

TECHNICAL STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE FOR STUDENTS

Marietta College Athletic Training Program students are expected to perform and be competent in many functions and tasks, which signify they are prepared for entry-level employment as an athletic trainer. In a professional role, ATs can provide medical services under the supervision of a Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy in accordance with the laws of medical practice within each state. The AT must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care. They must have abilities and skills including observation, communication, motor, conceptual, integrative, quantitative, behavioral, and social. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in the above areas, but such a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. They must be able to integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, consistently, quickly, and accurately, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

Observation

A student must be able to observe in lecture, the laboratory setting and while examining patients. They must be able to differentiate normal versus pathological states. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and tactile sensations (touch, pressure, temperature, vibration, etc.). It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell, hearing, and equilibrium. Students must be able to integrate their observed findings into appropriate diagnostic and treatment plans.

Communication

Students must be able to communicate effectively in classroom settings by verbal, written, and electronic means. Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, their families, and members of the healthcare team. Students must be able to communicate effectively with patients from different social and cultural backgrounds, as well as develop effective professional rapport with patients and co-workers. Students must be able to record examination and diagnostics results clearly, accurately, and efficiently. Students must be able to communicate effectively in English with patients, family, and other healthcare professionals in a variety of settings.

Motor Skills

A student should have sufficient motor function to obtain information from patients by palpation, auscultation and percussion. They must possess sufficient postural and neuromuscular control and eye-to-hand coordination to utilize standard medical/surgical instruments to participate in basic clinical skills and procedures. A student should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment of patients. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Students must maintain sufficient physical stamina to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study. Long periods of sitting, standing, or moving are required in classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

Students must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction; small group, team and collaborative activities; individual study; preparation and presentation of reports; and use of electronic technology. Students must have the mental capacity to assimilate and learn a large amount of complex, technical and detailed information to formulate diagnostic and therapeutic plans. The student must possess abilities of measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving is a

critical skill demanded of athletic trainers and requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the student should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

The student must possess the emotional health and stability required to function effectively under stress. They must display flexibility to learning and be able to adapt to a sometimes rapidly changing environment. They must accept responsibility for learning, exercising good judgment and promptly completing all responsibilities during their academic training, as well as the responsibility attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. They must understand the legal and ethical standards of the medical profession. Students must be able to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of the educational and healthcare team, and to interact with instructors and peers, patients, patient families, and healthcare personnel in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner.

Professional Standards

The student must be able to understand both general and medical ethics. Students must possess attributes such as compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, responsibility, and tolerance. Students must be able to recognize limitations in their knowledge, skills and abilities and to seek appropriate assistance from their preceptor. The student must consistently display honesty, integrity and respect for self and others. They must maintain confidentiality and be dedicated to serving their preceptors, patients, peers, AT faculty and staff, Marietta College faculty and staff, the community, and the AT profession at all times.

Graduate Functions and Tasks

Marietta College Athletic Training Program graduates will be competent in the functions and tasks necessary for entry into clinical AT practice. The graduate must function in various clinical settings including preventive, emergent, acute, chronic, and rehabilitative care. The graduate must be able to identify and critically analyze clinical problems while applying scientific methods to medical management. The functions and tasks of all Marietta College Athletic Training Program graduates are divided into five domains: injury and illness prevention and wellness promotion; examination, assessment, and diagnosis; immediate and emergency care; therapeutic intervention; and healthcare administration and professional responsibility.

Medical Knowledge

The graduate will demonstrate a thorough knowledge base of statistics, research design, epidemiology, pathophysiology, biomechanics and pathomechanics, exercise physiology, nutrition, human anatomy, pharmacology, public health, and health care delivery and payor systems.

Evaluation

The graduate will be able to perform accurate comprehensive and focused history and physical examinations for patients of any age and in any health care setting. They will be able to recognize and interpret pertinent factors from the history and physical exam findings and identify risk factors for medical conditions. The information obtained from history and physical exams will be logically organized and used to formulate differential diagnoses.

Diagnostics

The graduate will have knowledge of clinical indications for, risks/benefits of and alternative options for routine and other more specialized diagnostic studies/procedures. They will be able to initiate requests for appropriate laboratory and diagnostic studies and/or procedures and accurately interpret the results to make medical decisions/interventions. Graduates will be

knowledgeable about the indications for preventive screening tests and recommendations.

Clinical Reasoning and Problem Solving

The graduate will be able to make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preference, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment. Graduates will be able to use evidence-based medicine and critical thinking skills to investigate, evaluate, and improve patient care in disease prevention and management. They will analytically approach clinical situations to develop differential diagnoses and ultimately, make a final diagnosis and an acute, chronic, longitudinal and/or rehabilitative management plans. They will utilize clinical judgment as to initiate management for medical emergencies.

Therapeutics

The graduate will understand the management of general medical and surgical conditions. They will be able to design and implement comprehensive treatment plans that include pharmacologic and other treatment modalities. They will have knowledge of pharmacology principles and pharmacotherapeutics to allow them to provide patient education about the indications, contraindications and potential side effects of pharmacologic agents prescribed in patient care. Graduates will have the ability to select appropriate pharmacologic therapy and dosing. They will have the ability to detect and refer substance abuse.

Technical Skills

The graduate will competently perform all medical and procedures considered essential for entry into clinical AT practice.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

The graduate will demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that enable them to establish and maintain professional relationships with patients, families, and other members of health care teams. Regarding patients, they will avoid personal stereotyping and biases to provide effective counseling, patient education and medical care to all patients regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, culture, socioeconomic status or disability. They will work collaboratively with other members of the healthcare team to provide efficient and optimal patient care. They will understand the importance of the interprofessional healthcare team in providing effective patient care. They will concisely summarize patient data to effectively present patients to preceptors. They will be able to provide counseling and patient education regarding preventable conditions and lifestyle modifications. They will have the ability to document organized, concise, and complete medical notes.

Referral

The graduate will recognize their own limitations and the limitations of their practice setting. They will facilitate timely consults/referral of patients to their supervising physician. They will appropriately obtain consults and/or refer patients to specialty physicians, other interdisciplinary health care team members and/or social service agencies.

Professionalism

The graduate must consistently demonstrate intellectual honesty, integrity, respect for self and others, tolerance, empathy, fairness, confidentiality, and dedication to their supervising physician(s), other health care team members and patients. They will be committed to ethical principles and knowledge of current health care and legal issues such as; cultural and religious beliefs, informed consent, refusal process, etc. to ensure that best care practices are established. They will ensure that they are reliable, dependable and conscientious in their

duties to deliver affordable and effective patient-centered healthcare. They will be committed to on-going professional development and excellence as they perform entry-level AT duties. They will be knowledgeable of the public health system and the role of providers in the prevention of disease and maintenance of population health. Graduates will demonstrate ethical principles and implement best practices regarding patient safety, quality improvement, preventing medical errors and risk management. They will maintain factual, accurate and complete medical documentation of care regarding billing and coding. They will abide by all practice laws and regulations about AT certification, licensure, and professional practice.