

Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Technical Standards

Blinn College District and the Physical Therapist Assistant Program have chosen to set guidelines to make students aware of the demands they will encounter during the classroom, laboratory and clinical parts of the PTA Program.

Should you not be able to meet the following demands, you may not be permitted to continue in the program, for your own safety and that of the patient.

These standards are not conditions of admission to the program. Each applicant for the PTA Program, however, should review these requirements to determine their abilities to successfully fulfill the skills and clinical competency requirements and physical demands of the profession.

The program requires the following capability to demonstrate the following physical activities:

Category	Performance Standard	Requirements (Not limited to)
Sensory	<p>Students will be able to participate actively in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All laboratory experiences, including offsite labs and Service-Learning • Clinical experiences <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and comprehend the condition of all patients assigned to him/her for examination and treatment <p>Note: The tasks above usually require functional use of visual, auditory, and tactile sensations.</p>	<p>Visual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the environment in close proximity and at a distance. • Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language. • Read medical charts, both hand-written and electronic records. • Read extra fine print on goniometers and other measuring devices. • May use corrective lenses; Must be corrected to at least 20/40. <p>Auditory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detect a minimum amplitude of 65 dB(A) for normal speaking voice at a distance of three feet. • Demonstrate the ability to auscultate blood pressures. • Distinguish between normal and abnormal body system sounds. • Recognize and respond to a variety of voices/noises. <p>Tactile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the ability to detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture and skin temperature. • Palpate a variety of body tissues (muscles, bones, ligaments, tendons, etc.) and pulses, as well as effectively distinguish the quality of tissues and pulses.
Cognitive	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect, interpret, and integrate information. • Make decisions based on data collection and clinical decision-making skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehend and follow instructions. • Maintain attention and concentration for necessary periods of time. • Apply knowledge to situations and problem-solving scenarios.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure, calculate, reason, apply, comprehend, analyze, and synthesize information to enhance critical thinking skills. • Read and comprehend information in textbooks, medical records, case studies, and professional literature. • Retain information. • Utilize intellectual abilities, exercise good judgement and complete tasks, within required time limits.
Motor/Physical	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute the movements and skills required for safe and effective patient care. 	<p>Functional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasionally: Sit, bend or twist neck, climb, crawl, twist waist, and reach above/at/below shoulder level. • Frequently: Walk, kneel, squat, grasp simple objects and manipulate fine objects. • Up to constantly: Stand <p>Exertion Requirements: (applies to materials, equipment, and patients)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push or Pull: Most commonly 20-50 lbs, but should be able to demonstrate up to 50-100 lbs • Lift: Most commonly 20-50 lbs, but should be able to demonstrate up to 50-100 lbs • Carry: Most commonly 20-50 lbs, but should be able to demonstrate up to 50-100 lbs • Demonstrate sufficient balance, coordination, endurance, speed, and agility to safely perform the above stated tasks during all aspects of patient care (i.e. transfers, bed mobility, guarding/assisting patients while walking, exercising, and performing other therapy-related activities).
Professional Conduct/Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must possess the ability to reason morally and perform all aspects of patient care in an ethical and professional manner. • Students must be willing to learn and abide by professional standards of practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possess attributes that include: Accountability, altruism, collaboration, compassion and caring, duty, excellence, inclusion, integrity, and social responsibility (APTA Core values). • Engage in patient care delivery in all settings. • Be able to deliver care to all patient populations including, but not limited to: babies and children, adolescents, adults, elderly adults, developmentally disabled individuals, medically compromised patients, and vulnerable adults. • Demonstrate flexibility with scheduling and the ability to manage demanding academic and clinical schedules and deadlines. • Always maintain professional behavior, especially during conditions of physical or emotional stress. • Demonstrate emotional health and good judgement required for performance of all duties. • Accept responsibility and accountability for one's own actions, including the ability to utilize constructive criticism and improve performance.

Communication	Students will be able to demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to effectively communicate in English using verbal, non-verbal, and written formats with faculty, other students, patients, caregivers, and all members of the profession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret verbal and non-verbal communications. • Speak with a normal voice volume, approximately 65 dB(A) amplitude. • Read, write and/or type, and interpret communication in both the academic and clinical settings. • Convey information to patients, caregivers, faculty, clinical staff, and other members of the healthcare profession.
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The mission of the Blinn College District Office of Disability Services is to ensure students with disabilities have equal access in their educational pursuits. We provide students an opportunity to obtain their academic goals by fostering inclusion and support.

The Office of Disability Services provides a variety of accommodations and services for individuals with disabilities, and we encourage students to overcome challenges and attain personal and academic success. Please contact the Blinn College District Office of Disability Services at:

RELLIS Campus

Schwartz Building, Suite 230
 Phone: 979-209-8947
 Fax: 979-475-1289
rellis.ods@blinn.edu

Bryan Campus

Building D #160
 Phone: 979-209-7251
 Fax: 979-209-7558
bryan.ods@blinn.edu

**Brenham, Sealy,
 Schulenburg Campuses**

104 Administration Building
 Phone: 979-830-4157
 Fax: 979-830-4410
brenham.ods@blinn.edu