

Technical Abilities for the Physical Therapist

Physical therapy education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills and professional attitudes and behavior. The Augustana University Physical Therapy Program prepares students to work as competent generalists in the physical therapy profession who are capable of meeting requirements for licensure. The clinical doctorate (DPT) degree, awarded by the Augustana University School of Health Professions, Department of Physical Therapy at the completion of the student's education process, certifies that the individual has acquired a broad base of knowledge and skills requisite for the practice of physical therapy. To this end, all courses in the curriculum must be completed successfully.

- No qualified person with a disability shall be excluded from admission, participation, or denied benefits or subjected to discrimination solely by reason of their disability. It is the responsibility of the student with disabilities to request those accommodations that they feel are reasonable and are needed to execute the essential requirements described.

Potential applicants are encouraged to observe practicing physical therapists performing the essential functions of the job in order to make an informed decision prior to applying to the program. Through these voluntary experiences, students who feel they are capable of completing these essential functions are encouraged to apply. If applicable, please inform the program of the reasonable accommodation you may require.

Augustana University is committed to providing equal opportunities for access to and participation in its programs and services, without regard to sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, or disability. The University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and other applicable laws providing for nondiscrimination against individuals with disabilities. Any applicant or student who believes that he or she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodation should notify the Physical Therapy Program at the earliest possible time.

- Candidates with disabilities who believe that they need an accommodation in order to successfully complete the program can contact the Augustana University Student Success Center contact Jeff.Merkle@augie.edu at 605.274.4631. The student should be prepared to present a letter of disability verification. With further applicant and DPT faculty input, the Access Office will determine what reasonable accommodations might be possible, if any, to facilitate successful completion of the physical therapy curriculum, preparation for the national examination and entry into the profession. However, Augustana University is not required to fundamentally alter its programs or the technical standards outlined in this section in order to accommodate students.
- An offer of admission may be withdrawn and or a student may be dismissed from the program if they cannot articulate how, even with reasonable accommodation, they would be able to meet the program qualifications—including these technical standards, or if it becomes apparent that the student cannot meet the technical standards even with reasonable accommodation; the

requested accommodation(s) would fundamentally alter the nature of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Augustana University or create a significant risk of harm to the health or safety of others.

To acquire the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, candidates for the DPT degree must have abilities and skills in the following five functional areas: observation; communication; motor; conceptual (integrative and quantitative); and behavioral/social.

Observation (Abilities)

Oral Comprehension	The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
Problem Sensitivity	The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
Near Vision	The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
Far Vision	The ability to see details at a distance.
Visual Color Discrimination	The ability to match or detect differences between colors, including shades of color and brightness.
Depth Perception	The ability to judge which of several objects is closer or farther away from you, or to judge the distance between you and an object.
Hearing Sensitivity	The ability to detect or tell the differences between sounds that vary in pitch and loudness.
Night Vision	The ability to see under low light conditions.
Peripheral Vision	The ability to see objects or movement of objects to one's side when the eyes are looking ahead.
Glare Sensitivity	The ability to see objects in the presence of glare or bright lighting.
Sound Localization	The ability to tell the direction from which a sound originated.

Observation (Skills)

Monitoring	Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
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Communication/Interpersonal (Abilities)

Oral Expression	The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
Written Expression	The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.
Speech Recognition	The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.
Speech Clarity	The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.
Selective Attention	The ability to concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted.

Auditory Attention	The ability to focus on a single source of sound in the presence of other distracting sounds.
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Communication/Interpersonal (Skills)

Reading Comprehension	Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
Active Listening	Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
Speaking	Talking to others to convey information effectively.
Writing	Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.
Instructing	Teaching others how to do something.
Social Perceptiveness	Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
Service Orientation	Actively looking for ways to help people.
Judgment and Decision Making	Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
Persuasion	Persuading others to change their minds or behavior.

Motor/Psychomotor (Abilities)

Arm-Hand Steadiness	The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
Finger Dexterity	The ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects.
Static Strength	The ability to exert maximum muscle force to lift, push, pull, or carry objects.
Trunk Strength	The ability to use your abdominal and lower back muscles to support part of the body repeatedly or continuously over time without 'giving out' or fatiguing.
Multi-limb Coordination	The ability to coordinate two or more limbs (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while sitting, standing, or lying down. It does not involve performing the activities while the whole body is in motion.
Control Precision	The ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions.
Dynamic Strength	The ability to exert muscle force repeatedly or continuously over time. This involves muscular endurance and resistance to muscle fatigue.
Gross Body Coordination	The ability to coordinate the movement of your arms, legs, and torso together when the whole body is in motion.
Wrist-Finger Speed	The ability to make fast, simple, repeated movements of the fingers, hands, and wrists.

Gross Body Equilibrium	The ability to keep or regain your body balance or stay upright when in an unstable position.
Reaction Time	The ability to quickly respond (with the hand, finger, or foot) to a signal (sound, light, picture) when it appears.
Speed of Limb Movement	The ability to quickly move the arms and legs.
Response Orientation	The ability to choose quickly between two or more movements in response to two or more different signals (lights, sounds, pictures). It includes the speed with which the correct response is started with the hand, foot, or other body part.
Explosive Strength	The ability to use short bursts of muscle force to propel oneself (as in jumping or sprinting), or to throw an object.
Spatial Orientation	The ability to know your location in relation to the environment or to know where other objects are in relation to you.
Dynamic Flexibility	The ability to quickly and repeatedly bend, stretch, twist, or reach out with your body, arms, and/or legs.

