

## **Essential Functions**

Physical therapy is an intellectually, physically and psychologically demanding profession. 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 (competency) and clinical affiliation requirements of the curriculum.

\*\*\*A student in any Health Sciences program with an approved documented disability can request reasonable accommodations to meet standards. The College will provide appropriate reasonable accommodations but is not required to substantially alter the requirements or nature of any Health Sciences program, which includes extra time for competency testing. Potential students are encouraged to consult CSN's Disability Resource Center, as appropriate, for complete information on the types of accommodations that may be available to assist the student to meet their educational and professional goals.

**\*\*\*Please note, there will be no extra time given for any lab practical (competency testing) for any student.**

## **Communication**

Communication includes: speech, language, reading, writing and computer literacy. The student must be able to read, write, see, speak, hear and interpret written and verbal communication in English. The student must also be able to appropriately perceive and interpret non-verbal communication as well as display appropriate non-verbal communication. The student must be able to communicate respectfully, effectively, appropriately, professionally and sensitively with faculty, patients, families, caregivers, other healthcare providers and the public. Students must be able to complete documentation and forms according to directions in a complete and timely fashion.

## **Motor**

The student must have the physical strength and coordination to perform complex motor skills necessary to safely 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 with a variety of sizes and impairments, 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 and other testing/assessment techniques. Students must be able to respond quickly and effectively in a changing environment and especially in response to patient safety issues.

### **Observation**

The student must be able to observe and interpret signs and symptoms visually, auditorially and tactilely for the purpose of safe and 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 safe and appropriate assessment and treatment. The student must be aware of self and surroundings at all times for the safety of self and the patient. Appropriate observational skills will enable the student to discern normal from abnormal (including emergency situations) in order to determine a safe and appropriate course of action.

### **Intellectual/Analytical**

The student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, assess and synthesize complex information in a timely manner. Problem solving, common sense 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. The student must have the ability to use computers for searching, recording, storing and retrieving information.

### **Behavioral/Social**

The student must be able to function effectively under stress and in changing educational and work environments with appropriate respectful, professional and ethical behaviors. The exercise of sound, professional judgment and the ability to be flexible are also necessary. Common sense, common courtesy, 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.