

2020-2021

**Jefferson College of
Rehabilitation Sciences**

Student Handbook



Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson University

Notice of Equal Opportunity

Thomas Jefferson University is committed to providing equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, marital status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, veteran's status or any other protected characteristic. The consideration of factors unrelated to a person's ability, qualifications and performance is inconsistent with this policy. Any person having inquiries or complaints concerning Thomas Jefferson University's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is directed to contact their Student Affairs Dean or Human Resources – Employee Relations, who have been designated by Thomas Jefferson University to coordinate the institution's efforts to comply with these laws. Any person may also contact the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202, or the Director, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Region Three, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, regarding the University's compliance with the equal opportunity laws.

Required Background Check

Students who are offered admission to Jefferson in a health related program may be required to pass a criminal background check and child abuse clearance. Please consult with the Office of Admissions for clarification on required paperwork for admission. Additionally, some departments and/or programs within the College, as well as some clinical sites may require students to be fingerprinted and/or drug tested. The Office of Admissions, along with your academic program, will provide you with the appropriate information to complete these requirements.

Clinical rotation, fieldwork, and residency sites that require a criminal background check, child abuse clearance and/or fingerprinting may deny a student's participation in the clinical experience, rotation, fieldwork, or residency because of a felony or misdemeanor conviction or a record of child abuse. Clinical sites may also deny participation in clinical experiences for other reasons, including but not limited to failure of a required drug test, or inability to produce an appropriate health clearance. As participation in clinical experiences, rotations, fieldwork, or residencies is a required part of the curriculum and a requirement for graduation, denial of participation by a clinical site may result in delay of graduation or the inability to graduate from the program.

Regardless of whether or not a student graduates from Jefferson, individuals who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may be denied certification or licensure as a health professional. Information regarding individual eligibility may be obtained from the appropriate credentialing bodies.

Thomas Jefferson University and its College of Rehabilitation Sciences reserve the right to amend, modify, rescind, or implement any policies, procedures, regulations, fees, conditions and courses described herein as circumstances may require without prior notice to persons who might thereby be affected. The provisions of this handbook are not and may not be regarded as contractual between or among the College, its students or its employees or agents.

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Dear Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences Student:

As we continue to transition to a new Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences at Jefferson, we present you with this Graduate Student Handbook to guide you to the policies and procedures that impact your academic career within the University, the College of Rehabilitation Sciences and within your individual program of study. If you should have any questions throughout your academic career here, we encourage you to reach out to your program director/department chair, your faculty advisor, or the Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs, Ms. Nannette Fromm at Nannette.fromm@jefferson.edu.

The following outline will direct you to the policies applicable to you based on the program in which you are enrolled. In addition to the references provided below, students should refer to the University Handbook and their Department/Program student handbook for specific policies related to their individual program of study.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS EAST FALLS CAMPUS

These students include undergraduate students in Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science and Health Sciences as well as undergraduate students in the pre-professional phase of their combined degree program BS in Exercise Science and Doctoral of Physical Therapy and (BS in Health Studies/Psychology and MS in Occupational Therapy or MS in Athletic Training).

Students will follow policies and procedures as described in the Thomas Jefferson University Student Handbook, as well as Undergraduate Student policies located at www.jefferson.edu/handbook.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE PROFESSIONAL PHASE OF STUDY

These students include Master of Science students in Athletic Training and Occupational Therapy, and students in the professional phase (graduate coursework) of their combined BS/MS program in Occupational Therapy, Athletic Training, and Physical Therapy.

Students are directed to the policies and procedures contained within this handbook, in addition to the JCRS Student Catalog-Center City Campus at <https://www.jefferson.edu/university/health-professions/student-resources.html> and the Thomas Jefferson University Student Handbook website at www.jefferson.edu/handbook.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

These students include graduate students in the Master of Science in Athletic Training, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program, the BS/MS Occupational Therapy program, the Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree program, the Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate, the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, and all graduate certificate programs within the College, including the advance practice certificates in Hand and Upper Limb Rehabilitation, in the Department of Occupational Therapy, and in the Center for Outcomes Measurement.

Students are directed to the policies and procedures contained within this handbook, in addition to the JCRS Student Catalog-Center City Campus at <https://www.jefferson.edu/content/dam/university/health-professions/resources/2017-2018-JCRS-Student-Handbook-Revised-2-2018.pdf> and the Thomas Jefferson University Student Handbook website at www.jefferson.edu/handbook.

