

MERCY COLLEGE – PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF PERFORMANCE

The intent of the Physical Therapy program at Mercy College is to prepare graduates to practice in a variety of health care settings with entry-level proficient in the interaction, consultation, assessment, evaluation, and treatment of individuals who have experienced illness, disability, disease or impairment. Students are required to complete the academic and clinical requirements of the professional M.S. program. The purpose of this document is to delineate the behavioral, communicative, psychomotor, cognitive, and self-care skills deemed essential for completion of the Program and performance as a competent physical therapist.

If a student cannot demonstrate the following skills and abilities, it is the responsibility of the student to request an appropriate accommodation. The College will provide reasonable accommodation as long as it does not fundamentally alter the nature of the Program offered and does not impose an undue financial hardship or unduly disrupt the educational process.

A. Behavioral/Social Attributes:

The student must:

1. Be receptive to learning, have an ability to retain covered material, and appropriately utilize the information in clinical setting.
2. Demonstrate appropriate levels of compassion, respect, and dignity when observing or treating patients.
3. Recognize and be respectful of individuals of all ages, genders, races, socio-economic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.
4. Be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. The student must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients.
5. Possess emotional well-being to use their intellectual abilities, exercise sound judgment and develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with those encountered in educational and clinical setting.

B. Communication Skills:

The student must demonstrate an ability to:

1. Communicate in English effectively with faculty, peers, patients, staff, physicians, health care team members, and community and professional groups. Such communication includes speech, reading and writing in English.
2. Communicate with patients in order to elicit information, explain conditions and procedures, teach home programs, describe change in mood, activity and posture and perceive nonverbal communications, in a timely manner and within the acceptable norms of academic and clinical settings.

C. Psychomotor Skills:

The student must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Provide appropriate strength, force, balance, and coordination necessary to assess vital signs, wound status, endurance, segmental length, girth and volume, sensation, range of motion, strength, tone, reflexes, movement patterns, coordination, balance, developmental stage, soft tissue, joint motion/play, pain, cranial and peripheral nerve function, posture, gait, functional abilities, assistive device fit and use, and the pulmonary system.
2. Perform treatment procedures in a manner that is appropriate to the patient's status and desired goals, including but not limited to, exercise, developmental activities, balance training, coordination training, positioning techniques, self-care activities, joint mobilization techniques, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
3. Safely provide assistance required by patients to move in bed, transfer to all development positions on variable surfaces, and to ambulate.
4. Assess changes in muscle tone, skin quality, joint play, kinesthesia, and temperature to gather accurate objective information in a timely manner and monitor that individual's response to environmental changes and treatment.
5. Manipulate common tools used for assessment of the cranial nerves, sensation, range of motion, and blood pressure as well as equipment with gait training, assistive devices, wheelchairs and modalities.
6. Travel to lecture, lab and clinical locations, and move within rooms as needed for changing groups, partners, and work stations and physically maneuver in required clinical settings to accomplish assigned tasks.

D. Cognitive Skills:

The student must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Receive, remember, interpret, and use information in the psychomotor, cognitive and behavioral domains of learning to integrate, analyze and synthesize data needed for the problem solving inherent in physical therapy practice.
2. Perform an evaluation of a patient's posture and movement including analysis of physiological, biomechanical, behavioral and environmental factors in a timely manner, consistent with the acceptable norms of clinical settings.
3. Use evaluation data to formulate and execute a plan of physical therapy management in a timely manner, and to reassess and revise plans as needed, consistent with the acceptable norms of clinical settings.

E. Self Care

The student must:

1. Maintain general good health and self care in order not to jeopardize the health and safety of self and individuals in the academic and clinical settings.
2. Arrange transportation and living accommodations for the academic and clinical aspects of the program that foster timely reporting to class and clinical centers.

_____ I am capable of performing the skills and abilities listed above.

_____ I am not capable of performing all of the skills and abilities listed above and will need appropriate accommodation. If this is checked, please attach a description of the accommodations you will require. Where appropriate, also include documentation of disorder or disability verifying your need for special accommodation.

Printed name

Signature

Date