

## **Critical Demands of the PTA and SPTA**

A Physical Therapist Assistant has an estimated job related physical demands rating of Medium Work to Heavy Work. This implies frequent lifting between 11# - 50# and occasional between 26# - 100#. Typical physical job demands include: lifting/carrying, prolonged walking, prolonged sitting, climbing ramps/stairs, pushing/pulling (wheelchairs and equipment), crouching, bending and squatting, kneeling, gross manipulation, fine manipulation, assistance with patient exercises and activities, and transferring of patients in excess of 100#.

Student experiences also include close physical contact and touch with other students, faculty, patients, and persons with various levels of medical conditions and impairments. This will occur under the supervision of faculty to promote learning of physical therapy skills.

As part of the PTA curriculum students are asked to perform various physical activities including, but not limited to; transferring patients, lifting/carrying/pushing/pulling heavy objects, prolonged sitting, prolonged standing, walking, squatting, reaching, handling, manipulating small objects, cardiovascular workouts on therapeutic equipment, isotonic, isokinetic, and isometric exercise programs. Student experiences also include exposure to various forms of mechanical, radiant, thermal, acoustic and/or electrical energy, and potential exposure to chemicals used the preservation of biological tissues and for cleaning purposes. Likewise, students may be exposed to bloodborne pathogen, and/or infectious agents.

Other critical requirements of the program include but are not limited to:

Skills of Observation – Accurate visual, auditory, and tactile observation of:

- patients
- instruments, therapeutic devices and measuring devices
- lab and lecture materials, handouts, books, and electronic information

Communication – Appropriate and effective:

- written, oral, and nonverbal communication while maintaining sensitivity to individual, cultural, and economic differences
- electronic communication via computer
- interpretation of scientific terms and lay terms

Personal Management – To allow dedication to full-time or part-time academic course load, and a full patient caseload in Clinical experience, effective management is required of:

- personal resources
- time and schedules
- stress and mental health
- personal fitness and health

Professionalism, Ethics, and Conduct – Personal conduct that reflects high standards of:

- dress and hygiene
- professionalism
- safety
- ethical and legal behaviors

Cognitive Functioning – timely and effective cognitive functioning including:

- problem-solving
- critical analysis
- independent and group cognitive analysis
- ability to identify and interpret important visual, auditory, or tactile information
- recall of information
- incorporation and integration of new information
- ability to compare and contrast similar and dissimilar information
- ability and willingness to follow instructions, directions, and requests
- identification and ranking of problems
- independent generation of ideas
- ability to formulate written and oral answers
- ability to formulate questions
- integration of large amounts of information
- visualization of spatial relationships
- computational analysis
- ability to receive and appropriately respond to constructive criticism

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, As Amended, Disability Student Services (DSS) provides equal access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

DSS will determine reasonable accommodations based on documentation provided, nature of the disability, and academic need. Accommodations should not fundamentally alter the nature of the Program, create an unsafe learning environment, or impose an undue hardship upon the Program, clinical site, faculty, staff, or other students. Accommodation requests may not be considered reasonable for every component of the program (for example, clinical based testing such as skill check-offs, competencies, and practicals). In those cases, consultation between the student, DSS, and PTA faculty may be necessary.

Once accommodations have been determined by DSS staff, the student must request an accommodation letter from DSS each semester.

Students may contact the DSS office at 330-494-6170, ext. 4935, or go to B104 to schedule an appointment.

Any change in health should be reported to the Program Coordinator and/or PTA faculty in writing as soon as possible. This includes, but is not limited to, injuries, accidents (including car accidents), surgeries, significant illnesses, pregnancy, change in medications, or starting a new treatment plan prescribed by a medical professional.

The information will be stored in locking files along with their medical information. The student may be required to obtain a medical release from the physician to return to the Program. Unless there is a diagnosed or documented condition, the student will be expected to fully participate in all curricular activities if no medical release form is returned. PTA faculty reserve the right to limit student participation in program activities based upon their clinical judgement.