



Essential Functions for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program

OBSERVATION

- Independently observe a patient accurately.

COMMUNICATION

- Utilize appropriate verbal, non-verbal and written communication with classmates, patients, family and caregivers.
- Communicate in a culturally competent manner with classmates, physical therapists, patients, family, caregivers and all health care team members.

SENSORIMOTOR

- Safely, reliably and efficiently perform appropriate physical therapy interventions.
- Practice in an ethical and legal manner.
- Perform interventions in a manner that is appropriate to the patient's status and desired goals.
- Simultaneously physically support and determine the physical therapy needs of any patient with potential movement dysfunction.
- Exhibit the physical ability to move into various positions, visual acuity to be able to observe and assess a patient and auditory acuity to be able to respond quickly.
- Exhibit speed, strength, coordination, and endurance for safely handling self, classmates and clients.

INTELLECTUAL/CONCEPTUAL

- Problem solve rapidly, learn and reason, and to collect, interpret, and integrate data about patients in a multitask setting.
- Demonstrate responsibility for lifelong professional growth and development.

JUDGMENT

- Practice in a safe, ethical and legal manner.
- Respond to emergencies.
- Demonstrate management skills, including planning, organizing, supervising, delegating, and working as a member of a multidisciplinary team.

BEHAVIOR/SOCIAL

- Exhibit compassion, caring, empathy, integrity and respect for all individuals.
- Exhibit the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment and the prompt and safe completion of all responsibilities.
- Able to adapt to change, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainty and stress.

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