

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The following standards reflect expectations of a student in the PTA program for the performance of common physical therapy functions. In adopting these standards, the PTA program is mindful of the patient's right to safe function in a broad variety of clinical situations while receiving physical therapy interventions. The PTA student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a broad variety of clinical situations while administering physical therapy interventions. These standards do not encompass all that may be required for employment of the PTA program graduate. In order to verify the students' ability to perform these essential functions, students are required to demonstrate the following technical standards throughout the curriculum.

The faculty is the sole judge of a student's ability to meet these standards through successful completion of the requirements of the program and individual courses.

Categories of Essential Functions	Definition	Example of Technical Standard
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Skills	Ability to collect, interpret, and integrate information and use that information to make appropriate decisions.	Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, medical records and professional literature; identify cause/effect relationships; identify patient problems and develop interventions appropriate to patient goals; respond to emergencies; know when to apply universal precautions; use effective teaching, learning and test taking strategies; maintain minimum CGPA of 2.50 in all PTA core courses.
Interpersonal Skills	Ability to collaboratively work with all PTA students and with program faculty and patients in the classroom, lab, and clinical setting.	Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues; demonstrate respect for authority; participate in lab situations to role play both clinician and patient role; interact appropriately with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, economic, cultural and intellectual backgrounds; employ basic conflict management skills.
Coping Skills	Ability to respond appropriately to stressful environments or during impending deadlines.	Manage heavy academic schedules and deadlines; perform in fast-paced clinical situations; cope with psychosocial issues involving catastrophic illness, disability, and death; manage the demands of personal life with minimal disruption of the educational process.
Communication Skills	Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, nonverbal, and written formats with faculty, other students, patients, families, and healthcare workers.	In both oral and written formats, explain physical therapy procedures, give patient instructions clearly, answer questions posed by patients, co-workers, physicians and other healthcare providers; keep accurate logs and records of treatment procedures and charges using appropriate medical terminology and correct spelling and grammar; demonstrate active listening skills; recognize, interpret, and respond to non-verbal behavior of self and others.
Mobility/Motor Skills	Sufficient motor ability to execute the movement and skills required for safe and effective physical therapy treatment in various clinical settings.	Demonstrate the coordination, speed, and agility necessary to assist and safely guard a patient who is walking, exercising, or performing other rehabilitation exercises. Perform physical activities such as standing, walking, sitting, bending, squatting, kneeling, crawling, reaching, pushing and pulling Safely lift, transfer, move, adjust and position patients or equipment using correct body mechanics. Exert 20 to 50 pounds of force occasionally, and/or 10 to 25 pounds of force frequently, and/or greater than negligible up to 10 pounds of force constantly to move objects. (medium category of Department of Occupational Titles ( <a href="https://occupationalinfo.org/07/076224010.html">https://occupationalinfo.org/07/076224010.html</a> )). Able to provide emergency treatment to patients. Stand or sit for a prolonged period. Possess fine and gross motor coordination manipulate/operate equipment controls and to perform manual treatment/ assessment techniques.

Sensory Abilities	Sufficient visual, auditory, and tactile ability to monitor and assess health needs.	<p>Visual (corrected as necessary)- recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language, identify normal and abnormal patterns of movement, discriminate color changes, and interpret and assess the environment up to 20 feet; read or set parameters on physical therapy equipment; discriminate between viable and nonviable wound tissue.</p> <p>Auditory (corrected as necessary)- recognize and respond to soft voices or voices under protective garb, auditory timers, equipment/emergency alarms, and effectively use devices for the measurement of vital signs and breath sounds.</p> <p>Tactile- palpate a pulse and detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature, body segment contour, muscle tone, and joint movement.</p>
Behavioral Skills	Ability to demonstrate professional behaviors and a strong work ethic.	<p>Demonstrate initiative, flexibility, enthusiasm, honesty, cooperation, and industrious behavior; recognize personal limitations and request assistance as appropriate; demonstrate responsibility for personal development; demonstrate respect for the patient, other healthcare providers, and the profession of physical therapy; perform duties efficiently, willingly, and thoroughly; present professional appearance; maintain personal hygiene.</p>