

Essential Functional Abilities for Medical Assisting Students

Category	Essential Function
Visual	1. Observe and discern subtle changes in physical conditions and the environment.
	2. Visualize different colors and color changes; distinguish color and intensity.
	3. Read fine print and data displayed on electronic devices, monitors, and equipment.
	4. Read and interpret increments of measure such as on a syringe.
	5. Detect non-verbal communication.
Auditory	1. Hear, interpret, and discriminate sounds, including high and low frequency sounds produced by the body and the environment.
	2. Hear effectively to communicate with others.
	3. Distinguish muffled sounds heard through a stethoscope.
Tactile	1. Discern tremors, vibrations, pulses, textures, temperature, shape, size, location and other physical characteristics.
Olfactory	1. Detect and discern body and environmental odors.
Communication	1. Verbally, and in writing, engage in two-way communication in English.
	2. Use qualified interpreters when appropriate, to communicate with non-English speaking clients.
	3. Interact effectively with others from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
	4. Communicate in a timely manner.
Interpersonal Relationships	1. Work effectively in groups.
	2. Work effectively independently.
	3. Interpret nonverbal communication.
	4. Express one's ideas and feelings in a clear manner.
	5. Demonstrate behaviors that are age appropriate in relationship to the client.
	6. Convey caring, respect, tact, compassion and empathy to client and others.
	7. Function effectively in situations of uncertainty and stress.
Cognitive	1. Operate a computer to obtain, enter and transmit data.
	2. Effectively read, write, and comprehend the English language.
	3. Consistently and dependably engage in the process of critical thinking in order to formulate and implement safe and ethical decisions in a variety of healthcare settings.
	4. Demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations, including mathematical calculations.
Motor/Physical	1. Handle small delicate equipment/objects without extraneous movement, contamination or destruction.
	2. Move, position, transfer and assist with lifting and ambulation of clients without injury to clients, self or others.
	3. Maintain balance.
	4. Respond rapidly to emergency situations.
	5. Coordinate hand/eye movements.
	6. Lift and/or carry objects weighing up to 25 pounds without injury to client, self, or others.
	7. Stand, bend, and walk, for prolonged periods of time while performing physical activities requiring energy without jeopardizing the safety of the client, self or other.
	8. Function with both hands free for performing tasks or transporting clients or equipment.
	9. Coordinate fine and gross motor hand movements to provide safe, effective patient care.
	10. Handle multiple tasks concurrently.
	11. Perform manual skills under time and performance pressure.
	12. Maneuver in small spaces.

Category	Essential Function
	13. Display sufficient physical endurance, strength and mobility to perform required client care activities in a safe and effective manner for the entire length of the clinical experience (may be up to 12 hour/day).
Emotional	1. Function effectively in situations of uncertainty and stress.
	2. Adapt to rapid changes in the environment or client condition.
	3. Demonstrate attributes of compassion, empathy, integrity, honesty, accountability, responsibility.
	4. Maintain emotional control in stressful and unexpected situations.
	5. Focus attention on task and client.
	6. Establish positive rapport with others.
	7. Work in close proximity to others.