ACCREDITATION

Thomas Jefferson University is fully accredited by:
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(267) 284-5000
info@msche.org
españolinfo@msche.org (Spanish)

In addition to full accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the following professional programs of the Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences are approved by the appropriate accrediting agencies:

Athletic Training

Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education
6850 Austin Center Blvd., Suite 100
Austin, TX 78731-3184
(512) 733-9700
(844)-GO-CAATE
<https://caate.net/>

Occupational Therapy

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy-Center City Campus

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Programs (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association
6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
301-652-6611 x2914
<https://www.aota.org/education-careers/accreditation.aspx>

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy-East Falls Campus

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Programs (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association
6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
301-652-6611 x2914
<https://www.aota.org/education-careers/accreditation.aspx>

Occupational Therapy Doctorate-Center City Campus

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Programs (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association
6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
301-652-6611 x2914
<https://www.aota.org/education-careers/accreditation.aspx>

Physical Therapy

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
Department of Accreditation
American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
(703) 706-3245
accreditation@apta.org

Graduates are eligible to take the qualifying examinations of the state and/or national licensing or registry bodies and to become members of the appropriate professional organizations.

JCRS Policies and Procedures

It is the responsibility of the student to be familiar with and observe the Policies and Procedures of the College in all matters. If a student is unclear on any material referenced in this handbook, they should consult with their academic advisor, program director or Department Chair.

ACADEMIC HONORS (Bachelor Degree Candidates only)

In recognition of undergraduate student achievement, upon degree conferment, the university recognizes the high achievement of student performance by the awarding of Latin honors. For more information, refer to the Latin Honor policy in the TJU Student Handbook.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The Administration and Faculty of the Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences believe that academic integrity is one of the most important values and behaviors that should be practiced by students during their academic and clinical education. Integrity and honesty are especially valued in the healthcare professions because accurate diagnosis and treatment of patients are greatly dependent upon a health practitioner's honest and capable assessment of symptoms and diagnostic tests. This assessment can be rendered only by the practitioner who has "real" knowledge obtained as a student who answered test questions independently, thereby identifying and correcting mistakes. The successful practitioner can communicate important diagnostic and therapeutic information in writing because as a student, such skills were developed and/or enhanced by completing writing assignments independently. The practitioner who was dishonest in his or her educational pursuits is at great risk for making diagnostic and therapeutic mistakes and such errors can mean that someone's health care is mismanaged.

Because we are committed to educating practitioners who provide the highest quality of health care, the administration and faculty are equally committed to mandating and enforcing the practice of academic integrity by all students. Please refer to the TJU Student Handbook for more information on the Academic Integrity Policy.

ACADEMIC STANDING

Probation and Dismissal

Students' academic records are reviewed at the end of each semester, including summer sessions, to evaluate academic standing and satisfactory progress toward degree requirements. The program director, department chair, or advisor in the student's academic program of study will notify the student when problems in academic performance may jeopardize a student's academic standing. Official notification of probation or dismissal will be sent in writing directly to the student by the Department Chair/Program Director.

Students should familiarize themselves with academic progression standards/special program requirements of their program of study that will be identified in their program's student handbook. Please note: these standards are in addition to academic standing requirements of the university.

Students who fail to meet departmental/program regulations pertaining to academic standing will be subject to departmental/program academic probation or dismissal in accordance with the policies regarding progression within their respective departments/programs. Actions related to academic probation and dismissal, may be reviewed by both College and/or Department/Program Committees on Student Affairs and the Office of the Dean before final action is taken.

Please note that for students in Masters and Doctoral level degree programs, dismissal from their respective department/program for academic reasons will also result in dismissal from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences. Students wishing to remain in the University will be required to apply for admission to another graduate program through the Office of Admissions.

Students in the professional phase of an undergraduate program should consult with the Department Chair/Program Director to determine potential options for transfer to another bachelor level degree program if dismissed for academic reasons.

Students enrolled in the BS/MS programs on the East Falls campus who are dismissed from the 1st year of the professional phase of their program (when completing undergraduate and graduate courses concurrently) should consult with their advisor to determine options for completion of a bachelor's degree.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

In circumstances where the typical mode of delivery for a class cannot occur due to unforeseen circumstances at the faculty/department level, faculty will provide an alternative mode of delivery to ensure continuation of student learning. The faculty will notify the students in a timely manner of the class cancellation and the alternative mode of delivery. If the alternative format is not available at the scheduled time of the typical class period, student attendance is strongly recommended; however, students cannot be penalized for missing a rescheduled class. In planning rescheduled course activities, faculty should recognize students' work, family, and other obligations.

