Coordinated Program in Dietetics Essential Program-Related Functions

This document is modified with permission from PT Policy 022: Physical Therapy Essential Program-Related Functions, pg 35, in the 2012-2013 Student Handbook for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in the College of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Cincinnati.

Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP) students and interns must demonstrate the ability to safely, reliably, and efficiently perform at least the functions listed below, in compliance with legal and ethical standards during their didactic education and supervised practice.

1. Perform duties within the Scope of Dietetics Practice while observing the Code of Ethics for the Profession of Dietetics.
2. Successfully complete the Competencies (CRDN’s) for the Coordinated Program. (Successful completion is indicated by a score of 3 or 4, or 75% or higher, on an evaluation tool that scores from 0-4, or on a comparable evaluation tool indicative of a score of 75% or greater.)
3. Tolerate attending class for approximately 20 hours per week, attending supervised practice for approximately 40 hours per week (plus time outside of the rotation site for homework and projects), and have the ability to sit and/or stand or walk for several hours at a time.
4. Have the intellectual skills to recall and comprehend large amounts of didactic information under time constraints and apply this information to the practice of dietetics and food service management.
5. Utilize appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written communication with patients, residents, clients, families, preceptors, health care professionals outside of our discipline, and others.
6. Perform the Nutrition Care Process, or NCP, (as described in the ACEND – Required Core Competencies for the RDN 3.1).
   - CRDN 3.1: Perform the Nutrition Care Process and use standardized nutrition language for individuals, groups and populations of differing ages and health status, in a variety of settings.
7. Perform the NCP, complete research projects, and prepare patient case studies using Evidence-based Nutrition Practice Guidelines.
8. Recognize the ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic needs of the patient and family when implementing the plan of care and during the evaluation and monitoring components of the NCP.
9. Communicate pertinent information to other health care professionals as appropriate and monitor implementation of the plan of care.
10. Counsel in a manner that is appropriate for the individual’s disease state(s) and his/her desired goals.
11. Record pertinent nutrition information in the medical record according to established guidelines.
12. Possess the ability to manage a full patient load by the end of the supervised practice rotations.
13. Apply teaching/learning theories and methods in health care and community environments with the goal of health care promotion and prevention.
14. Demonstrate management skills, including planning, organizing, supervising, and delegating.
15. Work as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
17. Develop responsibility for lifelong professional growth and development beginning with active participation in the local dietetics organization.
18. Represent and promote the University of Cincinnati in a professional, positive manner.
19. The above require that students/interns have no restrictions in the following: climbing, stooping, kneeling, reaching, standing, walking, pushing (carts), lifting (20 pounds of less), carrying (20 pounds or less), fingering (writing, typing), feeling (particularly with fingertips, i.e. for skin turgor), talking, hearing, and seeing. In addition, students are required to pass a physical exam annually, the first being before the start of supervised practice, are required to show proof of current vaccinations, and are required to be vaccinated against influenza at the appropriate time of the year.

Certain disabilities can interfere with a student’s ability to complete the program of study and acquire the essential functions necessary for the practice of dietetics. A student who feels he/she has such a disability is required to register with the Disability Services Office at http://www.uc.edu/aess/disability.html (513-556-6823). Reasonable accommodations can be made to compensate for some, but not all, limitations. Students should be aware that those that interfere with patient care, safety, or require the use of an intermediary may be incompatible with independent professional practice. A student who is unable to fulfill the essential functions may be dismissed from the program.

1. Essential Functions, Physical Therapy Program, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

**When students sign their CP application form they acknowledge that they are able to fulfill the essential functions. CP interns will again be required to sign and date that they are able to fulfill the essential functions at the start of their supervised practice.**