Dear Incoming DPT Student,

It is exciting to know that you will join us in a few short weeks and that your journey to becoming a physical therapist will begin. As you organize for the fall, I want to let you know about a few things that are important.

One of the unique features of our program is the early start with clinical education through your first Integrated Clinical Education course and you will be in a clinical setting as early as the third week of September. Please be prepared with appropriate clothes for clinical work that includes business casual clothing meaning khakis or dress pants, low heeled and closed toe shoes, and clothing that allows for movement such as in patient care. You will need a watch with a second hand as digital watches are not appropriate for your clinical work.

CPR certification through either the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross at the Healthcare Provider level is required for our students. We will arrange a CPR training course in the fall, however, if you have certification currently, please be sure to bring your card with you.

I would like to remind you of the health requirements that will need to be completed prior to your arrival on campus. These are higher standards than you may be familiar with and are consistent with the expectations of the health care world you are about to enter. One of the requirements is a 2-step TB test which requires an initial plant and read within 48 hours. A second plant and read must be completed within one to three weeks of the initial TB test. Missing this required timing means that you must start over, so plan accordingly.

Titers are required for varicella, hepatitis B, and rubella, and possibly for mumps and measles if you do not have documentation of these immunizations. If your titer levels are not high enough, you may need to be revaccinated or to receive a booster. In the event that you need to repeat the hepatitis B immunization series, this requires three immunizations spaced out over 8 months. Due to this timing, please begin your immunization process as soon as possible.

The MCPHS admitted students’ website has valuable information about health requirements, medical terminology, and new student orientation. Please read the information on the recommended self-study for medical terminology so that you are prepared in advance. Plan ahead to complete your health requirements on time as this is essential for your courses in the fall semester. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at 508-373-5741. We are looking forward to your arrival!

If there are any questions, please contact me, Dr. Frances Kistner, Program Director, directly at frances.kistner@mcphs.edu, 508.373.5749. Once you have your health requirement documentation, please create your account with Certified Background and upload your documents.

Thank you for your attention to these requirements.

All the best,

Frances Kistner, PT, PhD, CEAS