

Physical Therapist Assistant - Technical/Ability Standards

As a member of the physical therapy profession, the PTA may be required to function in a variety of healthcare settings. For this reason the following list of technical and ability standards has been provided being mindful of the patient's right to safe and quality health care provided by both our students and our graduates.

Each student must demonstrate the ability to have and/or perform the following:

Motor: The student must demonstrate motor capabilities consistent with the performance of the duties associated with providing safe, relevant and effective physical therapy intervention.

1. Coordination, balance, strength consistent with performing patient mobility tasks, transfers and positioning.
2. Ability to transfer self from sitting, crawling, kneeling, position to standing position from floor
3. Able to reach freely to the floor and above head with adequate joint range of motion and muscle strength
4. Ability to lift, push, pull, and maneuver wheelchair, patient equipment and related rehabilitation equipment on even and uneven terrain
5. Demonstrate adequate fine motor dexterity to program and use equipment required for physical therapy intervention.

Sensory: The student must demonstrate the sensory ability to perform a patient examination obtaining information from the patient, patients chart, electronic medical records family, and other health professionals.

1. Ability to read printed materials as seen in medical records and computer screens.
2. Ability to read measurements and dials from various physical therapy related equipment.
3. Ability to observe patient characteristics for completion of examination procedures.
4. Ability to listen and understand patient subjective history, and other communication in normal tones and volumes typical of a physical therapy environment.
5. Hearing acuity adequate to utilize a stethoscope and collect relevant patient data.
6. Ability to hear and distinguish alarms, timers, and other environmental distractions.

Communication: The student will be expected to communicate regularly with a wide variety of individuals. The ability to communicate effectively is critical to the **student's** success as a PTA.

- a. Ability to speak, hear, and observe patients for examination, data collection to allow safe and effective application of physical therapy intervention.
- b. Ability to perceive changes in patient mood, or behavior presented verbally and nonverbally.
- c. Ability to communicate with peers, patients, faculty and healthcare professionals effectively in writing and verbally.
- d. Ability to express ideas, concerns, and interventions provided in both written and verbal context.
- e. Ability to maintain a professional demeanor when faced with adversity or stressful working environment.

Critical Thinking: The student will be expected to make decisions in the clinical setting that will impact patient interventions and outcomes. It is of critical importance that the PTA be able to use sound problem solving and critical thinking skills.

- a. Ability to interpret information from a patient chart to an appropriate patient intervention.
- b. Ability to read and implement the physical therapist plan of care.
- c. Ability to recognize changes in patient status and modify interventions appropriately.
- d. Demonstrate sound problem solving skills with regards to patient, faculty and staff interactions.

