McHenry County College Physical Therapist Assistant Program Essential Functions for Physical Therapist Assistant Students



There are several important factors for you to consider when you are determining your future career directions. To be successful in the PTA classroom, at a PTA clinical education site and in your job following graduation, you should be able to meet all of the following expectations:

- 1. Attend class approximately 12–24 contact hours a week or perform 40 hours a week of clinical education, depending on the stage of the program curriculum.
- 2. Complete all assignments on time.
- 3. Participate in classroom discussions.
- 4. Perform or instruct others in the following procedures (learned in class) in a timely manner: transfers, gait training, physical agents, activities of daily living, therapeutic exercises or activities, and data collection procedures.
- 5. Use sound judgment and safety precautions (exposure to blood- borne pathogens and/or infectious disease may occur as part of the educational experience). Students are trained in safety/infection control and are expected to follow these guidelines to avoid contracting or transmitting disease.
- 6. Meet class standards for successful course completion.
- 7. Use critical thinking when making decisions.
- 8. Follow standards stated in PTA Student Handbook and the PTA Program Clinical Education Handbook.
- 9. Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time.
- 10. Maintain classroom, work area, equipment, supplies, personal appearance and hygiene conducive to a professional setting as appropriate.
- 11. Behave in a competent, professional manner.

Physical requirements for the PTA Program include the need to occasionally, frequently, or continually:

- 1. Sit 2-5 hours per day with lecture blocks up to 3 hours.
- 2. Stand 1-6 hours with lab time blocks up to 6 hours.
- 3. Lift up to 60 pounds.
- 4. Push/pull up to 50 pounds of force exerted at waist level.
- 5. Squat or stoop.
- 6. Use auditory, tactile, and visual senses to assess physiological status of an individual.
- 7. Demonstrate good standing and unsupported sitting balance.
- 8. Communicate effectively with a variety of people through written verbal, and nonverbal methods.

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- 9. Coordinate verbal and manual instructions.
- 10. Demonstrate good finger dexterity.
- 11. Use hands repetitively.
- 12. Demonstrate the ability to use a firm grasp while using physical therapy equipment and while performing physical therapy interventions.
- 13. Shift weight in sitting or standing.
- 14. Reach above shoulder level.
- 15. Kneel, kneel-stand, and half kneel.
- 16. Use equipment that emits electrical, ultrasonic, and thermal energy.
- 17. Physically move and transfer patients

Students who have concerns about the ability to perform any of these functions should contact the **PTA Program Director at (815) 479-7796.**

Individuals with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations or information by contacting MCC Access and Disability Services: A260

Phone: (815) 455-8766 TTY: (815) 455-7237

Video Phone: (815) 261-0098

Fax: (815) 479-7836

Discrimination, Harassment and/or Anti-Violence

The College is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment and will not tolerate acts or threats of violence including but not limited to aggression, hate crimes, bullying, cyber bullying, cyber intimidation, domestic violence, stalking, intimidation or harassment from students, employees or outside parties including visitors and vendors.

Discrimination and/or harassment based on sex, race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender-related identity, color, marital status, military status or unfavorable military discharge is prohibited by law.

Employees and students engaging in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion from the College.

MCC Board Policy 6.2.3. Dec. 16, 2016