**Mercyhurst University Professional Program**

**Technical Standards**

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (the CAATE) requires that all accredited professional athletic training programs publish technical standards for program admission and retention. The Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University is a rigorous and intenseprogram 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 Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University establish the essential qualities considered necessary for the 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 CAATE. The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted into the Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University.

In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the Program. Compliance with the program’s technical standards does not guarantee a student’s eligibility for the B.O.C. certification exam.

If a student’s status should change during completing of the Professional program, he/she is required to notify the Program Director in writing of his/her status change. If needed, in applicable scenarios, a medical leave of absence may be warranted (please the policy on Medical Leave of Absence).

Candidates for the selection to the Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University must demonstrate the following:

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 examinations using accepted techniques; and accurately, safely, and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients.

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 the English language at a level consistent with the competent professional practice.

4. The ability to record the physical examination results and treatment plan clearly and accurately.

5. The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress.

6. The perseverance, diligence, and commitment to complete the athletic training program as outlined and sequenced.

7. Flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.

8. Affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

Candidates for selection to the Professional Athletic Training Program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards; or they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet these technical standards.

Mercyhurst University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential.   Students with a documented disability, that require academic accommodations, must consult with the office of Academic Support and Learning Differences to discuss eligibility. Students can also submit the online accommodation request form, which can be found under *How to Access Services* on the following webpage, <http://www.mercyhurst.edu/academics/learning-differences-program>, to the Director of Equal Opportunity Programs (DEOP) at ada@mercyhurst.edu.
Please be aware that in keeping with best practices, Mercyhurst University requires students needing academic accommodations to provide current documentation of his/her disability, along with an Accommodations Request form, to the DEOP for review by the ADA committee.

Students are advised to request accommodations at the time of acceptance or prior to the start of the semester; however, accommodations may be requested at any time throughout the academic year. ***Accommodations are not retroactive.***

Note: Students must sign the *Technical Standards Waiver Form* located on the Mercyhurst University portal indicating their understanding of this policy.

Each annually reviewed and signed form can be will be stored in the student’s educational file.