

PROFESSIONALISM Standards

Professional Code of Ethics

As future members of the physical therapy profession, each student should consider it her or his responsibility to insist upon and maintain the following ethical standards: (APTA Guide for Conduct for the PTA)

- A physical therapist assistant shall respect the rights and dignity of all individuals and shall provide compassionate care.
- A physical therapist assistant shall act in a trustworthy manner towards patients/clients.
- A physical therapist assistant shall provide selected physical therapy interventions only under the supervision and direction of a physical therapist.
- A physical therapist assistant shall comply with laws and regulations governing physical therapy.
- A physical therapist assistant shall achieve and maintain competence in the provision of selected physical therapy interventions.
- A physical therapist assistant shall make judgments that are commensurate with their educational and legal qualifications as a physical therapist assistant.
- A physical therapist assistant shall protect the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent, and illegal acts.

Professional Interactions: Students are representatives of their programs and future professions, and as such, are expected to be professional in their interactions at the clinic sites. The student should demonstrate professional behavior in relationship to personal interactions. The following criteria are used by faculty to determine appropriate conduct for a professional person:

A. The student acts courteously toward patients, visitor, faculty, staff and other students as demonstrated by: greeting the patient or visitor when introduced and listening with apparent interest to the statements of others.

B. The student expresses concern for the patient's expressed an/or unexpressed need. This is determined by: maintaining eye contact with the patient and using appropriate vocal and facial expressions

C. The student demonstrates tact in disagreements with staff, faculty, patients and other students as demonstrated by: not scowling at persons giving constructive criticisms, not disagreeing with others in presence of patients, not calling others by unkind names and selecting appropriate conditions for discussing problems.

D. The student maintains an efficient treatment/business atmosphere as demonstrated by: asking questions that are timed well and appropriate for the situation, interacting with the clinician and patient in a manner that allows for efficiency and does not interrupt

the flow of treatment and actions are related to patient treatment rather than personal interest or gain.

E. The student shows interest in job or task at hand. This is demonstrated by choice of words, facial expression and attention focused on task.

F. The student respects the views of patients, students, faculty and staff by being attentive to presentations of others.

G. The student maintains honest behavior by not misrepresenting any situation to staff, students, patients or faculty.

H. The student protects the patient's right to privacy. This is demonstrated by not disclosing information obtained during the course of the professional relationship with others not involved in that patient's care in such a way that a particular patient could be identified.

I. The student demonstrates maturity as indicated by accepting responsibility for his or her own actions and words.

J. The student demonstrates dependability by being prompt and punctual for scheduled clinic experiences.

K. The student is self-directing. This is demonstrated by the student seeking out learning opportunities

L. The student is non-prejudiced in the interactions with staff, faculty, and patients. This is demonstrated by uniformly acting and reacting to all others.

M. The student will present a professional appearance while participating in clinical observation activities. This is demonstrated by following the guidelines outlined in the student attire form.