

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES of the Comprehensive Curriculum

### 1. Phase I- General Education Component

Upon completion of the Phase I (general education) portion of the program, students will have acquired necessary biological, physical, physiological, and anatomical principles. Other principles acquired during this phase are related to social and behavioral sciences, health and wellness, English, the humanities, and math.

#### General Education Goals

**Arts and Humanities Inquiry:** *Apply fundamental knowledge, skills and values to explore the uniquely human ways we experience the world.*

**Students will be able to**

**AHI-1** Explain how various forms of written, oral, musical, and/or visual expression contribute to human knowledge and experience.

**AHI-2** Utilize knowledge of various theoretical frameworks to analyze and respond to works in humanities and/or in the arts.

**AHI-3** Demonstrate growth in creative expression.

**Critical Analysis and Reasoning:** *Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize ideas within and across disciplines to address complex questions and problems.* **Students will be able to**

**CAR-1** Identify problems and ask relevant questions.

**CAR-2** Interpret information to investigate arguments, claims, and beliefs.

**CAR-3** Support a position (perspective/thesis/hypothesis).

**CAR-4** Identify and weigh alternative outcomes to a problem or case.

**CAR-5** Summarize, generalize and draw conclusions.

**Information Literacy:** *Access and integrate sources into written, oral, and/or visual media.* **Students will be able to**

**IL-1** Identify and access sources of information that are credible, relevant to a stated purpose, and appropriate within a discipline.

**IL-2** Synthesize source material to support a specific point.

**IL-3** Use an appropriate documentation style consistently and correctly to credit source material.

**Personal and Civic Responsibility:** *Explore and develop understanding of oneself and others, the community, other cultures, and issues of local, national, and global significance.* **Students will be able to**

**PCR-1** (Personal Awareness): Describe their own civic and cultural background, including its origins and development, assumptions, and predispositions.

**PCR-2** (Cultural Awareness): Describe how cultural perspectives affect interpretations of an issue/topic in politics, society, the arts and/ or global relations.

**PCR-3** (Civic Awareness and Community Involvement): Participate in a community project and then complete either a spoken or written reflection

that identifies the civic issues encountered and personal insights gained from this community experience.

**Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning:** *Apply fundamental scientific and/or mathematical concepts to investigate, evaluate and/or to solve problems. Students will be able to*

**SQR-1** Identify problems and formulate questions and hypotheses.

**SQR-2** Collect, summarize, and interpret data.

**SQR-3** Apply models and methods to draw valid conclusions, identify logical relationships, and/or to solve problems.

**SQR-4** Use basic mathematical skills to solve real world problems.

**Technological Competency:** *Use the appropriate discipline-specific technologies to complete tasks effectively. Students will be able to*

**TC-1** Demonstrate effective use of a specific technology to achieve a desired task outcome.

**Written and Oral Communication:** *Use writing and speaking skills to communicate effectively. Students will be able to*

**WOC-1** Develop and articulate ideas coherently and cogently for a specific audience, purpose, and situation.

**WOC-2** Use standard English and conventions of usage appropriate to a discipline to produce substantially error-free and precise communications.

**WOC-3** Present ideas compellingly through the use of delivery aids and techniques, such as of voice, eye contact, gestures, and posture.

## 2. Phase II-Technical/Clinical Education Component

After acceptance into and completion of the Phase II of the program, students will have successfully demonstrated entry-level competency verbally, in writing, or by practical application, the ability to work under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

Specific skills to be acquired during Phase II include:

### **Ethics, Values, & Responsibilities**

- a. Adhering to *legal practice standards*, including all federal, state, and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management. (7D1)
- b. Reporting to appropriate authorities suspected cases of *abuse* of vulnerable populations. (7D2)
- c. Reporting to appropriate authorities suspected cases of *fraud and abuse* related to the utilization of and payment for physical therapy and other health care services. (7D3)
- d. Performing duties in a manner consistent with the *Guide for Conduct* of the Physical Therapist Assistant (APTA) and *Standards or Ethical Conduct* (APTA) to meet the expectations of patients, members of the physical therapy profession, and other providers as necessary. (7D4)
- e. Performing duties in a manner consistent with APTA's *Values Based Behaviors* for the PTA. (7D5)
- f. Implementing, in response to an ethical situation, a plan of action that demonstrates sound *moral reasoning* congruent with core professional ethics and values. (7D6)
- g. *Communicating* effectively with all stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, caregivers, practitioners, inter-professional team members, consumers, payers, and policymakers. (7D7)
- h. Identifying, respecting, and acting with consideration for patients'/clients' *differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs* in all work-related activities. (7D8)
- i. Applying current knowledge, theory, and *clinical judgment* while considering the patient/client perspective and the environment, based on the plan of care established by the physical therapist. (7D9)
- j. Identifying basic concepts in professional *literature* including, but not limited to, validity, reliability and level of statistical significance. (7D10)
- k. Identifying and integrating appropriate *evidence-based resources* to support clinical decision-making from progression of the patient within the plan of care established by the physical therapist. (7D11)
- l. Effectively *educating* others by using teaching methods that are commensurate with the needs of the patient, caregiver or healthcare personnel. (7D12)
- m. Participating in *professional and community organization* that provides opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy and leadership. (7D13)

- n. Identifying career development and *lifelong learning* opportunities, including the role of the PTA in the clinical education of PTA students. (7D14)

