



Essential Functions of the PTA Student

The PTA student must be able to perform all activities necessary to apply the required skills and knowledge to a variety of patients in diverse settings. The list of essential functions represents reasonable expectations of the PTA student for safe and competent performance of activities within the classroom, lab and clinical settings.

Essential Functions:

Motor Skills:

The students must possess necessary gross and fine motor skills to perform the job requirements in diverse settings including the ability to:

1. stand continuously for 2 hours,
2. sit continuously for 2 hours,
3. assume and maintain a variety of postures frequently including walking, bending, squatting, kneeling, stair climbing, reaching forward, and reaching overhead,
4. frequently lift up to 50 lbs. independently,
5. occasionally lift up to 150 lbs. with assistance,
6. frequently push and pull using up to 50 lbs. of force independently,
7. perform fine motor skills necessary for operation of instruments, equipment, writing instruments and computers,
8. perform material handling and manipulation of various size patients necessary for lifting and transferring patients,
9. performing guarding activities during gait and balance activities on all surfaces,
10. maintain balance while performing gait and transfer activities to prevent injury to one's self or the patient, and
11. move with sufficient speed and agility to ensure patient safety.

Communication Skills:

Verbal and Written:

The PTA Student must have the ability to:

1. communicate in English both verbally and in writing to a variety of audiences and be able to adapt communication to the needs of their audience, demonstrating respect for the knowledge and experience of others,
2. complete written documentation in a timely manner in compliance with the demands of the clinical or classroom setting,
3. demonstrate interpersonal communication as needed for productive classroom discussion, respectful interaction with classmates and faculty and development of appropriate therapist-patient relationships,
4. express one's own ideas clearly and demonstrate willingness to give and receive feedback,

5. complete reading assignments in a timely manner,
6. complete written assignments including both classroom and clinical assignments using handwritten or electronic format, in a timely manner and consistent with the accepted norms of the setting,

Non-Verbal:

The PTA Student must have the ability to:

1. be aware of and modify his or her own nonverbal communication to fit the needs of the situation,
2. establish rapport with patients, care-givers, colleagues and other members of the healthcare team,
3. recognize and respond to nonverbal communication including pain responses, anxiety, poor comprehension, sadness, or others that may be encountered in the clinical or academic setting,

Sensory Abilities:

Visual:

The PTA student must have the ability to:

1. accurately perceive audio-visual presentations in a classroom setting and laboratory setting,
2. perceive demonstrations in a laboratory or clinical setting either from a distance or up close,
3. accurately read visual readouts and displays on all equipment for safe operation, and
4. complete assigned readings in a timely manner.

Auditory:

The PTA student must have the ability to:

1. effectively auscultate for blood pressure and breath sounds,
2. respond appropriately to environmental cues including phones, overhead paging systems, fire alarms, equipment alarms, timers, and verbal communication within an environment with competing ambient noise, and
3. participate in classroom and laboratory activities given auditory distractions.

Tactile:

The PTA student must have the ability to:

1. provide therapeutic touch for the purposes of providing interventions to patients/clients of various backgrounds and with respect for their comfort level;
2. discriminate between anatomical structures for purposes of identifying tissues and providing manual interventions, and
3. regulate tactile interventions in response to a patient's verbal and nonverbal communication.

Affective:

The PTA student must demonstrate:

1. emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities,
2. the ability to exercise good judgement in the academic and clinical environments,
3. the ability to complete responsibilities in a prompt and safe manner,
4. the ability to function under stress and adapt to changes in their environment,
5. a willingness to learn and abide by professional standards of ethical practice,
6. the ability to acknowledge and respect individual values, beliefs and practices that may differ from one's own,
7. the ability to maintain appropriate relationships with classmates, faculty, clinical instructors, patients and others in the clinical or classroom settings,
8. the ability to reason morally,
9. an appreciation for the impact of the student's own values and belief system on his or her perception and relationships with others,
10. the ability to accept feedback without defensiveness and be able respond by modifying behavior appropriately, and
11. appropriate assertiveness and leadership qualities needed to work within the physical therapy clinical environment as part of the PT/PTA team.

Intellectual:

The PTA student must possess the ability to:

1. recall and retain information in an efficient manner to meet the demands of the classroom and clinical environments,
2. understand medical terminology in order to review a medical record for information appropriate to the responsibilities of a PTA,
3. gather information during interactions with patient/clients necessary for carrying out the plan of care, and
4. utilize professional literature for educational purposes.

A student enrolled in the PTA program at Pennsylvania College of Technology is expected to be capable of the essential functions listed with or without reasonable accommodation. The PTA program fully supports the provision of reasonable accommodations to students with special needs in order that they may fulfill the objectives of the program. Any cost associated with these accommodations will be at the expense of the student. Please see the Disability Services portal page for accommodations and services at <https://mypct.pct.edu/departments/DisabilityServices/default.aspx> for

It is the student's responsibility to notify the faculty as soon as possible if they are unable to meet these requirements with or without accommodation.