

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Policy

The Springfield College Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT Program) endeavors to select applicants who have the ability to become physical therapy practitioners who are prepared for exemplary professional practice in physical therapy, who are able to recognize and meet existing and emerging health care needs, who value lifelong learning, who have the ability to practice in an ethical manner, and who have a commitment to the enrichment and promotion of the physical therapy profession.

The DPT curriculum adheres to the standards and guidelines of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Within these guidelines, the Physical Therapy Program has the freedom and ultimate responsibility for the selection and evaluation of its students, the design, implementation, and evaluation of its curriculum, and the determination of who should be awarded a degree. Admission and retention decisions are based not only on satisfactory academic achievement, but also on essential functions, skills, and abilities which insure that the candidate possesses the necessary attributes of the academic program required for graduation.

The DPT Program has the responsibility to the public to assure that its graduates can become fully competent and caring physical therapists, capable of doing benefit and not harm. It is important the persons admitted possess the intelligence, integrity, compassion, humanitarian concern, physical and emotional capacity, and professionalism necessary to practice physical therapy.

The DPT Program is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students.

“Springfield College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected basis in admission and access to, and employment and treatment in, its programs and activities.”

The DPT Program is committed to fostering diversity in its faculty, staff, and student body. When requested, Springfield College will provide reasonable accommodation in accordance with applicable law to otherwise qualified students with disabilities.

All students admitted to, matriculated in and graduating from the DPT Program are expected to have the capability to complete the entire DPT curriculum. All students should be able to perform each of the essential functions and technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations. Accommodations are never provided retroactively.

Requirement	Examples of activities (not inclusive or limited to only these)
<p><u>Communication abilities</u> Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with peers, faculty and patients. These abilities include verbal, non-verbal, and written form.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use oral or written forms of the English language for expression during communication and written assignments. • Receive and interpret oral and written forms of the English language. • Receive and interpret visual information, such as body language and movement. • Record in writing information expressed orally by an individual. • Use of therapeutic communications appropriately, such as attending, clarifying, coaching, facilitating, and touching. • Document patient care.
<p><u>Motor abilities</u> Motor abilities that enable the assumption of awkward postures, movement between rooms and classes, movement in tight spaces, and physical endurance and strength to perform successfully in physical therapy settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend class 30 or more hours per week including lecture, laboratory and integrated clinical experiences. • Provide physical therapy care in a clinical setting for 40 or more hours per week. • Sit and maintain an upright posture for up to 8 hours daily. • Stand and maintain an upright posture for up to 10 hours daily. • Balance on one leg for at least 30 seconds. • Walk for up to 4 hours daily. • Lift up to 50 pounds. • Carry up to 50 pounds. • Provide safe patient mobility including lifting, turning, bending forward and backward, positioning, transferring and performing therapeutic techniques and exercise with patients. • Use standard industry equipment. • Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
<p><u>Hearing abilities</u> Functional hearing that includes the auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess patient health needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear lecture and basic conversation. • Hear an alarm or emergency signal in a healthcare setting. • Auscultate. • Hear a person calling for help.

Requirement	Examples of activities (not inclusive or limited to only these)
<p><u>Visual abilities</u> Visual ability sufficient to monitor and assess patient health needs both at a distance and nearby.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe posture, facial expression, and quality and speed of movement. • Inspect skin condition including color, temperature, moisture, and texture. • Recognize and assess two- and three-dimensional relationships. • Read documents including patient charts, lab reports, scientific literature. • Read equipment output
<p><u>Tactile abilities</u> Tactile ability sufficient to monitor and assess patient health needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palpate changes in an individual's muscle tone, soft tissues, skin quality, joint play, kinesthesia, and temperature. • Assess temperature of therapeutic agents, including hot pack, cold pack, water, and paraffin bath • Assess a pulse.
<p><u>Cognitive abilities</u> Critical thinking and problem-solving abilities sufficient for clinical judgement in normal, urgent, and emergent situations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond with timely, precise and appropriate action in an emergency. • Perform effectively under stress or in unusual situations. • Comprehend, organize, prioritize, memorize, analyze and synthesize information from scientific and clinical sources. • Analyze and evaluate results of patient examinations and formulate appropriate patient diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of care. • Apply information and complete decision-making and problem-solving tasks in a timely manner consistent with industry standards. • Recognize and act on the need for assistance with complex situations. • Apply creative and intuitive processes. • Formulate hypotheses based on theory, and design methods to test hypotheses. • Be accountable for the outcomes of academic activities. • Be accountable for the outcomes of clinical decision making and clinical care.

Requirement	Examples of activities (not inclusive or limited to only these)
<p><u>Social, emotional, and behavioral abilities</u> Interpersonal attributes, adaptability, empathy and emotional stability sufficient to interact effectively and sensitively with peers, faculty and patients, to maintain professional demeanor, communication, and respect for others at all times. Capacity for self-reflection and change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate effectively and sensitively with peers, faculty, patients, clients and the community. • Comply with the ethical standards of the American Physical Therapy Association. • Respond appropriately to suggestions for improvement. • Accept criticism. • Work effectively in groups. • Monitor and manage one’s own stress. • Participate in multiple tasks simultaneously. • Present one’s self in a professional and empathic manner to peers, faculty, patients, clients and the community. • Maintain professionalism in the context of time, environmental, and situational constraints.
<p><u>Self-health and hygiene abilities</u> Abilities and characteristics that do not compromise the health and safety of peers, faculty, patients and the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain general good health, self-care, and hygiene. • Minimize exposure to and seek appropriate treatment for communicable diseases. • Demonstrate appropriate behaviors and attitudes in order not to jeopardize the emotional health, physical health, mental health, and safety of peers, faculty, patients, clients and the community. • Pass a drug-screen examination and criminal background check.

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