



ASSESSMENT

Physical Therapist Assistant Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes

- **Standard 7** - The curriculum includes content, learning experiences & student testing and evaluation processes designed to prepare students to achieve educational outcomes required for initial practice in physical therapy & for lifelong learning necessary for functioning within an ever-changing health care environment.
- **Standard 7A** - The PTA program curriculum requires a complement of academic general education coursework appropriate to the degree offered that includes written communication & biological, physical, behavioral & social sciences which prepare students for coursework in the technical program sequence. General education courses are courses not designated as applied general education coursework by the institution or program.
- **Standard 7B** - The PTA program curriculum includes content & learning experiences about the cardiovascular, endocrine & metabolic, gastrointestinal, genital & reproductive, hematologic, hepatic & biliary, immune, integumentary, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, nervous, respiratory, & renal & urologic systems; & the medical & surgical conditions across the lifespan commonly seen by PTAs.
- **Standard 7C** - The technical education component of the curriculum includes content & learning experiences that prepares the student to work as an entry-level PTA under the directions & supervision of the PT.
- **Standard 7D1** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state, & institutional regulations related to patient/client care & fiscal management
- **Standard 7D2** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of abuse of vulnerable populations
- **Standard 7D3** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of fraud & abuse related to the utilization of & payment for PT and other health care services
- **Standard 7D4** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to perform duties in a manner consistent with the Guide for Conduct of the PTA (APTA) & Standards of Ethical Conduct (APTA) to meet expectations of patients, members of the PT profession, & other providers as necessary
- **Standard 7D5** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to perform duties in a manner consistent with APTA's Values Based Behaviors for the PTA.
- **Standard 7D6** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to implement, in response to an ethical situation, a plan of action that demonstrates sound moral reasoning congruent with core professional ethics & values



ASSESSMENT

- **Standard 7D7** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, caregivers, practitioners, inter-professional team members, consumers, payers, & policymakers.
- **Standard 7D8** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to identify, respect, & act with consideration for patients'/clients' differences, values, preferences, & expressed needs in all work-related activities
- **Standard 7D9** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to apply current knowledge, theory, & clinical judgment while considering the patient/client perspective & the environment, based on the plan of care established by the PT
- **Standard 7D10** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to identify basic concepts in professional literature including, but not limited to, validity, reliability & level of statistical significance
- **Standard 7D11** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to identify & integrate appropriate evidence based resources to support clinical decision-making for progression of the patient within the plan of care established by the PT
- **Standard 7D12** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to effectively educate others using teaching methods that are commensurate with the needs of the patient, caregiver or healthcare personnel
- **Standard 7D13** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to participate in professional & community organizations that provide opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy & leadership
- **Standard 7D14** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to identify career development & lifelong learning opportunities, including the role of the PTA in the clinical education of PTA students
- **Standard 7D15** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to interview patients/clients, caregivers, & family to obtain current information related to prior & current level of function & general health status. (e.g.; fatigue, fever, malaise, unexplained weight change)
- **Standard 7D16** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to use the International Classification of Functioning, Disability & Health (ICF) to describe a patient's/client's impairments, activity & participation limitations
- **Standard 7D17** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to communicate an understanding of the plan of care developed by the PT to achieve short & long term goals & intended outcomes
- **Standard 7D18** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to review health records (e.g., lab values, diagnostic tests, specialty reports, narratives, consults, & PT documentation) prior to carrying out the PT plan of care



