

**St. Petersburg College**  
*Physical Therapist Assistant Program*

**Technical Standards**

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ensure that qualified applicants have access to pursue program admission. However, all students must meet the technical standards required of the St. Petersburg College Physical Therapy Assistant Program listed below with or without reasonable accommodations for admission, while in the program, including lab and clinical settings, and ultimately for completion.

**Observation:**

1. The student must have the ability to read meters, small scales, charts, and instructions accurately to ensure safe treatment.
2. The student must have the ability to recognize sounds, alarms, commands, and calls for help in a high volume environment.
3. The student must have the ability to recognize body language and facial expressions of a patient.
4. The student must have the ability to recognize the characteristics of patients' wounds, incisions, and other areas of the body.

**Communication:**

1. The student must be able to effectively communicate with appropriate and clear English skills with verbal, electronic, and written methods.
2. The student must be able to utilize appropriate non-verbal communication skills with others.

**Psychomotor:**

1. The student must be able to perform bimanual activities in a smooth and coordinated manner.
2. The student must have sound tactile acuity.
3. The student must be able to maintain a high energy level throughout an 8-10 hour day.
4. The student must be able to be physically active as well as assume and maintain postures and positions such as stretching, bending, kneeling, squatting, lifting a minimum of 50 pounds, pushing, pulling, and standing for prolonged periods of time during the day.
5. The student must be able to move with reasonable agility and speed, including transitional movements.
6. The student must be able to work in a standing position for up to 8-10 hours per day.
7. The student must possess the appropriate strength to adjust equipment.
8. The student must have the ability to maintain appropriate gross motor coordination and balance to assist with patient activities (i.e. pushing/pulling a wheelchair behind patient when walking, performing ultrasound while adjusting parameters).

**Affective:**

1. The student must have the capacity to demonstrate ethical behavior at all times, including the maintenance of confidentiality.
2. The student must demonstrate sensitivity to individual and cultural differences and the inherent right of others.
3. The student must be able to function effectively during periods of high stress.
4. The student must have the ability to multi-task in a highly stimulating environment with multiple distractions and taxing workloads.
5. The student must have the flexibility to adapt to a rapidly changing environment.
6. The student must be able to work cooperatively with others.
7. The student must be willing to work in close contact, which could include direct physical contact, with sick or injured persons of all ages who may have multiple conditions.
8. The student must be willing to assume the role of a patient model for classroom demonstration purposes.
9. The student must have the ability to exhibit professional behavior at all times.
10. The student must be able to perform thorough self-reflection and willing to receive frequent constructive feedback.

**Cognitive:**

1. The student must have the ability to synthesize information as it relates from theory to application.
2. The student must be able to comprehend, within a reasonable amount of time, large amounts of complex, technical, and detailed information from a variety of sources.
3. The student must possess critical thinking skills essential for applying classroom information in the laboratory and clinical setting.
4. The student must be able to perform problem solving in a timely and effective manner.
5. The student must have the ability to use electronic resources for learning activities.

**Accessibility Services:**

Accessibility Services: St. Petersburg College recognizes the importance of equal access for all students. Accessibility Services is the campus office that works with students who are experiencing barriers that may be the result of a disabling condition. Instructors may not grant accommodations without proper documentation from the Accessibility Services Office. Students registered with Accessibility Services, who have a letter requesting accommodations, are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the semester. Students who have, or think they may have, a disabling condition are invited to contact Accessibility Services for a confidential discussion. Please register at the Accessibility Services site and you will be contacted by an Accessibility Services Representative. Accessibility Services website: <http://www.spcollege.edu/accessibility/>