### **Patient/Client Management**

- o. Interviewing patients/clients, caregivers, and family to obtain current information related to *prior and current level of function* and general health status (e.g., fatigue, fever, malaise, unexpected weight change.) (7D15)
- p. Using the *International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)* to describe a patient's/client's impairments, activity and participation limitations. (7D16)

### **Plan of Care**

- q. Communicating and understanding of the *plan of care* developed by the physical therapist to achieve short and long term goals and intended outcomes. (7D17)
- r. *Reviewing health records* (e.g., lab values, diagnostic tests, specialty reports, narrative, consults, and physical therapy documentation) prior to carrying out the PT plan of care. (7D18)
- s. *Monitoring and adjusting interventions* in the plan of care in response to patient/client status and clinical indications. (7D19)
- t. *Reporting any changes* in patient/client status or progress to the supervision physical therapist. (7D20)
- u. Determining when an intervention should not be performed due to clinical indications or when the direction to perform the intervention is *beyond* that which is appropriate for the PTA. (7D21)
- v. Contributing to the *discontinuation* of episode of care planning and follow-up processes as directed by the supervision physical therapist. (7D22)

### **Intervention**

- w. Demonstrating competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist. Interventions include: (7D23)
  - 1) *Airway Clearance Techniques*: breathing exercises, coughing techniques and secretion mobilizations. (7D23a)
  - 2) *Application of Devices and Equipment*: assistive/adaptive devices and prosthetic and orthotic devices. (7D23b)
  - 3) *Biophysical Agents*: biofeedback, electrotherapeutic agents, compression therapies, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, superficial and deep thermal agents, traction and light therapies. (7D23c)
  - 4) *Functional Training* in Self-Care and in Domestic, Education, Work, Community, Social, and Civic Life. (7D23d)
  - 5) *Manual Therapy Techniques*: passive range of motion and therapeutic massage. (7D23e)
  - 6) *Motor Function Training* (balance, gait, etc). (7D23f)
  - 7) *Patient/Client Education*. (7D23g)
  - 8) *Therapeutic Exercise*. (7D23h)

- 9) *Wound Management*: isolation techniques, sterile technique, application and removal of dressing or agents, and identification of precautions for dressing removal. (7D23i)

### **Test and Measures**

- x. Demonstrating competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests and measures (before, during, and after interventions) for the following areas: (7D24)
  - 1) *Aerobic Capacity and Endurance*: measurement of standard vital signs; recognize and monitor responses to positional changes and activities (e.g., orthostatic hypotension, response to exercise). (7D24a)
  - 2) *Anthropometrical Characteristics*: measurements of height, weight, length, and girth. (7D24b)
  - 3) *Mental Functions*: detect changes in a patient's state of arousal, mentation, and cognition. (7D24c)
  - 4) *Assistive Technology*: identify the individual's and caregiver's ability to care for the device; recognize changes in skin condition and safety factors while using devices and equipment. (7D24d)
  - 5) *Gait, Locomotion, and Balance*: deterring the safety, status, and progression of patient while engaged in gait, locomotion, balance, wheelchair management and mobility. (7D24e)
  - 6) *Integumentary Integrity*: detect absent or altered sensation; normal and abnormal integumentary changes; activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations, or that can produce associated skin trauma; and recognize viable versus nonviable tissue. (7D24f)
  - 7) *Joint integrity and Mobility*: detect normal and abnormal joint movement. (7D24g)
  - 8) *Muscle Performance*: measure muscle strength by manual muscle testing; observe the presence or absence of muscle mass; recognize normal and abnormal muscle length, and changes in muscle tone. (7D24h)
  - 9) *Neuromotor Development*: detect gross motor milestones, fine motor milestones, and righting and equilibrium reactions. (7D24i)
  - 10) *Pain*: administer standardized questionnaires, graphs, behavioral scales, or visual analog scales for pain; recognize activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations. (7D24j)
  - 11) *Posture*: determine normal and abnormal alignment of trunk and extremities at rest and during activities. (7D24k)
  - 12) *Range of Motion*: measure functional range of motion and measure range of motion using an appropriate measurement device. (7D24l)
  - 13) *Self-care and Civic, Community, Domestic, Education, Social and Work Life*: inspect the physical environment and measure physical spaces; recognize safety and barriers in the home, community, and

work environments; recognize level of functional status; administer standardized questionnaires to patients and others. (7D24m)

14) *Ventilation, Respiration, and Circulation*: detect signs and symptoms of respiratory distress, and activities that aggravate or relieve edema, pain, dyspnea, or other symptoms; describe thoracoabdominal movements and breathing patterns with activity, and cough and sputum characteristics. (7D24n)

- y. Completing accurate *documentation* that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting, and other regulatory agencies. (7D25)
- z. Responding effectively to patient/client and environmental *emergencies* that commonly occur in the clinical setting. (7D26)

### **Participation in Health Care Environment**

- aa. Contributing to the efforts to increase patient and healthcare provider *safety*. (7D27)
- bb. Participating in the provision of patient-centered *inter-professional* collaborative care. (7D28)
- cc. Participating in performance improvement activities (*quality assurance*). (7D29)

### **Practice Management**

- dd. Describing aspects of *organizational planning and operation* of the physical therapy service. (7D30)
- ee. Describing accurate and timely information for *billing and payment* purposes. (7D31)