

Programmatic Essential Functions Doctorate of Physical Therapy

The SHRP-Essential Functions were developed to assist each student in evaluating their capabilities and chances for success in a particular program. In order for students to do this accurately, program specific Essential Functions must indicate what is required to do well in the academic program, as well as, the skills/functions required to be successful in that particular allied health professional role.

The following standards pertain to particular cognitive, motor, behavioral and social skills that are associated with the educational process for your allied health program:

Programmatic Standards

Observational Standards

- Read, comprehend and synthesize a large body of knowledge in a short period of time from a variety of sources, including but not limited to lectures, book, articles, videos, podcast, handouts, models and demonstrations.
- Recall, interpret, extrapolate and apply information from a variety of relevant sources, including but not limited to readings, lectures, discussion, observations, examination and evaluation procedures, radiographic and other graphic images.
- Comprehend 3-dimensional spatial relationships, including anatomical structures.
- Review existing data , collect additional data, and recommend obtaining data, and utilize/analyze/ synthesize the data needed to conduct an evaluation of the movement status of patients, including their co-morbid health status, to assess the outcomes of this evaluation, to develop an appropriate plan of care and patient goals developed to address the needs of that particular patient, to identify a physical therapy diagnosis and prognosis, and to evaluate the outcomes of physical therapy treatment and modify as required in a timely manner.
- Monitor signs of physiological changes and / or distress including but not limited to skin integrity, changes in skin color, breathing patterns, muscle tone, facial expressions, heart rate and rhythms.
- Demonstrate ability and insight to accurately self assess and reflect on observation skill
- Monitor patient activity, movement and behavior accurately during examinations and interventions, within the treatment area, from any distance appropriate to the situation
- Monitor equipment dials and displays, alarms, timers, emergency signals, cries for help and respond appropriately
- Monitor patient signs of physiological change or distress, including skin integrity and changes in skin color, breathing patterns, muscle tone, facial expressions and heart rate and rhythms and responds in a timely manner

Communication Standards

- Read, write and understand English (both written and oral)
- Read, comprehend, synthesize, and apply information from a variety of sources including readings, lectures, discussion, observations, videos, podcasts, handouts, models, demonstrations, the contents of patient charts, clinical notes, diagnostic tests, graphic images, lab reports and other relevant diagnostic, psychological, social and treatment information accurately and efficiently
- Recognize and relay appropriate verbal, non-verbal, and written communication between self and patients, families, health providers and care-givers, peers, faculty and others
- Produce complete, accurate, thorough documents in a timely manner, consistent with didactic and clinical requirements
- Master use of computer and internet and other electronic sources
- Produce educational materials, reports and assignments to be presented with professional polish and created at the level of the learner.
- Adhere to program, department, clinical and professional publication standards
- Demonstrate culturally competent socially appropriate empathetic interactions with all, regardless of any personal characteristic or trait, including but not limited to an individual's age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, social-economic status, religion, life-style and/or culture or background
- Demonstrate effective management skills, including planning, organizing, supervising, delegating and working effectively as a member of a team
- Use sufficient judgment to ensure safe patient encounters, delegate to assistive personnel, and maintain professional boundaries
- Demonstrate ability and insight to accurately self assess and reflect on communication goals

Intellectual/Conceptual Standards

- Utilize the application of scientific principles for the identification, remediation, prevention, research, habilitation and rehabilitation of acute and chronic injuries , diseases and fitness levels to assist patient/clients in the attainment of optimum health and wellness.
- Maintain confidentiality and upholds the ethical and legal standards of the profession
- Effectively participate in the didactic, behavioral and clinical portions of their academic education
- Organize, analyze, synthesize and critically appraise information from a variety of sources to determine validity and applicability to practice
- Demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving, related to self and others to ensure safe and effective practice
- Demonstrate ability and insight to accurately self assess and reflect on intellectual and conceptual abilities

Motor Skills Standards

- Master the use of electronic devices required to perform in the classroom and clinic
- Demonstrate ability to respond appropriately and quickly to emergent situations in patient status, including, but not limited to, choking, falling, fainting, balance alteration, physical impairments, respiratory distress, loss of consciousness, and other physiological alterations.
- Demonstrate ability to administer emergency procedures, including, but not limited to, CPR and first aid
- Demonstrate the ability to participate in all co-educational peer physical examinations and treatment laboratories and practical exams.
- Demonstrate balance, coordination, agility and strength to safely perform physical therapy examination and intervention procedures including, but not limited to dependent patient transfers, therapeutic exercise, gait training with appropriate guarding, lifting and carrying heavy objects and equipment set-ups for individuals of varying sizes and impairments.
- Demonstrate sufficient balance, coordination, flexibility, endurance, and strength to participate in all classroom and clinic activities, including but not limited to therapeutic exercise, compression, retraction, resistance, mobilization, manipulation, thrusts, and airway clearance techniques
- Demonstrate sufficient physical and mental health, strength and endurance over the course of a typical work or school day to participate in classroom, laboratory and clinical activities
- Demonstrate sufficient motor skills to adjust small dials, palpate muscles, manipulate equipment and small objects, debride wounds, and accurately assess vital signs.
- Demonstrate adequate sensations to auscultate and to accurately assess tissue temperature, skin integrity, joint position and play, and pulses
- Demonstrate the ability to safely transport patient or self from room to room, one floor to another floor, and self from one community or facility to another
- Demonstrate prevention techniques such as proper hand washing, use of protective devices and equipment/clothing, and procedures to minimize exposing oneself and others to pathogens.
- Demonstrate ability and insight to accurately self assess and reflect on motor skills mastery

Behavioral and Social Standards

- Function safely, effectively, efficiently and calmly when dealing with the stresses of an intensive training program in preparation for the stresses of clinical situations including, but not limited to , a heavy academic schedule, fast-paced clinical situations, managing multiple patients and tasks simultaneously and efficiently, meeting multiple deadlines, psychosocial responses of patient with disabilities and dealing with dying patients.
- Demonstrate caring and compassion to all patient, clients, families ,other caregivers and health care team members
- Demonstrate behavior which is altruistic, socially and professionally responsible
- Demonstrate respect, appreciate and engage in non-judgmental interactions regardless of any personal characteristic or trait, including but not limited to an individual's age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, social-economic status, religion, life-style and/or culture or background
- Accepts responsibility for own actions and corrects as necessary
- Demonstrate the self-directedness and motivation to independently work on and complete all academic and professional work assignments, including long and/or complicated projects
- Maintains appropriate personal hygiene and dress consistent with personal contact associated with patient care and professional interactions
- Takes responsibility for all assignments, obligations and actions within the academic and clinical environment
- Accept constructive feedback and respond with appropriate actions
- Provide appropriate constructive feedback
- Work effectively in groups
- Meet externally established deadlines
- Accurately identifies own learning needs and is an active and engaged learner in the classroom, laboratory and clinical settings
- Attend to cognitive, communication and psychomotor tasks for as long as required by the academic and clinical setting
- Demonstrate integrity and honesty within and outside of the didactic and clinical environments by abiding by institutional and program policies, the APTA Code of Ethics, Standards of Physical Therapy Practice, and the Core Values, and basic standards of moral behavior.