ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SCC PTA STUDENT AND PROGRAM GRADUATE

1. **Physical Skills and Abilities:** The physical skills required by the PTA student and graduate encompass a wide variety of abilities. The student and graduate must be able execute necessary movements and utilize sensory abilities needed to care for patients in a variety of healthcare settings.
    a. **Motor:**
        i. Must demonstrate the ability to frequently lift and carry 25 pounds and occasionally lift 50 pounds from floor to waist to chest height safely and effectively.
        ii. Must be able to perform frequent bending, reaching, squatting, standing, walking, sitting, pushing, and pulling regularly throughout the day.
        iii. Exhibits manual dexterity and fine motor skills, with the ability to perform repetitive hand movements.
    b. **Sensory:**
        i. Exhibits a visual acuity adequate to perform job duties consistent with the work of a PTA (ex: read numbers on a goniometer, read and document in patient charts located in electronic medical records).
        ii. Hears well enough to adequately perform job duties consistent with the work of a PTA (ex: can hear well enough to orally communicate with patients and other medical professionals in person and over the phone)
2. **Cognitive Abilities:** The PTA student and graduate must be able to interpret, analyze and utilize complex information effectively. This includes the ability to read and write at a college level.
    a. **Critical Thinking:**
        i. Demonstrates the ability to interpret, analyze, and evaluate information in a manner that is logical and organized.
    b. **Problem Solving:**
        i. Demonstrates the ability to solve problems, and to evaluate solutions and outcomes effectively.
        ii. Exhibits a commitment to self-directed learning and understands the importance of lifelong learning to be able to perform the skills of the PTA with a level of competence needed for contemporary practice in the profession.

  c. **Writing Capabilities:**
    i. Demonstrates an ability to provide written work on a college level that is free of spelling and grammatical errors.
    ii. Demonstrates an ability to read and comprehend scientific literature.

3. **Communication/Interpersonal Skills:** The PTA student and graduate must demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
  a. **Participation/Teamwork/Collaboration:**
    i. Works collaboratively with others and performs effectively in a team-setting.
    ii. Actively participates in classroom, clinical, and learning activities.
  b. **Effective Communication:**
    i. Demonstrates effective and appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication with other students, faculty, and staff at SCC, and with other professionals, patients, and staff in a clinical setting.
    ii. Demonstrates the ability to communicate appropriately in writing, and in a way that is directed toward the appropriate audience.

4. **Behavioral/Emotional Skills:** The PTA student and graduate must demonstrate the ability to manage emotions and behave in an appropriate and professional manner.
  a. **Stress management/resilience:**
    i. Manages stress by recognizing stressors and developing a personal plan for management when needed.
    ii. Demonstrate resilience during difficult or challenging situations.
  b. **Recognizing and Managing Emotions:**
    i. Recognizes the emotions of others and modifies interactions with others based on their emotions if needed.
    ii. Is aware of one's own emotions and manages them appropriately.

5. **Professional Conduct:** The PTA student and graduate must exhibit professional conduct that is consistent with the expectations of the profession. Professional conduct is also represented in several of the other essential functions listed above. Professional conduct must demonstrate an understanding of the *Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant* and the *Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant* (see Appendix).
  a. **Responsibility/Accountability**
    i. **Constructive feedback:**
      1. Accepts constructive feedback and is willing to make changes based on it.
      2. Provides constructive feedback to others in a well though-out and respectful manner.

ii. **Self-assessment:**
1. Demonstrates the ability to self-assess, recognize strengths and weaknesses, and develop an improvement plan if needed with or without assistance from PTA faculty.

b. **Time Management/Efficient Use of Resources:**
i. **Effort:**
1. Demonstrates a consistent level of effort and provides quality work throughout the program.
ii. **Attendance and Timeliness:**
1. Attends all classes and clinicals and arrives on time.
2. Turns in all work prior to or by the due date.

c. **Compassion and Altruism:**
i. Demonstrates empathy for others and places patients before self.

d. **Honesty and Integrity:**
i. Is open, honest, and demonstrates a high level of integrity.

e. **Respect and Cultural Competence:**
i. Demonstrates respect for self and others during all interactions.
ii. Understands and implements the chain-of-command when dealing with issues.
iii. Does not discriminate against any individual; demonstrates equity and fairness.

f. **Presentation:**
i. Consistently presents oneself in an appropriate and professional manner that is consistent with the profession of physical therapy (see Professional Appearance).

6. **Reasonable Accommodation for Disabilities**: SCC is committed to ensuring that otherwise qualified students with disabilities are given equal access through reasonable accommodations to its programs, services and activities for students with disabilities. Disability Services https://www.southwesterncc.edu/disability_services is the contact for students who are requesting reasonable accommodations because of a disability. Students with disabilities are expected to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodation. While SCC makes every effort to work with students who have disability needs, it is important to note that we are not required to provide requested accommodations that would fundamentally alter the essential qualifications, or academic and technical standards of the program.