential for completion of this program and performance as a competent generalist physical therapist. Candidates for the degree must be able to meet these standards for completion of degree requirements.

- I. Cognitive skills to be demonstrated in all classroom, laboratory and clinical situations
  - A. The student physical therapist must possess the ability to independently:
    1. Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, retain and synthesize information to formulate effective solutions to problems.
    2. Examples of such behaviors:
      - a. Student physical therapists must be able to read, write, speak and understand English at a level consistent with successful course completion and development of positive patient/client-therapist relationships.
      - b. Student physical therapists must exercise sound judgment.
      - c. Student physical therapists must be able to plan and supervise intervention procedures in a safe manner.
- II. Affective skills to be demonstrated in all classroom, laboratory and clinical situations
  - A. Student physical therapists must possess the emotional health and stability required to fully utilize their intellectual abilities, to adapt to changing environments and to function effectively in stressful situations.
  - B. Student physical therapists must demonstrate ethical behaviors in compliance with the ethical standards of the American Physical Therapy Association.
  - C. Student physical therapists must be able to communicate in both oral and written form with patient/clients and other members of the health care community to:
    1. effectively and sensitively elicit information.
    2. convey information essential for safe and effective care.
  - D. Student physical therapists must be aware of and interpret non-verbal communications.
  - E. Student physical therapists must be able to acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions to foster harmonious working relationships with colleagues, peers, and patient/clients.

- III. Psychomotor skills to be demonstrated in all classroom, laboratory and clinical situations
- A. Student physical therapists must have sufficient motor function as reasonably required to:
    - 1. safely provide general physical therapist examination, evaluation and intervention procedures as identified in the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*.
    - 2. perform CPR according to the guidelines of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.
    - 3. perform basic first aid according to the guidelines of the American Red Cross.
  - B. Student physical therapists must have sufficient coordination and balance in sitting and standing to safely engage in physical therapist procedures such as:
    - 1. moving and positioning patient/clients.
    - 2. gait training.
    - 3. stabilizing and supporting patient/clients.
  - C. Student physical therapists must have sufficient coordination and balance in sitting and standing to engage in fine muscular movements required for safe and effective manipulation of equipment and tools used in patient/client examination, evaluation and intervention.
  - D. Student physical therapists must have visual acuity necessary to obtain accurate information from patient/clients and the treatment environment in the performance of routine physical therapist activities such as:
    - 1. observation and inspection of patient/client skin condition, movements and postures as well as safety hazards.
    - 2. reading dials/LED displays on equipment.
    - 3. reading digits/scales on diagnostic tools.

In accordance with University policy, students with a disability who may require a reasonable accommodation to meet these technical standards should contact the Student Life Office as soon as possible.

These Technical Standards have been adapted from the following sources:

American Physical Therapy Association. *Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy*, 2003.

American Physical Therapy Association. *Guide to Professional Conduct*, 2004.

American Physical Therapy Association. *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*. Alexandria, Virginia: American Physical Therapy Association, 2001.

American Physical Therapy Association. *Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004*. Alexandria, Virginia: American Physical Therapy Association, 2004.

American Physical Therapy Association. Section on Education, Academic Administrators Special Interest Group. *Technical Standards Essential Functions*. Alexandria, Virginia: American Physical Therapy Association, September 1998.

Angelo State University. *Student Handbook*.

May, WW, Morgan, BJ, Lemke, JC, Karst, GM, Stone, HL. Model for ability-based assessment in physical therapy education. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 1995;9:3-6.