

Technical Standards for Admission, Academic Progression and Graduation

Athletic Training education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills, professional attitudes, and behaviors. Standards presented in this document are prerequisite for admission and graduation from the University of South Florida Athletic Training Program (the “Program”). All courses in the Program curriculum are required in order to develop the essential skills necessary to become a competent practitioner.

All candidates must have aptitude, abilities, and skills in each of the five skill areas specified below. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in these skill areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary would mean that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation. Therefore, third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the five skill areas specified below. Reasonable accommodation can be made, as appropriate, as long as the integrity of the Program is upheld.

The University of South Florida is committed to the principles of equitable and accessible education and to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. The Program endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities who apply for admission and are enrolled as athletic training students.

Should, despite reasonable accommodation (whether the candidate chooses to use the accommodation or not), a candidate's existing or acquired disability(ies) interfere with patient or peer safety, or otherwise impede their ability to complete the Program's educational program and advance to graduation or certification, the candidate may be denied admission or may be separated or dismissed from the program.

1. Observation and Perception

Candidates must be able to accurately perceive, by the use of senses and mental abilities, the presentation of information through:

- Small group discussions and presentations
- Large-group lectures
- One-on-one interactions
- Demonstrations
- Laboratory experiments
- Patient encounters
- Diagnostic findings
- Procedures
- Written material
- Audiovisual material

2. Communication

Candidates must be able to communicate skillfully (in English) with faculty members, preceptors, other members of the healthcare team, patients, families, and other students, in order to:

- Elicit information
- Perceive, acknowledge, and respond to nonverbal communication
- Convey information, verbally and in writing
- Clarify information
- Create rapport
- Develop therapeutic relationships

3. Motor Coordination or Function

Candidates should have sufficient motor function and coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the sense of touch and vision to:

- Attend (and participate in) all classes, groups, and activities in the curriculum
- Examine patients
- Elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers
- Execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to stop bleeding, application of bandages for wound care, patient transport, and manual therapies
- Perform in a reasonably independent and competent way in sometimes chaotic clinical environments

4. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

Candidates must be able to demonstrate higher-level cognitive abilities, which include:

- Rational thought
- Measurement
- Calculation
- Visual-spatial comprehension
- Conceptualization
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Organization
- Representation (oral, written, diagrammatic, three dimensional)
- Memory
- Application
- Clinical reasoning
- Ethical reasoning

5. Professionalism: Mature and Ethical Conduct

Candidates must be able to:

- Consistently display academic integrity, fairness and respect for others.
- Promptly complete all assignments and responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients
- Communicate with, examine, and provide care for all patients—including those whose gender, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or spiritual beliefs are different from candidates' own
- Develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships, not only with patients but with all members of the Program and healthcare teams
- Maintain sobriety in all academic and clinical environments, and refrain from the illegal use of substances at all times
- Abide by all state, federal, and local laws, as well as all University of South Florida codes of conduct
- Tolerate physically, emotionally, and mentally demanding workloads
- Function effectively under stress, and proactively make use of available resources to help maintain both physical and mental health
- Adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and be able to learn in the face of uncertainty
- Take responsibility for themselves and their behaviors

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The Program will consider for admission any applicant who demonstrates the ability to perform or to learn to perform the skills listed in this document. Students will be judged not only on their scholastic accomplishments, but also on their physical and emotional capacities to meet the full requirements of the Program curriculum, and to graduate as skilled and effective practitioners.

Candidates are asked to address the following questions in consideration of these technical standard requirements:

1. Is the candidate able to reasonably observe demonstrations and participate in skill laboratories?
2. Is the candidate able to reasonably analyze, synthesize, extrapolate, solve problems and reach diagnostic and therapeutic judgments?
3. Does the candidate have reasonably sufficient use of the senses of vision and hearing and the somatic sensation necessary to perform an assessment examination?
4. Can the candidate reasonably be expected to relate to patients and establish sensitive, professional relationships with patients?
5. Can the candidate reasonably be expected to communicate the results of the examination to the patient and to his or her colleagues with accuracy, clarity and efficiency?
6. Can the candidate reasonably be expected to learn and perform assessment tests and procedures?
7. Can the candidate reasonably be expected to perform with precise, quick and appropriate actions in emergency situations?
8. Can the candidate reasonably be expected to display good judgment in the assessment and treatment of patients?
9. Can the candidate reasonably be expected to possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the Athletic Training Program curriculum and enter the practice of Athletic Training?
10. Can the candidate reasonably be expected to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior?

Students with Disabilities

USF is committed to the principles of equitable and accessible education and to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students with disabilities apply under the same guidelines as other students. If a student feels a disability has had an impact on grades, course choice or standardized admission test scores, the student may request consideration of this in the admissions process. Documentation of the disability and its relationship to the failure to satisfy a specific USF requirement should be submitted with the application for admission.

The USF Student Accessibility Services (usf.edu/sas) coordinates learning assistance to eligible students. Course related assistance and accommodations such as reader services, interpreters, alternative exam administration, note takers and adaptive equipment are available through this office.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection listed above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards, I will not be admitted into the program.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Applicant _____

Alternative Statement for students requesting accommodations

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of selection listed above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact USF Student Accessibility Services to determine what accommodations may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, I will not be admitted into the program.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Applicant _____