WIDENER UNIVERSITY
Institute for Physical Therapy Education

Essential Functions for the Physical Therapy Student

Introduction:
In compliance with Title III of the Federal Americans Disabilities Act of 1990, this document presents a list of essential functions for students in the physical therapy curriculum at Widener University. These essential functions are applicable in both the educational and clinical settings. Essential functions are defined as those skills that all Physical Therapy students must have the capacity to complete with or without reasonable accommodations. At the time you receive this document, you are not required to be competent in the tasks, but must have the physical and mental capacity, with or without reasonable accommodations, to perform the tasks following training.

Instructions:
Please carefully read the Essential Functions document. As an accepted student in the Institute for Physical Therapy Education at Widener University, it is your responsibility to declare a disability with reasonable notice, if you desire that reasonable accommodations be made. You may wish to direct your request to the Director of Widener University’s Enable Program at 610-499-4179. If you have questions or require assistance in completing this document please call the Institute for Physical Therapy Education at 610-499-1277. If you are unable, or suspect you may be unable, to complete any of the Essential Functions outlined in this document, with or without reasonable accommodations, the program director must be informed in writing. Please sign the Essential Functions document to indicate that you have received, read, and understand this document. A copy of this signed form must be placed into your student file prior to starting classes.

Essential Functions:
Safety:
The student must have the mental and physical capacity to:
• maintain a safe environment for the students, faculty, patients, and colleagues.
• recognize and respond in a timely manner to a medical emergency.
• understand and implement universal precautions.
• obtain CPR certification as a healthcare provider.
• demonstrate the use of sound judgment.

Communication:
The student must have the mental and physical capacity to:
• question, direct, instruct, and educate faculty, students, patients, and family members.
• convey findings of the physical therapy evaluation to health care providers and others.
• participate in group activities.
• complete documentation in academic and clinical settings.
Cognitive:
The student must have the mental and physical capacity to:
- receive, remember, analyze, interpret, and synthesize information.
- pay attention to multiple tasks throughout the day of scheduled classes.
- organize information to make decisions.

Mobility:
The student must have the mental and physical capacity to:
- move within the educational environments (class, clinic, library, etc.).

Performance:
The student must have the mental and physical capacity to:
- complete evaluation and treatment procedures to include, but not limited to, observation, palpation, lifting, and pushing.
- attend class.
- meet deadlines for assignments, practical examinations, and written examinations.
- complete clinical experiences established by the Physical Therapy program.
- supervise physical therapist assistants and aides.

I understand that otherwise qualified applicants with a disability who can perform these Essential Functions with or without reasonable accommodation will not be denied admission to the program because of a disability, nor be discriminated against in any way.

I understand that I have the responsibility to request a reasonable accommodation in either the educational or clinical environment with reasonable notice to the University.

Having read this document, I believe I have the capacity to perform the above stated Essential Functions required by the Institute for Physical Therapy Education at Widener University with or without reasonable accommodations.

Please sign both copies of this document and return one to the program director at Widener University, Cottee Hall, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013.

_________________________________________  ____________________
Signature                                                                 Date

_________________________________________
Print name