



## TECHNICAL STANDARDS (ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS) FOR THE PTA PROGRAM

This list contains examples of Technical Standards that you must meet to satisfy PTA Program student objectives and requirements. These are samples of essential functions needed to attend clinical experiences and ultimately to practice as a Physical Therapist Assistant. The purpose of this document is to notify you of these Technical Standards so that you may make an informed decision regarding your future or ongoing participation in the PTA Program.

The delivery of safe, effective, and efficient physical therapy services requires that you are able to perform the functions related to each technical standard. If you are unable to perform these required essential functions, you may pose a risk of harm to patients or yourself. Your inability to perform these functions may result in your being unable to meet course objectives and progress through the PTA Program.

Technical Standard	Description	Example
<i>Cognitive Ability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• Exhibit ability to create, apply and/or adapt interventions within the plan of care established by the Physical Therapist</li><li>• Exhibit ability to organize and prioritize tasks</li><li>• Exhibit awareness of, and ability to work with, diverse populations</li><li>• Exhibit ability to function effectively under stress and time constraints</li><li>• Exhibit ability to follow policies and procedures required in clinical and academic settings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perform measurements and calculations</li><li>• Maintain focus and attention in class and clinical sessions</li><li>• Interpret information from team members accurately</li><li>• Solve problems in patient care.</li><li>• Organize and prioritize multiple tasks; integrate and analyze written, verbal, and observed data regarding patient care</li><li>• Discuss the rationale for, and comply with, HIPAA standards, especially confidentiality</li><li>• Demonstrate the ability to assist accurately with all patient care duties and physical therapy procedures</li><li>• Follow a process from start to finish utilizing sequential established policies and procedures</li></ul>
<i>Communication Ability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate ability to speak, read, comprehend, and write English at a level that meets the need for clear and effective communication with instructors, peers, coworkers, patients/families, and other health care providers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interact and establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups from diverse populations</li><li>• Provide explanations and instructions</li><li>• Comprehend written and verbal communication</li><li>• Provide accurate concise written and verbal reports</li><li>• Interpret non-verbal communication accurately</li></ul>

## PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Technical Standard	Description	• Example
<i>Interpersonal/Intrapersonal Skills and Behavior</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate emotional and psychological stability sufficient to function under stress and to adapt to ever changing situations</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to maintain professional conduct and appearance, maintain patient confidentiality, and operate within the scope of practice of the PTA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possess the emotional health required to deliver patient care</li> <li>• Respond professionally and appropriately to emergency situations</li> <li>• Demonstrate empathy for patients and peers, exhibit sensitivity to the needs of others, and treat all with dignity and respect</li> <li>• Maintain composure in clinical and didactic environments.</li> <li>• Demonstrate professionalism in classroom, lab, and clinical settings including but not limited to appropriate personal hygiene, timeliness, preparation, and concentration</li> </ul>
<i>Visual Ability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate visual acuity sufficient to monitor and assess patient status and to read written, handwritten, and printed material</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discern changes in skin or wound color and condition</li> <li>• Read numbers and letters in fine print, such as would appear on patient care equipment, in varying levels of light accurately</li> </ul>
<i>Auditory Ability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate hearing acuity sufficient to communicate and interact with patients, pharmacists, and other health care professionals</li> <li>• Demonstrate hearing acuity sufficient to successfully interact with clinical environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect high and low frequency sounds, such as faint voices, telephones, and monitor alarms</li> <li>• Hear conversations well enough to communicate with patients, peers, instructors, and other members of the health care team</li> </ul>
<i>Tactile Ability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate tactile ability sufficient for patient care including physical assessment and interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify tremors, vibrations, edema, or skin changes in various body areas</li> <li>• Identify physical characteristics such as bony landmarks, muscles, and tendons</li> <li>• Palpate accurately carotid, radial, femoral, and pedal pulses</li> </ul>
<i>Olfactory Ability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to assess patients and healthcare environment</li> <li>• Demonstrate olfactory ability sufficient to detect unusual odors/smells emanating from patients and/or the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect malodorous or unusual odors from bodily fluids and wounds</li> <li>• Distinguish smells which contribute to assessing and/or maintaining the patient's health status and environment (fire, noxious fumes, etc.)</li> </ul>

## PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Technical Standard	Description	• Example
<i>Strength and Mobility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate physical abilities and strength sufficient to perform clinical and emergency procedures</li> <li>• Demonstrate energy and vitality sufficient to interact with people of all ages and to help them accomplish their tasks</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to freely walk, stand, sit, squat, balance, climb, reach, grip, lift, pull, and push as needed in the performance of clinical duties</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to move in tight quarters</li> <li>• Demonstrate proper body mechanics</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to stand for long periods of time</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to move quickly to perform direct patient care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain balance in any position</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to maneuver in small spaces (walk, stand, and bend over) while providing patient care</li> <li>• Quickly intervene for a patient's health and safety, including the ability to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), if needed</li> <li>• Demonstrate strength to position, lift, move, and transfer patients</li> <li>• Push or pull heavy objects such as occupied hospital beds and gurneys, physical agent units, and lift and move heavy equipment with assistance</li> <li>• Lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds frequently and safely and occasionally more than 50 pounds, in a clinical setting</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to effectively use appropriate ergonomic techniques (good body mechanics) and manual handling</li> <li>• Move quickly when necessary</li> </ul>
<i>Motor Skills</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to perform safe and effective patient care, as well as providing safe environments and responding to unexpected situations in a timely manner</li> <li>• Demonstrate physical ability sufficient to maneuver in small spaces (including standing, walking, bending, and range-of-motion of extremities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maneuver patients' limbs</li> <li>• Manipulate small objects</li> <li>• Write legibly</li> <li>• Use electronic devices</li> <li>• Demonstrate keyboarding skills sufficient to complete data entry and/or clinical duties in a timely manner</li> </ul>
<i>Physical Endurance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate sufficient physical endurance to complete assigned periods, the required shift, and assigned tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work for 8 hours or more</li> <li>• Sit or stand for long periods of time, including up to 4 hours</li> </ul>

## PTA ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Technical Standard	Description	Example
<i>Environmental Tolerance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate ability to function safely in a typical clinical environment</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Demonstrate ability to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for extended periods of time during patient care</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Demonstrate sensitivity and ability to protect self and others from environmental risks and hazards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear gloves, mask, protective eyewear and gown for extended periods of time during patient treatment, educational study, and labs</li> <li>• Perform Universal Precautions to work safely in an environment that includes respiratory and blood borne pathogens</li> <li>• Don and remove isolation garb</li> </ul>

College of the Canyons provides academic accommodations to ensure that students with verified disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in college courses through the Academic Accommodation Center (AAC). If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive support services and/or reasonable accommodations intended to ensure that you have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the PTA Program. You will find more information by looking for the AAC in the Support Services and Programs section of the College Catalog.

Reasonable accommodations for students with disability related needs are determined on an individual basis. All prospective and current Physical Therapist Assistant students must be able to meet the Technical Standards at all times with or without reasonable accommodations.

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