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## UC-PTA Essential Program-Related Functions

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Physical therapist assistant students must demonstrate, with or without appropriate academic adjustments or reasonable modifications to policies and practices, the ability to perform at least the functions listed below. These functions must be performed safely, reliably, and efficiently, in compliance with legal and ethical standards during their physical therapist assistant education.

The essential functions required to complete the technical aspect of the PTA program are:

1. Utilize appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication with patients, families, and others.
2. Perform appropriate physical therapy procedures used to impact on the function of the movement system. These include, but are not limited to, the monitoring of cognitive/mental status, vital signs, wound status, endurance, segmental length, girth and volume, sensation, strength, tone, reflexes, movement patterns, coordination, ROM, balance, developmental stage, soft tissue, joint motion, pain, cranial and peripheral nerve function, posture, gait, functional abilities, assistive device fit/use, and the pulmonary system.
3. Carry out physical therapy treatment of any patient delegated by a physical therapist who possesses perceived or potential movement dysfunction.
4. Follow a plan of care for a patient with movement dysfunction.
5. Understand the psychosocial impact of dysfunction and disability and integrate the needs of the patient and family when implementing the plan of care.
6. Perform treatment procedures in a manner that is appropriate to the patient's status and PT goals. These include, but are not limited to, exercise, developmental activities, balance training, coordination training, positioning techniques, self-care activities and CPR.
7. Demonstrate ability to apply universal precautions.
8. Participate in data gathering for clinical research and/or outcome studies.
9. Apply teaching/learning techniques and methods in health care and community environments.
10. The above require students have no restrictions in the following: bending, carrying, climbing, grasping, heaving, lifting, pulling, pushing, reaching, sitting, sight, speaking, stooping, use of hands, walking, and writing.