

# Western Technical College

## Health & Public Safety Division Technical Standards Criteria

It is the intent of Western Technical College to fully comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

In order to assist students to successfully complete our programs, Western Technical College has developed a set of objective technical standards criteria. Students will be asked to review the technical standards for the program of choice, and then sign a form stating whether or not they are able to meet the technical standard abilities, with or without accommodations, as stated in this document. **If a student enters a program with falsification of records related to their ability to meet these requirements, he/she may face disciplinary action.** All documents will be kept on file with the College.

For students with a disability, reasonable accommodations are available. Reasonable accommodations allow individuals with disabilities to gain equal access and have equal opportunities to participate in Western Technical College courses, services, activities, and use of the facilities. An accommodation is not reasonable if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of self and/or others, if making it requires a substantial modification in an essential element of the curriculum/clinical site, if it lowers academic standards, or poses an undue administrative or financial burden. To be eligible for disability-related services/accommodations, students must have a documented disability. This documentation must be provided by a licensed professional, qualified in the appropriate specialty area.

In accordance with ADA and Section 504 requirements, accommodation requests require the approval of Western's Access and Language Services. All requests for special accommodations must be approved as soon as possible. In some programs, accommodations must be approved by an outside agency or clinical site. Delays in beginning a course/program may occur while this process is arranged. The prospective student must provide documented proof of the need for the special accommodation.

**Accommodations allowed, without disability documentation:** supportive back brace or other supportive brace that does not impede required movement or interfere with infection control policies, hearing aids, glasses, and/or contacts. Other student-suggested accommodations will require the approval of the Access and Language Services Manager.

If you are a person with a documented disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact Kris Follansbee, Manager of Access and Language Services at [accessservices@westerntc.edu](mailto:accessservices@westerntc.edu) or (608) 785-9875. It is recommended that you contact Kris at least three weeks prior to the start of the course so an accommodation plan can be made. However, programs with clinical components may take longer than three weeks for accommodations to be in place.

**Program Specifications – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

<b>Standard Number</b>	<b>Technical Standards</b>	<b>PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT</b>
<b>1</b>		Position patients for treatment and prepare the treatment area.
<b>2</b>		Prepare equipment.
<b>3</b>		Set and respond to a timer.
<b>4</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with strengthening exercises.
<b>5</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with ROM exercises.
<b>6</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with endurance exercises.
<b>7</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with balance exercises.
<b>8</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with coordination exercises.
<b>9</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with transfers.
<b>10</b>		Teach and assist or supervise patient with gait training and techniques.
<b>11</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with wheelchair mobility skills.
<b>12</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with functional retraining in activities of daily living. (ADLs).
<b>13</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with breathing exercises.
<b>14</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with prosthetic training program.
<b>15</b>		Teach, and assist or supervise patient with a positioning program.
<b>16</b>		Teach health care workers and families to perform selected treatment procedures and functional activities.
<b>17</b>		Administer therapeutic heat and cold.
<b>18</b>		Administer ultrasound.
<b>19</b>		Administer therapeutic electric current.
<b>20</b>		Administer external compression.
<b>21</b>		Administer traction.
<b>22</b>		Administer pulmonary hygiene techniques.
<b>23</b>		Administer therapeutic massage.

**Program Specifications – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

<b>Standard Number</b>	<b>Technical Standards</b>	<b>PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT</b>
24	Apply external bandages, dressings, supports.	
25	Perform goniometric measurements.	
26	Perform gross manual muscle testing.	
27	Perform anthropometric measurements.	
28	Perform basic assessment of wheelchair fit and positioning.	
29	Perform measures of wound size and depth; assess quality of tissue.	
30	Perform measurement of vitals; blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate.	
31	Monitor indicators of distress (vitals, color, facial expressions, tension, associated responses).	
32	Respond to indicators of distress.	
33	Respond to emergencies.	
34	Modify treatment techniques as indicated in treatment plan.	
35	Document treatment for the patient and third party payers.	
36	Demonstrate appropriate and effective communication with patients, their families, and other health care workers.	
37	Adhere to guidelines outlined by universal precautions.	
38	Adhere to infection control principles and sterile procedures.	
39	Participants in discharge planning.	
40	Recognize architectural barriers (environmental accessibility).	
41	Interact with patients and families in a manner which provides desired psycho-social support.	
42	Recognize own reaction to illness and disability.	
43	Recognize families' and patient's reactions.	
44	Recognize own strengths/limitations and interpret these for others.	
45	Recognize and handle the stresses of work.	
46	Demonstrate an awareness of patient's psychological response to illness/injury.	

