



NORTHWEST

MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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 and in your job following graduation, you should be able to meet all of the following expectations:

Academic/Professional/Behavioral Requirements include:

1. Attend class approximately 10-25 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 bloodborne 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 Program Policy and Procedure Manual and the PTA Program Clinical Education Handbook.
9. Address problems or questions to the appropriate person at the appropriate time (follow chain of command).
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 3 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. Demonstrate good finger dexterity
9. Coordinate verbal and manual instructions
10. Communicate effectively and respectfully with a variety of people through written verbal, and nonverbal methods (review communications prior to sending).
11. Use hands repetitively
12. Shift weight in sitting or standing
13. Demonstrate the ability to use a firm grasp while using physical therapy equipment and while performing physical therapy interventions.
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 (662-562-3247). Individuals with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations or information by calling the **Missy Kelsay**, *Disability Support Services Coordinator* – Senatobia campus Student Development Center. Phone: (662) 562-3309 or mkelsay@northwestms.edu. She is housed on the Senatobia campus within the Student Development Center.