Motor/Psychomotor (Skills)

Coordination	Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.
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Intellectual – Conceptual Integrative and Quantitative (Abilities)

Written Comprehension	The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.
Deductive Reasoning	The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.
Inductive Reasoning	The ability to combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
Fluency of Ideas	The ability to come up with a number of ideas about a topic (the number of ideas is important, not their quality, correctness, or creativity).
Category Flexibility	The ability to generate or use different sets of rules for combining or grouping things in different ways.
Flexibility of Closure	The ability to identify or detect a known pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in other distracting material.
Perceptual Speed	The ability to quickly and accurately compare similarities and differences among sets of letters, numbers, objects, pictures, or patterns. The things to be compared may be presented at the same time or one after the other. This ability also includes comparing a presented object with a remembered object.
Visualization	The ability to imagine how something will look after it is moved around or when its parts are moved or rearranged.
Time Sharing	The ability to shift back and forth between two or more activities or sources of information (such as speech, sounds, touch, or other sources).

Rate Control	The ability to time your movements or the movement of a piece of equipment in anticipation of changes in the speed and/or direction of a moving object or scene.
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Intellectual – Conceptual Integrative and Quantitative (Skills)

Critical Thinking	Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
Complex Problem Solving	Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
Active Learning	Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
Learning Strategies	Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.
Systems Analysis	Determining how a system should work and how changes in conditions, operations, and the environment will affect outcomes.
Systems Evaluation	Identifying measures or indicators of system performance and the actions needed to improve or correct performance, relative to the goals of the system.

Behavioral/social and Professionalism (Abilities)

Information Ordering	The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).
Originality	The ability to come up with unusual or clever ideas about a given topic or situation, or to develop creative ways to solve a problem.
Speed of Closure	The ability to quickly make sense of, combine, and organize information into meaningful patterns.

Behavioral/social and Professionalism (Skills)

Judgment and Decision Making	Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
Time Management	Managing one's own time and the time of others.

Work Activities

Assisting and Caring for Others	Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients.
Documenting/Recording Information	Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form.
Making Decisions and Solving Problems	Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution and solve problems.
Performing for or Working Directly with the Public	Performing for people or dealing directly with the public. This includes serving customers in restaurants and stores, and receiving clients or guests.
Getting Information	Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates	Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.
Updating and Using Relevant Knowledge	Keeping up-to-date technically and applying new knowledge to your job.
Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards	Using relevant information and individual judgment to determine whether events or processes comply with laws, regulations, or standards.
Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships	Developing constructive and cooperative working relationships with others, and maintaining them over time.
Monitor Processes, Materials, or Surroundings	Monitoring and reviewing information from materials, events, or the environment, to detect or assess problems.
Training and Teaching Others	Identifying the educational needs of others, developing formal educational or training programs or classes, and teaching or instructing others.
Identifying Objects, Actions, and Events	Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events.
Performing General Physical Activities	Performing physical activities that require considerable use of your arms and legs and moving your whole body, such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials.
Thinking Creatively	Developing, designing, or creating new applications, ideas, relationships, systems, or products, including artistic contributions.
Processing Information	Compiling, coding, categorizing, calculating, tabulating, auditing, or verifying information or data.
Developing Objectives and Strategies	Establishing long-range objectives and specifying the strategies and actions to achieve them.
Interacting With Computers	Using computers and computer systems (including hardware and software) to program, write software, set up functions, enter data, or process information.
Handling and Moving Objects	Using hands and arms in handling, installing, positioning, and moving materials, and manipulating things.

Interpreting the Meaning of Information for Others	Translating or explaining what information means and how it can be used.
Coordinating the Work and Activities of Others	Getting members of a group to work together to accomplish tasks.
Scheduling Work and Activities	Scheduling events, programs, and activities, as well as the work of others.
Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work	Developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish your work.
Coaching and Developing Others	Identifying the developmental needs of others and coaching, mentoring, or otherwise helping others to improve their knowledge or skills.
Analyzing Data or Information	Identifying the underlying principles, reasons, or facts of information by breaking down information or data into separate parts.
Provide Consultation and Advice to Others	Providing guidance and expert advice to management or other groups on technical, systems-, or process-related topics.
Communicating with Persons Outside Organization	Communicating with people outside the organization, representing the organization to customers, the public, government, and other external sources. This information can be exchanged in person, in writing, or by telephone or e-mail.
Performing Administrative Activities	Performing day-to-day administrative tasks such as maintaining information files and processing paperwork.
Judging the Qualities of Things, Services, or People	Assessing the value, importance, or quality of things or people.
Guiding, Directing, and Motivating Subordinates	Providing guidance and direction to subordinates, including setting performance standards and monitoring performance.
Resolving Conflicts and Negotiating with Others	Handling complaints, settling disputes, and resolving grievances and conflicts, or otherwise negotiating with others.
Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Material	Inspecting equipment, structures, or materials to identify the cause of errors or other problems or defects.
Developing and Building Teams	Encouraging and building mutual trust, respect, and cooperation among team members.