

Technical Standards Requirements

Upon formal admission to the Athletic Training Graduate Program, the applicant is required to confirm the ability to meet the Technical Standards of the program.

The Athletic Training Graduate Program at Slippery Rock University is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. The technical standards set forth by the program establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency (CAATE). All students must meet the following abilities and expectations. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards the student will not be admitted to the program.

Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the Board of Certification credentialing examination.

Candidates for selection to the Athletic Training Graduate Program must demonstrate:

1. The mental capacity to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm.
2. Sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examination using accepted techniques; and accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during assessments and the treatment of patients. This includes, but is not limited to, sitting, standing, walking, speed of movement, bending, squatting, kneeling, climbing, reaching, twisting, lifting and carrying heavy objects or persons, pushing, pulling, coordination, balance/vestibular stability, visual and auditory acuity, tactile sense, and hand/eye coordination.
3. The ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak with English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice.
4. The ability to record the physical examination results, treatment plan, and all patient-related documents clearly and accurately.
5. The capacity to maintain composure and emotional self-regulation and continue to function effectively during periods of high stress.
6. The perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the Athletic Training Graduate Program as outlined and sequenced.
7. The ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
8. Affective skills, appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care such as empathy, tact, and respect.

Candidates admitted to the Athletic Training Graduate Program will be required to verify that they understand and meet these technical standards. All athletic training graduate students are required to have a physical examination upon admittance into graduate coursework for the program. Students are required to pass a physical examination, which must be documented using the SRU Athletic Training Physical Examination form. This will be done to ensure that each student's physical and mental health will permit them to meet the established technical standards. Students must also verify that they have received all OSHA required immunizations before matriculating through the program. The Office of Disability Services will evaluate a student who states that they cannot meet the program's technical standards as outlined in the Office Disability Services policies. Students must be able to meet the Technical Standards throughout the didactic and clinical education experiences of the program. If at any time a student is unable to meet these standards, they are required to inform the program coordinator and Office Disabilities Services.