

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

A Physical Therapist Assistant has job related physical demands rating of Medium Work (U.S. Department of Labor) which implies frequent 20# lifting and infrequent lifting of 50# and over. Typical energy requirements at this level is 3.5 METS. Typical physical job demands include: prolonged walking, prolonged sitting, pushing (wheelchairs and equipment), bending and squatting, assistance with patient exercises and activities, and transferring of patient's in excess of 100#.

Student experiences also include close physical contact and touch with other students, faculty, patients, and persons with disabilities. 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; accurate visual, auditory and tactile observation of instruments, therapeutic devices and measuring devices; accurate visual, auditory and tactile observation and interpretation of 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; appropriate and effective electronic communication via computer, interpretation of scientific terms into lay terms.

Resource, Time, and Stress Management: effective management of personal resources, time, and stress to allow dedication to full-time or part-time academic course load and a full patient caseload in Clinical experience.

Professionalism, Ethics, and Conduct: personal conduct, dress and hygiene that is professional, safe, ethical, and legal in accordance with the APTA's core documents.

Cognitive Functioning: problem-solving in a timely manner; critical analysis; independent cognitive analysis; group cognitive analysis; ability to identify and interpret important visual, auditory or tactile information; recall of information in a timely manner; 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 accordance with Disability Student Services recommendations, reasonable accommodation can be made for any qualified student with a documented condition, as long as it does not fundamentally alter the nature of the Program, does not create an unsafe learning environment, and does not impose an undue hardship upon the Program, clinical site, faculty, staff or other students. Accommodation cannot be made for all components of the program. Typically, clinically based testing, like skill check offs, competencies and practicals, cannot be accommodated.

It is the responsibility of the student and/or the student's medical providers to identify barriers to learning. It is the responsibility of the student to request reasonable accommodations as early as possible and before the start of each semester. Students seeking accommodations must notify Disability Services. After an accommodation plan is established, the student must submit the plan to faculty each semester, the student should meet with the Program Coordinator and Program faculty to discuss the plan.

Any change of health status, including but not limited to injury, surgery, illness or change of prescription medications, must be reported to the Program Coordinator in writing as soon as possible. A written medical release from a physician may be required, as determined by the Program Coordinator, before the student will be permitted to return to participation in the Program.

The PTAP student is expected to participate in all activities unless specifically excused.