



Essential Skills for Lanier Technical College PTA Program

Due to the nature of patient care and the PTA physical workload, PTA students should possess certain abilities to render safe and effective patient care:

- Visual Acuity- Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in patient care. Examples include observation of patient/client responses such as respiratory rate and depth, skin color, and other physical signs; visualization of monitors, watches with second hands, visualization of objects from twenty inches to twenty feet away; use of depth perception and peripheral vision; distinguishing colors; and reading written documents.
- Auditory Perception- Ability to hear and discriminate sounds including alerts from medical equipment, patient safety alert systems, breath and heart sounds.
- Gross Motor Skills- Ability to stand, walk, kneel, crawl, bend or sit for extended periods of time, ability to lift approximately 50 pounds for assisting patients with transfers and mobility, ability to maintain balance, gross coordination and agility to safely guard patients, ability to perform CPR.
- Fine Motor Skills- Dexterity and tactile ability to manipulate equipment of varying sizes and shapes, perform manual interventions including wound care, massage or palpation.
- Ability to Communicate- Ability to effectively communicate, which includes listening and understanding as well as interpretation of auditory and visual cues such as facial expression or body language.
- Cognitive ability and Emotional Stability- Ability to think critically, comprehend information given in varying forms, reason and make judgments based on information. Ability to manage time and prioritize actions/outcomes. Ability to be sensitive and competent in dealing with cultural differences. Ability to maintain calm and act in a reasonable manner at all times, especially during stressful and emergent situations.

If you believe you may require an accommodation or have any questions regarding any of these requirements, please contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Allison Haynes, at 770-533-7003.