CLINICAL PROBATION AND DISMISSAL

Because patient/client well-being is a major concern of the University, it is necessary that certain actions be taken when a student's clinical practice poses a potential threat to patient health, welfare or safety. Therefore, students are subject to the College and/or Department's specific regulations governing clinical practice and may be placed on probation by the Department and/or recommended for dismissal from the Department for unsafe clinical behavior. The specific regulations are contained in a departmental/program handbook or similar publication and are distributed to students at the beginning of the academic year and/or prior to the clinical rotation. Students who wish to appeal a decision of clinical dismissal for unsafe clinical performance may do so by following the provisions of the Grade Appeal Protocol.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

At Jefferson, we are reimagining diversity and inclusion to promote and cultivate an inclusive environment that celebrates the diversity of our patients, families, students, workforce and the communities we serve. We believe that a diverse and inclusive environment is fundamental to our mission for the advancement of education and health and the achievement of health equity.

At Jefferson, we use the following definitions:

Diversity: is the richness of human similarities and differences that make up the One Jefferson Family.

Inclusion: is the ability to provide outstanding health care to all people and all communities while giving everyone voice and the opportunity to be valued, respected and supported.

GRADE APPEAL PROTOCOL

The grade appeal policy and procedure affords recourse to a student who has evidence that an inaccurate final grade has been awarded under specific conditions. For more information on appealing a grade, please refer to the Grade Appeal Policy in the TJU Student Handbook.

GRADING

At the close of an academic term, each instructor assigns a letter grade indicating the quality of a student's work in the course. The following is the grading system used in the College, including the quality points assigned for use in the calculation of the grade point average (GPA). Note that the minimal grades required for satisfactory performance in a given course and for progression in a specific program are determined by the academic policies governing the particular program (undergraduate vs. graduate) and academic department. For example, in some programs the minimal passing course grade is a C, while in others, it may be a C-. Depending on the program, failure to achieve the minimal passing grade may result in dismissal or academic probation.

Student should consult the Academic Standing: Academic Probation and Dismissal section of this handbook for policies regarding academic status in the College. Students should refer to the Academic Standing Policy in the TJU Student Handbook for Academic Standing in the University, and should also consult the appropriate section in their departmental/program student handbook for specific criteria and policies governing progression in and special program requirements for the programs in which they are enrolled. A copy of the departmental/program handbook is available from the student's faculty advisor.

The following grading scale is utilized by the College of Rehabilitation Sciences.

Letter Grade	Numeric Value	Quality Points	Letter Grade	Numeric Value	Quality Points
A	93-100	4.0	C+	77-79.99	2.3
A-	90-92.99	3.7	C	73-76.99	2.0
B+	87-89.99	3.3	C-	70-72.99	1.7
B	83-86.99	3.0	D	60-69.99	1.0
B-	80-82.99	2.7	F	Below 60	0.0
			WF		0.0

For a complete list of grading options that do not impact GPA calculation, please refer to the Grading policy in the TJU Student Handbook.

HOUSING

The Thomas Jefferson University Office of Housing and Residence Life serves students wishing to reside on throughout their degree program; however, students must be aware that the completion of their degree program may not coincide with the timing of their housing contracts. It is the student's responsibility to understand contract periods of the University assigned housing and to contact the Director of Housing and Residence Life to discuss extended housing options should they be needed.

ILLNESS/INJURY

In the event of a change in health status, extended illness, or serious injury that causes the student to miss clinical rotation or class time, the department chair/program director of the student's respective program reserves the right to require documentation of clearance through the Jefferson Occupational Health Network for Employees & Students (JOHN), the Office of the Dean of Students, or Student Health Services, East Falls Campus.

Situations that may require a student **to** report to for an evaluation **before** returning to the classroom or clinical rotation include*:

- student was hospitalized for any reason
- student sought care in an Emergency Room
- student received outpatient surgery or had an outpatient procedure
- students with current illness that may be potentially contagious

Students may be required to present information from the treating provider to assist in the evaluation of their readiness to return to class.

Clearance will be communicated from the appropriate university office to the respective department chair/program director **prior to** the student returning to the classroom or clinical setting. When the student has been cleared to return, they should work with the faculty of their enrolled courses to develop a plan for making up missed coursework.

*This requirement is in effect when students are actively enrolled in a semester.

