Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
Technical Standards for Admission

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at Mount St. Joseph University is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. The objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals. The technical standards set forth by the Physical Therapy Program establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of entry-level physical therapists, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education). The following abilities and expectations **must** be met by all students before admission to the DPT Program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will not be admitted to the program.

Observation
The candidate must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in basic and applied sciences including, but not limited to human anatomy and physiology, neuroscience, as well as in didactic courses in physical therapy theory and practice for normal and pathologic states. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation requires the use of common sense, as well as the functional use of the senses of vision, audition, olfaction, and touch.

Communication
A candidate must be able to elicit information from patients, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive and accurately report verbal as well as nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and their families. Communication includes not only speech, but reading and writing. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with all members of the health care team in both immediate and recorded modes.

Motor
Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, positioning of body segments and other evaluative procedures. A candidate should be able to demonstrate various cognitive and psychomotor skills including, but not limited to: basic screening and examination (e.g.physiological measures such as heart rate, blood pressure, and respiration), diagnostic procedures (e.g. palpation, manual muscle testing, goniometry, sensory evaluation, gait analysis, balance assessment), and evaluate EKGs and X-rays. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physical therapists are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and application of pressure to stop bleeding. Additionally, candidates must be able to perform debridement of wounds and other physical assessment maneuvers, where such actions

require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Conceptual-Integrative and Quantitative Analysis
Candidates must possess conceptual-integrative and quantitative analysis skills. These include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and retention of complex information. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physical therapist practitioners, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral/Social Attitudes
Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the evaluation, diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, family members, and peers. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically-taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admissions and education process.

Candidates for selection to Mount St. Joseph University's DPT program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet them.

Mount St. Joseph University's Human Resource Department will evaluate a student who states he/she could meet the program's technical standards with accommodation and confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

If a student states he/she can meet the technical standards with accommodation, then the University will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation, this includes a review as to whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection listed above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards I will not be admitted into the DPT program.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Alternative statement for students requesting accommodations

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of selection listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact Mount St. Joseph University's Human Resource Department to determine what accommodations may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, I will not be admitted into the DPT program.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____