PROFESSIONAL and ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Good academic standing in the School of Physical Therapy is defined as continued enrollment, satisfactory academic progress, sound clinical skills, behavior that leads to professional competence and positive interpersonal and professional relations, and appropriate professional/ethical conduct and attitudes. Students are evaluated regularly in these five areas.

Students are expected to demonstrate behavior consistent with the Pacific University Code of Academic Conduct, American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Code of Ethics, Guide to Professional Conduct, School of Physical Therapy Professional Behaviors, and state and federal laws governing the conduct of physical therapy. The School of Physical Therapy reserves the right to define professional competence and behavior, to establish standards of excellence, and to evaluate students in regard to them.

Agreement to abide by the policies and procedures of the University and the program is implicitly confirmed when students register each term. Students are expected to adhere to the various administrative and academic deadlines listed in the academic calendar and in course syllabi. Failure to do so may jeopardize their academic standing in the School of Physical Therapy and may constitute grounds for probation or dismissal from the program. Students must maintain good standing in the program in order to be eligible for, or continue on, any School of Physical Therapy administered scholarships.

A student's academic standing will be judged by one or more of the following:

2. Acceptable progress in the development of clinical skills.
3. Compliance with School rules and procedures.
4. Professional procedures, ethical and legal conduct.
5. Evidence of behavior that supports professional conduct and interpersonal or professional relations. (See p.2-10 & 2-11, "Professional Behaviors")

Faculty will evaluate academic performance, clinical skills, professional development and professional behaviors demonstrated in the educational environment and in clinical performance according to standards set forth in the University Catalog, the School of Physical Therapy Student Handbook, the APTA Code of Ethics and elsewhere.
Students will be given regular reports on their progress in the program. A student who is not performing adequately according to the standards will receive notification through written feedback and/or individual advisement. After receiving such warning, failure to improve performance before the next scheduled evaluation may result in academic probation.

Students placed on academic probation will receive formal written notification outlining the reasons for probation and expectations that must be met in order for probation to be lifted. Failure to meet the requirements of probation in a timely manner may result in dismissal from the program.

In the case of flagrant and intentional violations of the Code of Academic Conduct or APTA Code of Ethics, a student may be dismissed without previous warning at any time in his or her academic career.

In general, program decisions regarding academic standing are final. A decision may be appealed only if the student can show that 1) there was an error in the procedure used by the faculty, 2) there is new evidence sufficient to alter the decisions, or 3) the sanction imposed was not appropriate to the severity of the violation and professional or academic standards. The Director’s office informs the student of faculty actions.

Appeals should be filed with the Director of the School of Physical Therapy or the Executive Dean of the College of Health Professions within 10 days from the date of notification of the original action. Students are not allowed to attend class until the student has filed an appeal. Further appeals may be pursued through the University Standards and Appeals Committee. Individuals convicted of felony may not be eligible for licensing in Physical Therapy. Students are urged to contact the appropriate licensing agency for further information.

Additional Information:
For details of professional and academic standards, academic policies and procedures, clinical policies and procedures, the appeals process, and the academic conduct policies, please see the following documents:

- School of Physical Therapy Student Handbook
- School of Physical Therapy Intern Clinical Education Manual
- Physical Therapy course syllabi
- Additional resources are available in the Director’s Office.