

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM  
CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

The following core performance standards are required in this program.

<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES/TASKS (not all inclusive)</b>
<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>	<b>Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Recognizes physiological changes in patient status and responds appropriately</li> <li>■ Modifies treatment plan within the plan of care</li> <li>■ Utilizes patient assessment techniques to alter physical therapy treatments within the plan of care</li> <li>■ Must work under physically and emotionally demanding situations and respond appropriately</li> </ul>
<b>INTERPERSONAL SKILLS</b>	<b>Interpersonal skills sufficient to interact with co-workers, members of the healthcare team, as well as patients and their families from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, educational, religious, and ethnic backgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Establishes rapport with colleagues, other healthcare providers, patients and their families</li> <li>■ Communicates in a meaningful manner with patients, families, and healthcare colleagues</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNICATION SKILLS</b>	<b>Communication skills sufficient for interaction with others verbally, non-verbally, and by writing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Explains treatment procedures, implements effective patient education, documents assessment, treatments, and patient responses</li> <li>■ Demonstrates documentation procedures and verbal communication concerning patients</li> </ul>
<b>TACTILE</b>	<b>Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Palpates muscles and other anatomical structures to define abnormalities</li> <li>■ Demonstrate method for palpating artery sites, muscle and joint normal and abnormal characteristics</li> </ul>
<b>MOBILITY</b>	<b>Physical ability to move from one area of the facility to another and maneuver in small spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Moves from one patient room to another and administers treatments in small spaces</li> <li>■ Travels from one area of the facility to another (ICU, TCU)</li> <li>■ Demonstrates proper procedures for moving patients in a safe manner</li> <li>■ Demonstrates proper lifting techniques</li> </ul>

<b>MOTOR SKILLS</b>	<b>Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to administer physical therapy treatments safely and effectively</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Performs and teaches dependent and assistive patient transfers (sometimes moving very large and patients who can assist very little or not at all)</li> <li>■ Positions patients appropriately for treatment</li> <li>■ Performs assistive, passive, and resistive exercises and may be required to stand for long periods of time</li> <li>■ Applies physical therapy modalities such as heat, ultrasound, cryotherapy, and hydrotherapy for patient treatment</li> <li>■ Guards patients during gait training with or without assistive devices</li> <li>■ Utilizes equipment necessary for treatment</li> <li>■ Moves self and equipment/supplies for treatment from one area of the facility to another (sometimes more than one piece of equipment or supply at a time)</li> </ul>
<b>HEARING</b>	<b>Auditory ability sufficient to monitor patient needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Listens to heart and lung sounds, as well as monitor blood pressure with a stethoscope/sphygmomanometer</li> <li>■ Hears patients call for assistance</li> </ul>
<b>VISUAL</b>	<b>Visual acuity sufficient for observation and assessment essential to physical therapy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Observes patient responses to treatment</li> <li>■ Observes patient exercise and gait to detect abnormal patterns</li> <li>■ Identification of patient, verification of ultrasound and temperature calibration and other physical therapy equipment requiring reading of dials or screens</li> </ul>
<b>ACCOUNTABILITY &amp; RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>Demonstrate accountability and responsibility in all aspects of the physical therapy profession</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Able to distinguish right from wrong, legal from illegal and act accordingly</li> <li>■ Accept responsibility for own actions</li> <li>■ Able to comprehend ethical standards and agree to abide by them</li> <li>■ Consider the needs of patients in deference to one's own needs</li> </ul>

**\*\* Students with a diagnosed disability who are unable to meet the above standards are advised to contact the ADA counselor at the Nursing/Allied Health Center.\*\***