Physical therapy education requires that accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills, behaviors, and professional attitudes. In order to acquire the knowledge and skills for function in a broad variety of clinical situations, and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, students entering in the Physical Therapy Program must have abilities and skills in the following five areas: observation; communication; kinesthetic/motor; cognitive/conceptual; and behavioral/social. Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in some of these areas, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

The Physical Therapy Program requires that students entering the program and returning from a medical leave of absence possess these essential functions, abilities and technical standards. Students entering the program must attest that they meet the aforementioned standards and students returning from a medical leave of absence from the program must undergo an evaluation from the physician treating the condition responsible for the medical leave for the purpose of determining whether the student is able to continue performing the abilities and skills aforementioned and described below.

**Observation**

Observation requirements for evaluative and treatment procedures in classroom and clinic include but are not limited to the ability to:

- Observe demonstrations and experiments in the didactic and applied physical therapy curriculum.
- Observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation requires the use of common sense, as well as the functional use of the senses of vision, audition, olfaction, and palpation.

**Communication**

Communication requirements for evaluative and treatment procedures in classroom and clinic include but are not limited to the ability to:

- Elicit information from patients, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive and accurately report nonverbal communications.
- Communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, their families and other health professionals.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently, and in a timely manner with all members of the health care team in both immediate and recorded modes.
- Receive and give feedback and criticism, effectively handling conflict.
- Effectively communicate with socially and culturally diverse individuals and groups.
Kinesthetic/Motor
Physical requirements for evaluative and treatment procedures in the classroom and clinic include but are not limited to the ability to:

- Demonstrate functional range of motion of the spine, upper and lower extremities.
- Apply and receive adequate force to test all major muscle groups and to apply resistance for progressive exercise.
- Assist patients with physical activities including but not limited to bed mobility, transfers, fall prevention and recovery and ambulation from supervised to maximum assistance.
- Sit, stand, walk, bend and squat consistently and repetitively in order to safely administer manual therapy, therapeutic exercise and other treatment modalities.
- Push, pull, lift or carry 0-50 pounds on an intermittent basis.
- Perform tasks requiring fine and gross manual dexterity for activities such as wound debridement, compression wrapping, wound dressing, and taping.
- Physically position oneself in a classroom for multiple 50 minute class sessions daily.

Cognitive:
Cognitive requirements for evaluative and treatment procedures in the classroom and clinic include but are not limited to the ability to:

- Ask and answer questions in a directed and focused manner.
- Discuss technically complex information in an open and constructive manner, accepting the possibility of multiple answers to a single question.
- Focus and maintain a 100% arousal state for 50 minute classroom or laboratory sessions.
- Cognitively participate in all classroom and clinic activities.
- Recognize and determine how to remedy an unsafe environment or event.

Behavioral/Social Attitudes
Participation in the classroom and clinic setting require appropriate and professional interactions with others to include (but are not limited to the ability to):

- Communicate and interact appropriately with all patients, students and teachers.
- Function effectively under physical and emotional stress.
- Effectively self-assess and adapt to changing environments.
- Display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical environment and problems of many patients.
- Display compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that are assessed during the admission and education process.

I attest that I can perform all of the essential functions required of physical therapy education and clinical practice outlined in this document. I understand that falsification of my abilities is grounds for dismissal from the Physical Therapy program.

I request accommodations based on my disability. Accommodation request and MD certification of disability are attached.

Student Name (print) ________________________________ Student Signature ________________________________ Date __________