



Essential Functions for the Physical Therapist Assistant

In order to complete the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) curriculum and be prepared for work as a PTA, students must be able to meet the program's academic and technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations. The program wishes to ensure that access to its facilities, programs, and services is available to all students, including students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability and Access Resources office (dar@pct.edu or 570-320-5225) immediately to begin confidential conversation about possible accommodations necessary to meet these standards.

Motor:

- A PTA must be able to conduct routine physical tasks and maneuvers to position patients and equipment in a variety of clinical settings.
- A PTA must be able to provide support to patients during mobility activities with adequate coordination, balance, and agility.
- A PTA must be able to meet applicable safety standards for the environment (i.e., performing CPR, guarding a patient during transfer and gait activities) and follow universal precaution procedures.

Communication:

- A PTA must possess effective communication skills (in person and written) to appropriately and professionally interact with patients, caregivers, and other healthcare providers.
- A PTA must have the ability to recognize and appropriately respond to a patient's needs efficiently and effectively.
- A PTA must be able to process and communicate information on a patient's status efficiently and accurately to members of a healthcare team in routine and emergency situations.
- A PTA must be able to complete handwritten or electronic documentation to meet the time constraints of the clinical environment.

Observation:

- A PTA must be able to acquire, interpret, and assimilate information to effectively administer patient care, monitor and manipulate equipment, evaluate diagnostic imaging, and interpret patients' physical status and movement.
- A PTA must be able to assess the health status of patients through monitoring and measuring devices such as stethoscopes, respond to auditory signals from equipment, and respond appropriately to environmental cues including phones and overhead paging systems.
- A PTA must have the ability to discriminate between anatomical structures and regulate tactile interventions in response to a patient's verbal and nonverbal communication.

Behavior:

- A PTA must exhibit professional behaviors, exercise good judgement, and possess the ability to think clearly and logically to respond to a patient's needs in routine and emergency situations.
- A PTA must have the ability to function effectively in stressful circumstances and adapt to changes in the environment.
- A PTA must be able to recall and retain information in an efficient manner, gather information during interactions with patients, and exhibit clinical reasoning skills to carry out a plan of care.
- A PTA must be able to quickly assimilate and comprehend extensive written material and apply that information in a clinical setting.
- A PTA must acknowledge and respect individual differences, values, and beliefs that may differ from one's own.
- A PTA must exhibit compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, and concern for the well-being of others.
- A PTA must accept and apply feedback and respect boundaries to care for all individuals in a safe and professional manner.