ASSESSMENT

- **Standard 7D19** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to monitor & adjust interventions in the plan of care in response to patient/client status & clinical indications.
- **Standard 7D20** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to report any changes in patient/client status or progress to the supervising PT
- **Standard 7D21** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to determine 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
- **Standard 7D22** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to contribute to the discontinuation of episode of care planning & follow-up processes as directed by the supervising PT
- **Standard 7D23a** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Airway Clearance Techniques: breathing exercises, coughing techniques & secretion mobilization
- **Standard 7D23b** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Application of Devices & Equipment: assistive/adaptive devices & prosthetic & orthotic devices
- **Standard 7D23c** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Biophysical Agents: biofeedback, electrotherapeutic agents, compression therapies, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, superficial & deep thermal agents, traction & light therapies
- **Standard 7D23d** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Functional Training in Self-Care & in Domestic, Education, Work, Community, Social & Civic Life
- **Standard 7D23e** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Manual Therapy Techniques: passive range of motion & therapeutic massage
- **Standard 7D23f** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Motor Function Training (balance, gait, etc.)
- **Standard 7D23g** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Patient/Client Education

ASSESSMENT

- **Standard 7D23h** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Therapeutic Exercise
- **Standard 7D23i** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT. Interventions include Wound Management: isolation techniques, sterile techniques, application & removal of dressing or agents, & identification of precautions for dressing removal
- **Standard 7D24a** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Aerobic Capacity & Endurance: measurement of standard vital signs; recognize & monitor responses to positional changes & activities (e.g., orthostatic hypotension, response to exercise)
- **Standard 7D24b** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Anthropometrical Characteristics: measurements of height, weight, length & girth
- **Standard 7D24c** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Mental Functions: detect changes in a patient's state of arousal, mentation & cognition
- **Standard 7D24d** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Assistive Technology: identify the individual's & caregiver's ability to care for the device; recognize changes in skin condition & safety factors while using devices & equipment
- **Standard 7D24e** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Gait, Locomotion, & Balance: determine the safety, status, & progression of patients while engaged in gait, locomotion, balance, wheelchair management & mobility



ASSESSMENT

- **Standard 7D24f** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Integumentary Integrity: detect absent or altered sensation; normal & abnormal integumentary changes; activities, positioning, & postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations, or that can produce associated skin trauma; & recognize viable versus nonviable tissue
- **Standard 7D24g** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Joint Integrity & Mobility: detect normal & abnormal joint movement
- **Standard 7D24h** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Muscle Performance: measure muscle strength by manual muscle testing; observe the presence or absence of muscle mass; recognize normal & abnormal muscle length, & changes in muscle tone
- **Standard 7D24i** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Neuromotor Development: detect gross motor milestones, fine motor milestones, & righting & equilibrium reactions
- **Standard 7D24j** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Pain: administer standardized questionnaires, graphs, behavioral scales, or visual analog scales for pain; recognize activities, positioning, & posture that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations
- **Standard 7D24k** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Posture: determine normal & abnormal alignment of trunk & extremities at rest & during activities
- **Standard 7D24l** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Range of Motion: measure functional range of motion & measure range of motion using an appropriate measurement device



ASSESSMENT

- **Standard 7D24m** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Self-Care & Civic, Community, Domestic, Education, Social & Work Life: inspect the physical environment & measure physical spaces; recognize safety & barriers in the home, community & work environments; recognize level of functional status; administer standardized questionnaires to patients & others
- **Standard 7D24n** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests & measures (before, during & after interventions) for the following areas: Ventilation, Respiration & Circulation: detect signs & symptoms of respiratory distress, & activities that aggravate or relieve edema, pain, dyspnea, or other symptoms; describe thoracoabdominal movements & breathing patterns with activity, & cough & sputum characteristics
- **Standard 7D25** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to complete accurate documentation that follows guidelines & specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting, & other regulatory agencies
- **Standard 7D26** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to respond effectively to patient/client & environmental emergencies that commonly occur in the clinical setting
- **Standard 7D27** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to contribute to efforts to increase patient & healthcare provider safety
- **Standard 7D28** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to participate in the provision of patient-centered inter-professional collaborative care
- **Standard 7D29** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to participate in performance improvement activities (quality assurance)
- **Standard 7D30** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to describe aspects of organizational planning & operation of the PT service
- **Standard 7D31** - Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to describe accurate & timely information for billing & payment purposes