

## **Master of Athletic Training Program Technical Standards**

The Master of Athletic Training is an intense program which places specific physical and intellectual demands on students enrolled in the program. These abilities and clinical skills are integral to the successful completion of didactic and clinical components of athletic training education. These abilities and clinical skills, which candidates and students must possess in order to successfully complete their professional training, are referred to as the “Technical Standards”.

The five categorical areas listed below represent the essential qualities that are considered necessary for students to achieve the knowledge, clinical skills, and levels of competency stipulated for graduation by the faculty and expected by the athletic training profession.

These technical standards are provided for your review and careful consideration.

### **Observation**

- Accurately and in entirety observe patients during examination, evaluation, and interventions.
- Ability to visually observe materials presented in the classroom and laboratory environment including audiovisual presentations, written documents, tissues and gross organs, and diagnostic images.

### **Communication**

- Effectively speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit information, perceive nonverbal communication, and describe changes in mood, activity, and posture.
- Communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and their families through oral and written language.
- Communicate accurately and efficiently in oral, written, and electronic form with members of the healthcare team.

### **Psychomotor**

- Elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation and percussion, and clinical diagnostic testing.
- Execute movements required for patient examination, evaluation, and interventions. Such skills require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, strength, and sensation.
- Safely lift and transfer patients.

- Possess physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study, which may include prolonged periods of sitting and/or standing, twisting, bending, reaching, lifting, and continuous use of hands with firm grasp and manual dexterity.
- The perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the AT Program as outlined and sequenced. This includes a minimum of 960 hours of clinical experience. The clinical experience may include activities during early mornings, late evenings, weekends and time outside of the academic calendar.

### **Cognitive/Critical Reasoning Skills**

- Demonstrate the ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize information.
- Demonstrate the ability to acquire, retain, and apply new and learned information.
- Demonstrate appropriate judgment in patient examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, interventions, and outcomes including planning, time management and use of resources.
- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- Reflect on, assess, and report on performance of self and others.

### **Behavioral and Social Attributes**

- Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients.
- Demonstrate mature, receptive, and effective relationships with faculty, preceptors, patients, fellow students, and members of the healthcare team.
- Possess qualities of flexibility and the adaptability in functioning in an environment of uncertainty inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.
- Demonstrate the capacity to tolerate taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. These workloads will include outdoor activities in harsh weather environments (e.g. hot and humid).
- Display the personal qualities of compassion, integrity, commitment, motivation, and genuine concern for others that are intrinsic to the medical profession, and will be assessed during the admissions and educational process.

### **Concluding Comments**

Candidates for admission to the Athletic Training Program will be asked to verify that they understand and meet these technical standards. Admission decisions are made on the supposition that each candidate believes that he or she meets the technical standards with or without a reasonable accommodation.

Candidates are encouraged to ask questions about the program's technical standards for clarification and to determine if they meet the standards with or without reasonable accommodation. The Athletic Training Program acknowledges Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and asserts that the ability to meet certain essential technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation must be present in the prospective candidate. Disclosure of a disability is voluntary; however, admitted students who wish to request accommodations should contact:

Ms. Katie Johnson, Director  
The ACCESS and Accommodation Office  
Mercer University  
1501 Mercer University  
Macon, GA 31207  
(478) 301-2778  
[Johnson\\_kc@mercer.edu](mailto:Johnson_kc@mercer.edu)

During enrollment, the Athletic Training Program faculty will monitor students for continuing compliance with the technical standards. The faculty of the Athletic Training Program recognizes and embraces the responsibility of presenting candidates for graduation who have the education and skills to function in a wide variety of clinical situations and to provide competent patient-centered care to a diverse population of patients.