

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENT

In the course of the PTA curriculum, students are required to demonstrate certain physical, behavioral and cognitive functions related to those expected in physical therapy practice, as well as specific factors related to the classroom experience. Germanna Community College has adopted the following standards that students of the program are expected to possess. Qualified individuals with a disability who can perform these essential functions with reasonable accommodations may be considered for admission to the program; however, they must contact a college disabilities counselor to determine what reasonable accommodations are appropriate to this setting. Provisions for accommodations will be made in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

PTA Student Expectations

- attend class up to 25 hours per week, and be available for 40 hours per week during clinical assignments
- tolerate extended sitting and/or standing in classroom and lab environment
- give and receive treatment interventions including but not limited to modalities, therapeutic exercise, massage, and manual therapies
- wear lab attire that may involve exposure of areas of the body exposed when wearing a swimsuit
- use critical thinking and sound decision-making
- exhibit professional behaviors including, but not limited to, critical thinking, sound judgment, confidentiality, courtesy, and respect
- present a professionally-attired appearance for the clinical setting free from visible tattoos, non-traditional piercings, or unnatural hair color
- meet program standards for successful course completion, including regular attendance, timely submission of work, and compliance with academic honesty guidelines
- reflect thoughtfully on personal strengths and weaknesses as opportunity for growth

Physical Strength, Endurance and Dexterity:

- perform physical activities such as standing, walking, sitting, bending, squatting, kneeling, crawling, reaching, pushing and pulling
- lift 25-50 pounds occasionally, and/or 10-25 pounds frequently, and/or up to 10 pounds constantly (from the Dept. of Labor definition of Medium Work)
- demonstrate ability to administer CPR
- use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation
- coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment controls, to perform manual treatment/assessment techniques and to respond to patient safety needs

Sensation

- tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and discrimination of temperature
- visual acuity sufficient for reading medical records, instrument panels, and for monitoring patients for response to treatment and making visual observations of function
- hearing sufficient to hear soft voices, equipment timers and warning sounds, to assess patient sounds including breathing, and to hear and respond to emergency situations
- sense of smell sufficient to maintain a safe environment and to respond to emergencies

Communication

- ability to use spoken and written English, including appropriate interpretation and expression of information
- ability to communicate clearly with patients and members of the health care team encompassing a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual factors

Acknowledge the appropriate statement below.☐

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the above Essential Functions of the PTA student, and understand that I am expected to meet these requirements.

Signature_____

Date_____

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I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the above Essential Functions of the PTA Student, and understand that I am expected to meet all requirements with the exception of those noted on the attached documentation of accommodations, as agreed to by the PTA Department Program Director.

Signature_____

Date_____