

TSU DPT Clinical Education Courses

Clinical Education & Essential Function Requirements (Updated July 2026)

In addition, as part of the DPT curriculum, students complete three full-time Clinical Education courses during their third year of the program.

Before beginning clinical education coursework, all students must meet the following requirements:

- Proficiency in medical terminology
- Documentation that they are free from communicable disease
- **Required immunizations**, including:
 - Polio
 - Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
 - Varicella
 - Hepatitis B (most clinical sites will accept a signed waiver of refusal)
 - Tdap, every 10 years (some clinical sites will accept a signed waiver of refusal)
 - Seasonal Flu Vaccination (most clinical sites will accept a signed waiver of refusal but require the student to wear a mask during flu season, October 1 through March 31)
- Annual TB skin test or blood test to determine exposure to or presence of tuberculosis
- Current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification through the American Heart Association, arranged by the PT program.
- Annual Physical Examination
- Health insurance coverage
- Malpractice (professional liability) insurance coverage; students pay for this coverage through the University
- **Criminal Background Checks and Drug Screening:** A criminal background check and 10-panel drug screen may be required for training at some affiliated clinical sites. Based on the results of these checks or screens, an affiliated clinical site may

decline to allow your participation in training at their facility, which could affect your ability to complete the requirements of this program. Additionally, a criminal background may preclude licensure or employment.

- Training in HIPAA and Bloodborne Pathogens, provided by the PT program
- **COVID Vaccinations:** COVID vaccinations are not required by the University. However, COVID vaccinations and/or boosters may be required for training at some affiliated clinical sites. Some affiliated clinical sites allow medical and/or religious exemptions to the vaccine, while others do not. Not having the vaccine could affect your ability to complete the requirements of this program.

These requirements are set by our affiliated clinical sites, and we have very limited ability to modify them. Our students spend three semesters off campus at various clinical sites, most of which have their own requirements, including immunizations, that must be met for a student to be allowed to learn in that clinic. If a student has not met one or more of these requirements, it is up to the individual clinical site to determine whether that student may participate in patient treatment.

Essential Functions

The following are Essential Functions that students should be able to meet, whether unaided or with reasonable accommodation, in order to participate in a clinical education:

- Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment
- Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds
- Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective physical therapy care
- Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess health needs
- Visual acuity sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in physical therapy care
- Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and treatment
- Physical ability to assist with moving, transferring, and ambulating patients who have physical impairment or dysfunction

If a student is unable to perform the Essential Functions listed above, they have the right to request reasonable accommodations from the [Office of Disability Services](#) as outlined in the [TSU Student Handbook](#).