

**The University of Scranton - Department of Physical Therapy**  
**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DOCTOR**  
**OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

**Essential functions required of all Physical Therapy students:**

1. Utilize effective and appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication with patients, families, health care workers, and others.
2. Complete appropriate physical therapy procedures used to assess the function of the movement system in a timely manner. These include, but are not limited to, the assessment of cognitive/mental status, vital signs, pulmonary function, wound status, strength endurance, segmental length, girth and volume, sensation, strength, tone, reflexes, movement patterns, coordination, balance, developmental stage, soft tissue, joint motion/play, pain, cranial and peripheral nerve function, posture, gait, functional abilities and assistive device fit/use.
3. Determine the physical therapy needs of any patient with perceived or potential movement dysfunction.
4. Develop and document a plan of care for all types of patients requiring physical therapy services.
5. Recognize the psychosocial impact of dysfunction and disability and integrate the needs of the patient and family into the plan of care.
6. Complete treatment procedures that are appropriate to the patient's status and desired goals in a timely manner. These include, but are not limited to, exercise, developmental activities, balance training, gait training, transfer training, functional training, coordination training, positioning techniques, self-care activities, therapeutic modalities, and CPR.
7. Apply "Standard Precautions".
8. Participate in the process of scientific inquiry.
9. Apply teaching/learning theories and methods in varied health care and community environments.
10. Complete (with reasonable accommodations as needed) consultative activities in professional and lay communities.
11. Obtain and maintain certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Community First Aid and Safety.
12. Participate in all laboratory experiences, which include serving as patient-demonstrator, for fellow students and instructors.