

MINIMAL TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND MATRICULATION

Azusa Pacific University is committed to the admission and matriculation of qualified students. The school complies with laws that prohibit discrimination against anyone on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation. The school will not discriminate against mentally or physically challenged individuals who are otherwise qualified, provided the applicants meet certain minimal technical standards. These standards were adopted to ensure the safety of patients and students and are set forth as the expectations of Doctor of Physical Therapy students to perform common clinical functions. Technological compensation can be made in some areas, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

Technical Standards

The holder of a Doctor of Physical Therapy professional degree must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. In order to carry out the activities described below, candidates for a degree in Physical Therapy must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately integrate, analyze, and synthesize data. A candidate for the master of science or doctoral degree in the Department of Physical Therapy at Azusa Pacific University must possess eight varieties of abilities and skills, including observation; communication; motor; sensory; strength and mobility; visual integration; intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative; and behavioral and social. These abilities and skills are defined as follows:

1. **Observation:** Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the basic and clinical sciences. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and up close.
2. **Communication:** Candidates and students should be able to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information; examine and treat patients; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive nonverbal communication. They must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. They must also be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.
3. **Motor:** Candidates and students should have sufficient motor functions to execute movements required to provide clinical care. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine motor movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
4. **Sensory:** Candidates and students need enhanced sensory skills such as tactile discrimination and proprioception.
5. **Strength and mobility:** The provision of clinical treatment often requires upright posture with sufficient total body strength and mobility. Students should be able to demonstrate proper lifting techniques for at least 75 pounds floor to waist high.
6. **Visual integration:** Adequate visual capabilities are necessary for proper evaluation and treatment integration, including the assessment of symmetry, range of motion, and tissue texture changes.
7. **Intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative:** These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of health professionals, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates and students should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.
8. **Behavioral and social:** Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, 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 will be assessed during the admission and educational processes. Qualified candidates with limitations or challenges will be thoroughly evaluated.

Azusa Pacific University will attempt to develop creative ways of opening the Doctor of Physical Therapy program to competitive, qualified, challenged individuals. The school will maintain the integrity of its programs and preserve those elements deemed essential to the education of a physical therapy professional.