

# Northern Arizona University

## Detailed Student Learning Outcomes for the Doctor of Physical Therapy – Entry Level

Outcomes align with Standards from the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education

### Professional Ethics, Values and Responsibilities

- Adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state, and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management.
- Report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of abuse of vulnerable populations
- Report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of fraud and abuse related to the utilization of and payment for physical therapy and other health care services
- Practice in a manner consistent with the APTA Code of Ethics.
- Practice in a manner consistent with the APTA Core Values
- Implement, in response to an ethical situation, a plan of action that demonstrates sound moral reasoning congruent with core professional ethics and values
- Communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, caregivers, practitioners, interprofessional team members, consumers, payers, and policy makers
- Identify, respect, and act with consideration for patients'/clients' differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs in all professional activities
- Access and critically analyze scientific literature
- Apply current knowledge, theory, and professional judgment while considering the patient/client perspective, the environment, and available resources
- Identify, evaluate and integrate the best evidence for practice with clinical judgment and patient/client values, needs, and preferences to determine the best care for a patient/client.
- Effectively educate others using teaching methods that are commensurate with the needs of the learner, including participation in the clinical education of students
- Participate in professional and community organizations that provide opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy, and leadership
- Advocate for the profession and the healthcare needs of society through legislative and political processes
- Identify career development and lifelong learning opportunities, including the role of the physical therapist in the clinical education of physical therapist students.

### Patient/Client Management

#### Screening

- Determine when patients/clients need further examination or consultation by a physical therapist or referral to another health care professional
- Examination, Evaluation and Diagnosis
- Obtain a history and relevant information from the patient/client and from other sources as needed
- Perform systems review
- Select, and competently administer tests and measures appropriate to the patient's age, diagnosis and health status including, but not limited to, those that assess:
  - Aerobic capacity/endurance
  - Anthropometric characteristics
  - Assistive technology
  - Balance
  - Circulation (arterial, venous, lymphatic)
  - Self-care and civic, community, domestic, education, social and work life
  - Cranial and peripheral nerve integrity
  - Environmental factors
  - Gait
  - Integumentary integrity

- Joint integrity and mobility
- Mental functions
- Mobility (including locomotion)
- Motor function
- Muscle performance (including strength, power, endurance, and length)
- Neuromotor development and sensory processing
- Pain
- Posture
- Range of motion
- Reflex integrity
- Sensory integrity
- Skeletal integrity
- Ventilation and respiration or gas exchange
- Evaluate data from the examination (history, health record, systems review, and tests and measures) to make clinical judgments
- Use the International Classification of Function (ICF) to describe a patient's/client's impairments, activity and participation limitations
- Determine a diagnosis that guides future patient/client management
- Prognosis and Plan of Care
- Determine patient/client goals and expected outcomes within available resources (including applicable payment sources) and specify expected length of time to achieve the goals and outcomes
- Establish a safe and effective plan of care in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, payors, other professionals and other appropriate individuals
- Determine those components of the plan of care that may, or may not, be directed to the PTA based on a) the needs of the patient/client; b) the role, education, and training of the PTA, c) competence of the individual PTA, d) jurisdictional law, e) practice guidelines policies, and f) facility policies
- Create a discontinuation of episode of care plan that optimizes success for the patient in moving along the continuum of care
- Intervention
- Competently perform physical therapy interventions to achieve patient/client goals and outcomes. Interventions include:
  - Airway Clearance Techniques
  - Assistive Technology: Prescription, application, and, as appropriate, fabrication or modification
  - Biophysical agents
  - Functional training in self-care and in domestic, education, work, community, social, and civic life
  - Integumentary repair and protection
  - Manual therapy techniques (including mobilization/manipulation thrust and nonthrust techniques)
  - Motor function training (balance, gait, etc.)
  - Patient/client education
  - Therapeutic exercise

### **Management of Care Delivery**

- Manage the delivery of the plan of care that is consistent with professional obligations, interprofessional collaborations, and administrative policies and procedures of the practice environment
- Delineate, communicate and supervise those areas of the plan of care that will be directed to the PTA
- Monitor and adjust the plan of care in response to patient/client status
- Assess patient outcomes, including the use of appropriate standardized tests and measures that address impairments, functional status and participation
- Complete accurate documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting, and other regulatory agencies
- Respond effectively to patient/client and environmental emergencies in one's practice setting
- Provide physical therapy services that address primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, health promotion, and wellness to individuals, groups, and communities
- Provide care through direct access

- Participate in the case management process
- Participation in Health Care Environment
- Assess and document safety risks of patients and the healthcare provider and design and implement strategies to improve safety in the healthcare setting as an individual and as a member of the interprofessional healthcare team
- Participate in activities for ongoing assessment and improvement of quality services
- Participate in patient-centered interprofessional collaborative practice
- Use health informatics in the health care environment
- Assess health care policies and their potential impact on the healthcare environment and practice

**Practice Management**

- Participate in the financial management of the practice setting, including accurate billing and payment for services rendered
- Participate in practice management including marketing, public relations, regulatory and legal requirements, risk management, staffing and continuous quality improvement