

Essential Functions

The following information is provided to assist the student in better understanding the demands of the physical therapist assistant program and profession, and the abilities needed to successfully and safely complete the classroom, laboratory and clinical competencies of the curriculum.

Communication

The student must be able to read, write, see, speak, hear and interpret both written and verbal communication in English. The student must be able to communicate effectively, appropriately and sensitively with faculty, patients, families, care givers and other health care providers.

Motor

The student must be able to perform complex motor skills necessary to provide therapeutic intervention and emergency treatment to patients. The student must possess physical strength, balance and equilibrium in order to properly and safely transfer, ambulate, and reposition patients, etc.; and to move and utilize a variety of equipment. Students must also have sufficient gross and fine motor function and sensation to assess patients through the use of palpation, auscultation, manual muscle testing, etc.

Observation

The student must be able to observe and interpret signs and symptoms visually, auditorially and tactilely for the purpose of appropriate assessment and treatment. The student must be able to observe demonstrations, equipment and patients at a distance and up close for the purpose of appropriate assessment and treatment. Appropriate observational skills will enable the student to discern normal from abnormal in order to determine a safe and appropriate course of action.

Intellectual/Analytical

The student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, evaluate and synthesize complex information. Problem solving and critical thinking are skills demanded of a physical therapist assistant and need to be performed in an efficient and timely manner. The student should also be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral

The student must be able to function effectively under stress and in changing educational and work environments with appropriate professional behaviors. The exercise of sound, professional judgment and the ability to be flexible are also necessary. Common sense, compassion, integrity, honesty, sincere concern and respect for others, interpersonal skills and self motivation are all qualities necessary for success in the physical therapy profession.

**CSN recognizes its responsibility to provide equal access to its educational programs and services to all qualified persons with documented disabilities who can meet all program requirements with or without reasonable accommodations. Please refer to the college catalog and the Disability Resource Center located on each campus for potential accommodations. It is each individual student's responsibility to disclose, document and discuss with the Disability Resource Center any request for accommodations.