

Slippery Rock University
Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Technical Standards

A candidate for a graduate program in the Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences (Master of Science in Athletic Training, Occupational Therapy Doctorate, Doctor of Physical Therapy) at Slippery Rock University must demonstrate the ability to acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to complete the core educational requirements. The following abilities and characteristics, defined as technical standards, are requirements for admission, retention, promotion, and graduation that may be achieved with or without reasonable accommodations by the university.

The technical standards are **not intended to deter** any candidate from applying, for whom reasonable accommodation will allow the successful completion of the program. Further, attracting and educating future professionals who better represent the populations served in our communities is a collective focus of these programs. All students are asked to attest to their ability to meet the technical standards on a yearly basis, unless changes in their abilities occur in the interim, upon which an updated form is indicated.

Observation: Students should be able to obtain information from classroom and clinical environments. In a lab environment, students must be able to observe peers, lab assistants, faculty, and community volunteers. In the clinical setting students must be able to observe clients/patients. Observation requires the use or functional equivalent of the senses: vision, hearing, and/or touch.

Communication: Students should be able to communicate with all relevant stakeholders to elicit information. Students must be able to establish a therapeutic relationship and maintain sensitive, interpersonal relationships with others from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.

Motor: Students should possess the capacity to execute motor tasks needed to provide care and direct treatment. Students must be capable of delivering therapeutic care that ensures the safety of patients, caregivers, and themselves. The application of these psychomotor skills appropriate for the discipline (i.e. evaluation, intervention, testing, etc.) occur in the classroom/lab and the clinical setting. This may include, but is not limited to, performing, demonstrating, or guiding others in the safe lifting, transferring, guarding, and positioning of patients/clients.

Intellectual; Conceptual; Integrative and Quantitative: Students should be able to assimilate detailed and complex information presented in both didactic and clinical coursework. All students must be able to use critical thinking skills to understand and apply foundational and advanced knowledge and theories as well as utilize relevant literature to guide clinical decision making. In addition, students should be able to adapt to the different environments and methods consistent with didactic and clinical learning opportunities.

Social and Behavioral: Students must exhibit sufficient psychological maturity and emotional stability required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, which includes, but is not limited to, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completion of responsibilities associated with patient/client care. Students must exhibit integrity, honesty, professionalism, compassion, and are expected to display a spirit of cooperation and teamwork with clients, colleagues, and other care providers. Students should be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They should be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many clients. Students must accept responsibility for learning and exercising good judgment and are expected to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes.

Ethics and Professionalism: Students should maintain and display ethical behaviors commensurate with the role of a healthcare professional in all interactions with patients/clients, faculty, staff, students and the public. The student is expected to understand the legal and ethical aspects of the respective profession and function within the law and ethical standards of that profession at all times. All students must meet the technical standards delineated above with or without reasonable accommodation. The Slippery Rock Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences recognizes the value that comes from a learning-diverse student body, including students with disabilities. Students who, after review of the technical standards determine that they may require accommodation to fully engage in the program, should contact the Office of Disability Services at Slippery Rock University to confidentially discuss their accommodations needs. All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Given the clinical nature of the program, additional time may be needed to implement accommodations. Accommodations are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential and encouraged.

Office of Disability Services (ODS)

disabilityservices@sru.edu

724-738-4877

<https://www.sru.edu/offices/students-with-disabilities-office-for>

Questions about the interpretation of these technical standards can also be directed to the Program Director for your respective program.

Master of Science in Athletic Training Program

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Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program

Miranda Virone, PhD, OTD, MS, OTR/L

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Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Kelly Lindenberg, PT, DPT, PhD, CSCS

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My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and am currently (check one)

able to meet the requirements of the technical standards outlined on this document **without** accommodation.

able to meet the requirements of the technical standards outlined on this document **with** accommodation. (*Documentation must be gained from the SRU Office of Disability Services*)

unable to meet the requirements of the technical standards outlined on this document with or without accommodation.

If my status changes at any time, I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to contact the Office of Disability Services, update this acknowledgment, and submit to the program director for the program which I am enrolled.

Student Signature

Date