If a faculty member believes that a physical or mental health concern may be impairing a student's ability to safely and effectively learn and/or execute their responsibilities, the student will be referred to the appropriate university office for an evaluation. Though the student's right to privacy is recognized and respected, it is important that the optimal support is provided to the student and that client and patient safety is protected.

As per the University Drug and Alcohol Policy, controlled substances legally prescribed by a licensed medical provider, as well as other medications, can influence performance and behavior. Where impairment potential exists, the student must inform their academic program. The student may be referred to JOHN (Center City) or Student Health Services (East Falls) for assessment.

If a change in health status requires accommodations, the student should contact the Office of Accessibility Services.

PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

When personal circumstances make a temporary absence from the College advisable and when intent to return is evident, a personal leave of absence may be granted to students. Permission of the Department Chair, College Dean or Program Director, as appropriate, is required. A personal leave of absence will be granted for a period from one semester to a full academic year. Students who are subject to dismissal for academic or disciplinary reasons are not eligible for a personal leave of absence. A student who has been placed on academic probation and is subsequently granted a leave must satisfy the terms of the probation upon returning.

If a personal leave of absence is granted during an academic term, the same procedures and policies pertaining to grading of individual course withdrawals will be in effect.

Students who fail to return to the College at the end of the approved leave will have their status changed from leave of absence to withdrawal, and they will have to apply for readmission in order to return.

Students considering a leave should first consult with their academic advisor and other appropriate university personnel regarding possible effects on their progress toward the degree, financial aid and tuition charges. A leave of absence should be arranged in advance, and the student should follow the same procedure as for withdrawal from the College. Students who have borrowed federal, institutional or private loans are required to complete a federally mandated Exit Interview counseling session with the University Office of Financial Aid. Besides being a federal requirement, it is a very helpful counseling process to ensure that students know the facts and repayment strategies that apply to student loans and to safeguard loans from becoming delinquent during a leave of absence, withdrawal or any other period of non-enrollment or drop in credits to below a half-time status level.

NON-MATRICULATED STUDENTS

At the discretion of the respective academic departments, students who have not been admitted to a degree or certificate program of the Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences may register for courses as non-matriculated students. Should they subsequently wish to pursue a degree, the academic credits

they have earned may be counted toward their degree requirements, if applicable. Please contact the respective Department for specific information on transferrable credits earned as a non-matriculated student at Jefferson. Non-matriculated students who wish to be considered as degree candidates in the health professions programs must apply for admission through the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management. Non-matriculated students are not eligible for financial aid.

READMISSION PROCEDURE

Matriculated students who have withdrawn (administratively or self-initiated) or been dismissed from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences or an academic department/program of the College must follow the procedures below for readmission to their previous department/program:

- 1) Students who wish to apply for readmission **within 1 year** of withdrawal or dismissal should contact the Department Chair/Program Director to petition for readmission. The Department Chair/Program Director will inform the student of the department/program-specific readmission procedures.
- 2) Students who have not been enrolled within JCRS for greater than a 1 year period of time must re-apply for admission through the Office of Admissions.

Please note: All readmitted students are subject to the academic and curricular requirements in place at the time of readmission. Additionally, start terms for the readmitted students will be determined by the College and/or program and based on the student's plan of study; readmitted students cannot assume that they will start in the next immediate term after readmission has been granted.

The student's respective Department Chair/Program Director will indicate any requirements that the student must meet upon readmission. The student will be held responsible for meeting these special criteria of academic performance established with the department upon readmission, in addition to overall Departmental and College requirements for achieving good academic standing.

REPEATED COURSES

With the approval of the Department Chair/Program Director, a student may repeat a course**in which they received a grade that did not meet minimum satisfactory performance requirements for the program in which they are enrolled or a course from which they had previously withdrawn. Students are responsible for paying tuition for repeated courses.

When a course is repeated, the initial credits attempted, credits earned and quality points are excluded from the calculation of the grade point average. The original course grade remains on the transcript in all cases.

**NOTE: Please refer to your respective Department/Program Student Handbook for department/program specific guidelines and permissions on eligibility for repeating a course. Not all programs within the College allow for course repeats and/or may limit the number of courses that a student may repeat throughout the curriculum.

