



2025-2026 TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

To the Student: As you complete this form please consider your physical and mental/attitudinal ability to perform the Technical Standards associated with the health professions program that you are about to enter. Please carefully consider the expected Performance Level in this program as you evaluate your performance.

General Job Description: Physical Therapists Assistants, or PTAs, are technically educated health care professionals who work under the supervision of Physical Therapists in the provision of physical therapy services. Physical Therapist Assistants work in hospitals, private physical therapy practices, community health centers, corporate or industrial health centers, sports facilities, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home health agencies, schools and pediatric centers. They require strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills which are crucial to planning effective treatment plans.

Throughout the performance of your duties as a healthcare provider, you will be exposed to infectious diseases in all practice settings. Although you will learn practices and procedures to minimize the risk of exposure, you should be aware of the risk and take it into consideration when deciding to enter this program and profession.

PHYSICAL STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
LIFT:	patients, equipment - up to 35 lbs	F
CARRY:	equipment, objects - 25 lbs. minimum	F
KNEEL:	to perform CPR, work with patients on mat; assist patients who fall	O
STOOP/BEND /TWIST:	to adjust wheelchairs, assist in ADL; perform transfers	F
BALANCE:	safely maintain while assisting patients in ambulation, transfer and balance techniques	C
CRAWL:	to work on mat with patients	F
REACH:	to adjust equipment, to guard patient, to reach supplies	C
HANDLE:	equipment such as prosthetics, orthotics, walkers, canes, crutches, weights, modalities	C
DEXTERITY:	manipulate and fine tune knobs, dials, goniometers, blood pressure cuffs, tools, equipment hardware	C
PUSH/PULL:	wheelchairs, stretchers, patients, Hoyer lifts	C
WALK:	a distance of at least 2 miles during a normal work day	C
STAND:	for periods of at least 2 hours	C

TACTILE STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
PALPATE:	pulses, spasticity, muscle contractions, bony landmarks, end-feels, swelling	C
DIFFERENTIATE:	between temperature and pressure variations	F
VISUAL STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
READ:	accurately, numbers, letters, cursive writing in fine and other print in varying light levels	C
DETECT:	changes in skin color, patient's facial expressions, gait deviations, swelling, atrophy, forms of non-verbal communication (gestures)	C
OBSERVE:	patient and environment in order to assess the patient's condition or needs from a distance of 20 feet	C
COMMUNICATION STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
SPEAK:	in English language in clear, concise manner; to communicate with patients, families, significant others, health care providers, community	C
RESPOND:	to patient with communication disorders (aphasia, hearing loss), or those who use ELL	F
COMPREHEND:	oral and written language, including health care terminology in order to communicate with patients, families, significant others, health care providers, and community	C
WRITE:	in English, clearly, legibly; for charts, home exercise instructions	C
AUDITORY STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
HEAR:	heart sounds, breath sounds, patient distress sounds, machine timer bells and alarms; verbal directions from supervisor from a distance of 20 feet	C
MENTAL/COGNITIVE STANDARDS		Expected Level of Performance Freq*
Function safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations.		C
Remain alert to surroundings, potential emergencies; respond to patient situations, i.e. falls, burns, pain, change in physical status.		C
Integrate information, and make decisions based on pertinent data, in a collaborative manner.		C
Interact effectively and appropriately with patients, families, supervisors, and co-workers of the same or different cultures with respect, politeness, tact, collaboration, teamwork and discretion.		C
Communicate an understanding of basic principles of supervision, ethics, and confidentiality.		C
Display basic interpersonal skills necessary to interact in situations requiring close, personal contact.		C
Display attitudes/actions consistent with the ethical standards of the profession.		C

IMMUNIZATIONS

Health science students must meet immunization requirements under state law, MGL Chapter 76, Section 15C and its regulations at 105 CMR 220.000 – 220.700. Students must also meet any additional immunization requirements required by clinical affiliates.

According to MGL Chapter 76, Section 15C, a health science student who is in contact with patients may be exempt from the immunization requirements imposed under state law pursuant to a medical or religious exemption. Submission of documentation will be required and, if sufficient to qualify for a medical or religious exemption, it will be granted. **PLEASE BE ADVISED** that, while the college will make a reasonable effort to place you in a clinical facility, **clinical placement cannot be guaranteed in light of an un-immunized status. If a clinical placement cannot be secured, then you will be unable to complete the program's clinical requirement. Thus, you will be unable to progress and will fail out of the program.**

***Performance Level: O = occasionally 50-74%; F = frequently 75-89%; C = constantly 90-100%**

Applicants who are offered admission must document their ability to perform all essential tasks with or without reasonable accommodation in order to begin the professional courses. If you are an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who seeks a reasonable accommodation, you need to contact Accessibility Services for eligibility determination for reasonable accommodation(s). For those applicants offered admission into the program, you will be asked to self-certify that you meet the Technical Standards.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

Applicants must acknowledge and self-certify by initialing and signing the Technical Standards form that they have read and understand the need to perform all essential tasks with or without reasonable accommodation. This form is required to be uploaded to the applicant's online application in order to be considered for admission.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS	INITIAL
PHYSICAL STANDARDS	
TACTILE STANDARDS	
VISUAL STANDARDS	
COMMUNICAITON STANDARDS	
AUDITORY STANDARDS	
MENTAL/COGNITIVE STANDARDS	
IMMUNIZATIONS	

I certify that I am able to perform the above Technical Standards and that the above information is true and correct. If, at any time, during my enrollment in the program, I am unable to meet the above performance requirements, please see below.

Student Signature

Date

OR

I will be seeking a reasonable accommodation for the following technical standard/s

and will make an appointment with accessibility services at accessibility@northshore.edu if I am admitted to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Student Signature

Date