

## Essential Functions for The Physical Therapist Assistant

In accordance with expectations of the physical therapy profession, PTA students must be able to perform the following essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations.

Essential Function	Capabilities Expected
<b>Motor Skills</b>	<p>The student must have sufficient motor abilities to perform safe and effective physical therapy procedures, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assist and protect patients during activities</li> <li>- Adjust, move, position, and lift patients/equipment</li> <li>- Perform physical tasks (e.g., bending, twisting, standing, walking)</li> <li>- Provide CPR</li> <li>- Manipulate equipment and adjust settings</li> <li>- Endure an 8-hour workday in a clinical setting</li> </ul>
<b>Sensory Skills</b>	<p>The student must have adequate sensory abilities to assess and monitor patients effectively, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visual ability to interpret expressions, body language, and movement patterns</li> <li>- Auditory ability to respond to communication and alarms</li> <li>- Tactile ability to palpate pulses, skin texture, and muscle tone</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<p>The student must be able to communicate effectively in English, both verbally and in writing. Capabilities required include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read and write at a competency level for effective function</li> <li>- Present information clearly to patients, families, and professionals</li> <li>- Interpret and respond to verbal/nonverbal communication</li> <li>- Communicate patient status, safety, and rehab information</li> </ul>
<b>Behavior</b>	<p>The student must demonstrate good judgment, build therapeutic relationships, work well under stress, and tolerate close physical contact with patients and colleagues. Capabilities required include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with multiple patients/colleagues simultaneously</li> <li>- Handle stressful situations and maintain professionalism</li> <li>- Work with diverse backgrounds</li> <li>- Act in the best interest of patients</li> <li>- Maintain patient privacy and adhere to HIPAA guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	<p>The student must be able to quickly comprehend and process information, understand three-dimensional and spatial relationships, and make sound clinical judgments based on complex information. Capabilities required include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collect, interpret, and integrate information for clinical decision making</li> <li>- Prioritize tasks and make decisions effectively</li> <li>- Apply education knowledge to physical therapy services</li> <li>- Observe, measure, and modify interventions based on patient responses</li> <li>- Act safely and ethically in the clinic</li> </ul>

*These requirements do not reflect the ability of the graduate to pass the state licensing examinations and may not reflect all of the functions which may be required for employment of the graduate.*