What qualities does a student have to possess to successfully complete SUNY Canton’s Physical Therapist Assistant Program?

A. Academic ability to earn a C or higher in all professional courses and a 2.0 cumulative average.

B. Ability to achieve a level of competency in all physical therapy interventions and data collection procedures that will enable the student to practice safely and effectively in a clinical education setting. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Demonstrate the ability to guard patients when standing and ambulating on level surfaces and stairs with and without the use of assistive devices including cane, crutches and walkers.

2. Demonstrate the ability to safely transfer patients from a bed to a chair and a chair to a bed using minimum, moderate, and maximal assist techniques.

3. Demonstrate good body mechanics in the process of all patient treatments.

4. Perform cleaning protocol procedures for sterile technique with all size whirlpools.

5. Demonstrate the ability to manipulate dials and sound head when applying ultrasound and electric stimulation treatments.

6. Demonstrate the ability to apply graded manual resistance to patient’s body parts for the purpose of determining strength or for applying exercise techniques.

7. Demonstrate the ability to handle the weight of a patient’s limb for purposes of performing or measuring passive range of motion.

8. Demonstrate the ability to set up treatment sessions using laboratory or clinic equipment within the time restraints of treatment requirements to provide safe and effective treatments.

9. Demonstrate the ability to measure vital signs, observe thoracoabdominal movement, and listen for changes in breathing patterns.

10. Demonstrate the ability to feel and palpate a pulse, muscle spasm, muscle contractions and bony landmarks.

11. Distinguish color changes of a patient’s skin and observe changes in skin condition.

12. Observe patient’s response to activities and position changes.

13. Administer CPR, and apply standard precautions and other emergency measures.
C. Communicate effectively, safely and efficiently with patients, family, care givers, significant others, and other health care providers, by:
   1. Explaining procedures
   2. Receiving information from the patients, family, other health care providers
   3. Receiving information from written documentation
   4. Introducing self
   5. Confirming patient’s identity
   6. Documenting clear, concise and accurate notes in a patient’s chart
   7. Exhibiting appropriate interpersonal skills, with patients, family and significant others, that are effective and efficient
   8. Recognizing and responding appropriately to nonverbal behavior of self and others.

D. Detect an unsafe environment and carry out appropriate emergency procedures including:
   1. Detect subtle environmental changes and odors including, but not limited to, the smell of burning electrical equipment, smoke, spills, pathophysiological odors and potential environmental hazards.
   2. Detect high and low frequency sounds including, but not limited to, alarms, bells, emergency signals, timers.

E. Maintain professional decorum while participating in an intensive training program, both academic and clinical, in preparation for the challenges of clinical situations dealing with acutely sick and dying patients, fast-paced clinical environments, psychosocial responses of patients with disabilities and a heavy academic schedule.

F. Recognize the psychosocial impact of dysfunction and disability of patients and appropriately integrate the needs of the patient into patient care.

G. Demonstrate management skills including planning and organizing responsibilities of clinical practice.

H. Apply teaching/learning theories and methods in health care and community environments.

I. Demonstrate professional behaviors consistent with legal and ethical clinical practice.

SUNY Canton seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. Reasonable prior notice is needed to arrange reasonable accommodations.

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