**Program Specifications – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

<b>Standard Number</b>	<b>Technical Standards</b>	<b>PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT</b>
<b>47</b>	Respect cultural, religious, and economic differences in people.	
<b>48</b>	Demonstrate an awareness of safety in the clinical setting.	
<b>49</b>	Demonstrate safe, ethical, and legal practice.	
<b>50</b>	Demonstrate effective use of time management.	
<b>51</b>	Demonstrate problem solving skills.	
<b>52</b>	Understand basic concepts related to health care system.	
<b>53</b>	Understand basic principles of levels of authority and responsibility, planning, time management, supervisory process, performance evaluations, policies and procedures, and fiscal considerations.	
<b>54</b>	Assumes responsibility for Professional Development.	
<b>55</b>	Uses support personnel to assist with appropriate departmental activities.	
<b>56</b>	Obtains appropriate/sufficient background information.	

**WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE Health and Public Safety Division**

**Program Specifications – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

Physical Factors	YES	NO	Technical Standard Number/s
Standing	◆		5,7-10,12,14-16,22,23,26
Walking	◆		6, 10, 14, 16
Sitting	◆		7, 8
Lifting 10 lbs.	◆		11, 27, 29, 37, 38
20 lbs.	◆		2,6,13,14,17-21,24,29,30
50 lbs.	◆		1,4,5,12,15,22,23,25,26
100 lbs.	◆		10
100 lbs. +	◆		9
Carrying 10 lbs.	◆		23,25,27,29,30,37,38
20 lbs.	◆		1,2,4,6,12,14,16-22,24
50 lbs.	◆		26
100 lbs.		◆	
100 lbs. +		◆	
Pushing/Pulling 10 lbs.	◆		10, 29
20 lbs.	◆		2, 7, 12, 14, 37, 38
50 lbs.	◆		26
100 lbs.		◆	
100 lbs. +		◆	
Climbing	◆		10, 14
Balancing	◆		1, 2, 4-28
Bending	◆		1, 2, 4, 5, 7-30
Stooping	◆		1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 13-28
Crouching	◆		4,10,14,16,20,24-26,28
Kneeling	◆		7, 8, 15, 16, 20, 23-26
Crawling		◆	
Running		◆	

Physical Factors	YES	NO	Technical Standard Number/s
Twisting	◆		1, 7-8
Turning	◆		1,2,4-16,18-26,28
Jumping		◆	
Grasping-Firm/Strong	◆		1, 2, 4-30
Grasping-Light	◆		1-30, 37, 38
Finger Dexterity	◆		2,5,10,11,14,16,17-30,37,38
Reaching Forward	◆		1-3, 5-30
Reaching Overhead	◆		1,3,6,12,21,24,37-38
Pinching	◆		1-3,11,12,16,17,19-22,24,25,27,30-37,38
Simultaneous use of Hand, wrist, fingers (e.g. typing, data entry)	◆		1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-30
Coordination Eye-hand	◆		1-3,5-13,15-22,24-30
Eye-hand-foot	◆		7-10, 16
Driving		◆	
Vision Acuity, Near	◆		1-3,5-13,15-22,24-31
Acuity, Far	◆		3, 6, 10, 11, 31
Depth perception	◆		2, 3, 6-12
Accommodation	◆		3, 6, 10
Color vision		◆	
Field of vision	◆		6, 10
Face-to-face conversation	◆		1-9, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21
Verbal conversation with others	◆		1, 3-27, 31, 36
Public speaking		◆	
Hear normal conversation	◆		22
Hear telephone conversation		◆	

**WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE Health and Public Safety Division**

**Program Specifications – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

Environmental Factors	YES	NO	Technical Standard Number/s
Works indoors	◆		1-56
Works outdoors		◆	
Exposure to extreme hot or cold temp	◆		17
Working at unprotected heights		◆	
Being around moving machinery	◆		4
Exposure to marked changes in temperature/humidity	◆		17
Exposure to dust, fumes, smoke, gases, odors, mists or other irritating particles ( <i>specify</i> ) ( <i>Ethylene oxid gas</i> )	◆		17, 38
Exposure to toxic or caustic chemicals	◆		17, 38
Exposure to excessive noises		◆	
Exposure to radiation or electrical energy	◆		17-19
Exposure to solvents, grease, or oils	◆		4, 18, 23
Exposure to slippery or uneven walking surfaces		◆	
Working in confined spaces		◆	
Using computer monitor	◆		4
Working with explosives		◆	
Exposure to vibration		◆	
Exposure to flames or burning items		◆	
Works around others	◆		1-34, 36-41, 47-56