Generally, neither employee tuition nor financial aid will cover the cost of a repeated course. Students receiving financial assistance should consult with the University Office of Financial Aid to determine what effect repeating a course may have on their financial aid package.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

All members of the Thomas Jefferson University Community have the right to express concerns when they perceive that they have been treated in a manner not consistent with the standards of conduct at the University. The student grievance procedure as described below is intended to allow students this mode of expression. However, the student grievance procedure is not intended for grade appeals or dismissal due to unsafe clinical practice. Please see the policy for grade appeals outlined in this handbook for resolution to those issues.

The student grievance procedure includes the following steps:

- 1) Students are encouraged to address the problem at the point closest to the issue. In the Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences, the student is encouraged to attempt to resolve the dispute directly with the faculty or staff member involved with the issue.
- 2) If dissatisfied with the outcome after meeting with the person closest to the issue, the student may meet with the appropriate Department Chair to reach a resolution.
- 3) If satisfactory resolution was not achieved in the student's meeting with the Department Chair, the student may file an official complaint by completing the Student Grievance Form located at <http://www.jefferson.edu/university/academic-affairs/schools/student-affairs/student-handbooks/university-policies/tju-grievance-process/student-grievance-form.html> .
 - a. When the complaint information is received, the Dean or Dean's Designee will schedule a meeting with the student to discuss the complaint. Please note that the Dean/Dean's Designee may request additional information from the student who submitted the complaint, as well as from other individuals identified in the complaint. Every reasonable effort will be made to preserve an individual's privacy and protect the confidentiality of information connected with the complaint. The information will be shared only with individuals who assist or are otherwise involved in the investigation and/or resolution of the complaint, or who otherwise have a need to know about the complaint and/or its resolution.
 - b. The Dean is the final authority in hearing student grievances.

All parties are encouraged to address the issue promptly in writing (within three [3] class days whenever possible) so that resolution of the grievance should require no more than three weeks.

Records of the grievance are kept by the respective faculty and administrative personnel and do not become part of the student's permanent record. If an official complaint is filed with the Office of the Dean, the University will also track such complaints and maintain a record that includes the date the complaint was received, the student(s) identified with the complaint, the nature of the complaint (including a copy of the written complaint), the University officials who were involved in addressing the complaint, the steps taken to resolve the complaint, and the final resolution/disposition of the complaint. This information may also be made available to regulatory agencies and accrediting bodies as required in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and policies.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

For information about the transfer of credits from other institutions prior to matriculation at Thomas Jefferson University, please refer to the Office of Admissions.

Once matriculated into a graduate degree program or advanced practice certificate program, a student may not transfer any credits from another institution to satisfy curricular requirements in the current academic program. Please note that upon approval of the Post Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate program director, courses taken in an advanced practice certificate may be utilized to fulfill curricular requirements in the post professional occupational therapy doctoral program only.

Additionally, students are not eligible to obtain credit for required graduate program courses through challenge exams or credit by exam. Additionally, the College does not offer courses by appointment.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COLLEGE

A student may initiate withdrawal from the College by due notice if not subject to dismissal because of failure or disciplinary action. If a withdrawal is initiated, the same procedures and policies pertaining to grading of individual course withdrawals will be in effect.

In order to withdraw, the student should contact the Office of the Registrar for their respective campus for necessary paperwork requirements. The date that the form is filed, and not the date of the last class attendance, is considered the official day of withdrawal.

A student matriculated in a degree-granting or post-baccalaureate certificate program who fails to enroll for more than two consecutive semesters without having been granted a leave of absence will be given an administrative withdrawal.

Service Opportunities

STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON JCRS COMMITTEES

The Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences has several committees that may offer students a chance to work alongside faculty in establishing policy, review recommendations, and contribute to the overall organization of the College. Student participation in these committees is valued and offers a chance for students to interact with peers and faculty outside of the classroom and to establish leadership skills. As these committee opportunities arise, students will be contacted via email with instructions on the self-nomination process.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON INTER-COLLEGE COMMITTEES

The University has several University-wide committees that offer students a chance to work alongside faculty and administrative personnel throughout the University. As these committee opportunities arise, students will be contacted via email with instructions on the self-nomination process.

Honors and Awards

At the end of each academic year and throughout graduation activities, the College seeks to acknowledge graduating students for excellence in academics, leadership and service.

Graduating students will be made aware of award eligibility and application procedures during the Spring semester of their graduating year and will work with faculty advisors to apply for awards.

Academic Calendar

The 2020-2021 Academic Calendar can be found at <https://www.jefferson.edu/university/academic-affairs/tju/academic-services/registrar/calendars/academic-calendars/2020-2021/JCRScalendar2021.html>