

Southwestern Community College PTA Program
Program Standards Essential Functions

Program Standards for the Physical Therapist Assistant

Essential Function	Motor Skills (Fine and Gross)	Sensory	Communication	Behavior	Critical Thinking
Standard	<p>Demonstrate manual dexterity, eye hand coordination, gross and fine motor skills sufficient to manipulate several items at once using both hands to perform functions in accordance with PTA skills; keep uniform pressure on patient and adjust based on patient response, Strength to move objects or patients, stand and maintain balance during therapeutic procedures/activities, carry equipment and supplies. Abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective physical therapy care</p>	<p>Visual: Ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in the physical therapy setting</p> <p>Auditory: Sufficient to monitor and assess health needs</p> <p>Tactile: Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment</p>	<p>The student must possess sufficient ability to communicate effectively and competently in the English language with others using appropriate verbal and nonverbal methods</p>	<p>The student must possess sufficient ability to exercise good judgment, develop therapeutic relationships with patients and others, work in stressful situations, and tolerate close physical contact with patients and co-workers</p>	<p>The student must demonstrate the ability to comprehend and process information in a timely manner for effective patient management and implementation of selected treatment parameters.</p>
Examples(not all inclusive)	<p>Operate equipment, adjust dials and settings;</p>	<p>Visual: read fine print, small numbers, scales on</p>	<p>Ability to read at a level of</p>	<p>Ability to work with multiple</p>	<p>Synthesize data, draw sound</p>

	<p>perform dressing changes; steadily manipulate objects, make coordinated finger and hand movements to grasp, move, place or assemble objects; palpate muscles and bony prominences; perform goniometry;; Ability to lift 50 lbs, stand, walk, bend, sit, stoop; Be able to turn, position, transfer and gait train patients</p>	<p>goniometers, sphygmomanometers, discriminate differences and changes in skin, wounds</p> <p>Auditory: hear alarms and timers, respond to verbal communication, effectively use devices for measurement of blood pressure</p> <p>Tactile: palpate pulses(vibrations), detect and assess changes in skin, muscle tone and joints</p>	<p>competency that allows one to safely perform the essential functions of an assignment, Write in a legible manner, utilize a computer, give oral reports, give directions, explain procedures, document care, interpret and follow written instructions</p>	<p>individuals at one time, handle stress, act in the best interest of the patient, establish rapport with peers, patients, respect differences and negotiate interpersonal conflicts.</p>	<p>conclusions, appropriately modify treatment interventions within the plan of care, prioritize tasks, apply knowledge from education to the provision of physical therapy services</p>
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Students with disabilities who have formally declared their disability with the Office of Student Support Services, and who would like accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment with the Program Coordinator as soon as possible for each class as indicated.

Adopted from physical demands of the PTA. Department of Labor *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*

Occupational Information Network at: <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/31-2021.00>
 Accessed November 5, 2012.