Environmental Factors	YES	NO	Technical Standard Number/s
Works alone	◆		2, 35, 38
Works with others	◆		1, 3-27, 31, 36
Safety Equipment ( <i>Required to wear</i> ) Safety glasses		◆	
Face mask/face shield	◆		37-38
Ear plugs		◆	
Hard Hat		◆	
Protective Clothing	◆		37-38

**WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE Health and Public Safety Division**

**Program Specifications – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

Cognitive/Mental Factors	YES	NO	Technical Standard Number/s
Reasoning Deal with abstract and concrete variables, define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions	◆		25-34, 42-47, 51
Interpret instructions furnished in oral, written, diagrammatic, or schedule form	◆		4-30
Deal with problems from standard situations	◆		51
Carry out detailed but uninvolved written or oral instructions	◆		2, 4-30, 34
Carry out one or two step instructions	◆		1, 2, 4-30, 34
Mathematics Complex skills –Business math, algebra, geometry or statistics	◆		32, 20, 23, 24
Simple skills – add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers and fractions, calculate time and simple measurements	◆		4, 7, 25-30
Reading Complex skills - Comprehend newspapers, manuals, journals, instructions in use and maintenance of equipment, safety rules and procedures and drawings	◆		48, 53, 54

Cognitive/Mental Factors	YES	NO	Technical Standard Number/s
Simple skills - Comprehend simple instructions or notations from a log book	◆		1, 2, 4-30, 34, 56
Writing Complex skills – Prepare business letters, report summaries using prescribed form at and conforming to all rules of punctuation, spelling, grammar, diction and style	◆		35
Simple skills – English sentences containing subject, verb and object; names and addresses, complete job application or notations in log book	◆		35
Perception Spatial – ability to comprehend forms in space and understand relationships of plane and solid objects; frequently described as the ability to “visualize” objects of two or three dimensions, or to think visually of geometric forms	◆		4-16, 19, 25
Form – ability to perceive pertinent detail in objects or in pictorial or graphic material; to make visual comparisons and discriminations and see slight differences in shapes and shadings of figures and widths and lengths of line	◆		27, 29, 31

**Program Specifications – PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT**

<b>Cognitive/Mental Factors</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Technical Standard Number/s</b>
Clerical – ability to perceive pertinent detail in verbal or tabular material; to observe differences in copy, to proof-read words and numbers, and to avoid perceptual errors in arithmetic computation	◆		4,7,25-30, 34-36, 56
Data Synthesizing		◆	
Coordinating		◆	
Analyzing		◆	
Compiling	◆		4, 6, 25, 30
Computing	◆		4, 6, 30
Copying	◆		35
Comparing	◆		25-30, 32, 34
Personal traits Ability to comprehend and follow instructions	◆		1, 2, 4-30, 49, 52, 53
Ability to perform simple and repetitive tasks	◆		4-6, 17-30, 35
Ability to maintain a work pace appropriate to a given work load	◆		50-53
Ability to relate to other people beyond giving and receiving instructions	◆		2, 4-34
Ability to influence people	◆		36, 41-45, 47
Ability to perform complex or varied tasks	◆		4,6-12,14-16,19,23,28

<b>Cognitive/Mental Factors</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Technical Standard Number/s</b>
Ability to make generalizations, evaluations or decisions without immediate supervision	◆		1-56
Ability to accept and carry out responsibility for direction, control and planning	◆		44-45, 50, 55-56



**Health & Public Safety Division  
Technical Standards Criteria  
Statement of Understanding**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. & 12101 *et seq.*) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. & 794) prohibits discrimination of persons because of his/her disability. In keeping with these laws, colleges of the Wisconsin Technical College System make every effort to ensure a quality education for students. The purpose of this document is to ensure that students acknowledge that they have been provided information on the Technical Standards required of a student in the chosen program.

**Please complete this form and return to Admissions.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials/date) I have read, understand, and can meet the *Technical Standards Criteria* specific to a student in the *Physical Therapist Assistant Program*.

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials/date) I am unable to meet the Technical Standards Criteria presented and am requesting accommodations at this time (*Please [Click Here](#) to complete the Accommodation Request Form*).

\_\_\_\_\_  
(initials/date) I understand that I must meet with Western's Access Services to arrange for any accommodations prior to class start.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Student (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student ID#, SS#, or DOB

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return to:  
Western Technical College  
Attn: Admission  
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PO Box C-0908  
La Crosse, WI 54602  
(608) 785-9553  
Fax (608) 785-9148