

**Florida National University**

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

**ETHICAL AGREEMENT**

This agreement is both a contract and a code of conduct for the physical therapist assistant student while in the clinical setting, lecture, skills lab, and any other time the PTA student is under the auspices of Florida National University. These rules are designed to benefit Florida National University’s Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Program and its students and faculty, as well as patients, hospitals staff, and other individuals who are exposed to students during the course of their enrollment.

The Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Program is rigorous in nature with high expectations regarding behavior and attitude from its students. Acceptance into this program does not automatically guarantee that each student will be able to perform in a manner benefiting the field of physical therapy; therefore, the program involves intensive technical education and evaluation of students’ behavior, attitude and skills under a variety of circumstances.

By signing this contract, the student agrees to the conditions and expectations of the student’s conduct and behavior. All students, while under the auspices of Florida National University’s Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Program, will behave in a professional and respectful manner at all times.

As a healthcare provider, it is important to demonstrate strong communication skills including conflict resolution. In the event that communication attempts by the student to resolve any conflict or issues with a patient, another student, clinician or faculty member are not successful, the appropriate communication channel then begins with either the clinical instructor or a faculty member and follows the chain of command as needed. If a resolution is not reached within the Program, then the Student Grievance Procedure, as stated in the Florida National University’s Student Handbook, will be initiated.

This Ethical Agreement is made in accordance with the section entitled, “Student’s Rights and Responsibilities” as set forth in the Florida National University’s Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant Program Student Handbook. All such provisions of the Florida National University’s PTA Program Student Handbook are hereby incorporated herein by reference ad made a part of this agreement:

1. Sexual Harassment. No student shall engage in sexual harassment, i.e., no flirtation, propositions, innuendo or inappropriate comments shall occur while in the laboratory or clinical setting or during lecture.
2. Inappropriate Language. No student shall use foul or vulgar language while in the lab or clinical setting or during class.
3. Illicit Substances. No student shall have in their possession, or be under the influences of any controlled substance or alcohol while in the lab or clinical setting or during lecture, except for those substances prescribed by a physician. Students shall not consume intoxicants to the extent that evidence of such consumption is apparent when attending clinical, lecture, or lab setting and sent immediately for drug testing. The student may not return to class until negative drug test is obtained.
4. Weapons. No student shall have in their possession any knives, guns, or other lethal weapon while in the lab or clinical setting, or during lecture. Personal protective devices, such as MACE, must be stored according to facility policy and restricted from clinical units.
5. Leaving the Clinical Area. No student will leave their assigned area unless authorized by the clinical instructor.
6. Inappropriate Behavior. Students will not direct disrespectful or abusive behavior toward any university guest, faculty, FNU’s PTA Program employee, student, or an employee of any hospital of other health care facility. Instructors and health care facility employees will be treated with the respect their positions deserve and the student will abide by any rules governing a facility’s staff. “Inappropriate Behavior” includes both written and oral false representation with respect to student behavior.
7. Disputes. In the event of a dispute or observed incident between a student and a facility employee, students are to contact the clinical instructor, who is the first link in the chain of command followed by the SCCE if required. The clinical instructor will attempt to resolve the problem. Students are should speak with the DCE for guidance regarding conflict resolution. In the event of a dispute between a student and an academic faculty member, the student should follow the university’s grievance procedure.
8. Confidentiality. The undersigned hereby acknowledges his or her responsibilities under Florida Law to keep confidential the identities and identifying information regarding any and all clients encountered in the clinical area. No student shall divulge the names of any patient or client, orally, or in writing, during group discussions, presentations, seminar projects, or other activities related to clinical experiences. The undersigned further agrees not to reveal to any person or persons, except authorized clinical staff, and associated personnel, any identifying information regarding any such patient or client.
9. Medical Records. Florida National University’s PTA Program Confidentiality Agreement, as set forth in the preceding paragraph, extends to all patient records. In addition, photocopying of medical records, audio-taping and removing medical records from any hospital department are strictly prohibited.
10. Violations of this Agreement. Any violation of the foregoing Ethical Agreement will result in the student’s dismissal from the clinical, lecture, or laboratory setting and referral to the appropriate person in accordance to the chain of command as set forth in the Florida National University’s PTA Program Student Handbook. In addition, the student may receive a failing grade on the clinical evaluation and a failure to meet course requirements. If a student violates the “Ethics Agreement” of the PTA Program, the situation in question will come before the Florida National University’s PTA Program Academic Standard Committee. (Exception: A severe infraction that requires immediate attention). The Academic Standards Committee will make recommendations for disciplinary action to the appropriate university administrator.
11. Disciplinary Action by the University. If a student is dismissed or otherwise formally disciplined by Florida National University’s PTA Program, the student is subject to permanent dismissal from the Program.

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Student Name (Please Print)

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Student Signature

Agreed to this on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_20\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.