

Generic Abilities**

Generic abilities are attributes, characteristics or behaviors that are not explicitly part of the profession's core knowledge and technical skills but are nevertheless required for success in the profession. Ten generic abilities were identified through a study conducted at UW-Madison in 1991-92. The ten abilities and definitions developed are:

	Generic Ability	Definition
1.	Commitment to Learning	The ability to self-assess, self-correct, and self-direct: to identify needs and sources of learning; and to continually seek new knowledge and understanding.
2.	Interpersonal Skills	The ability to interact effectively with patients, families, colleagues, other health care professionals, and the community and to deal effectively with cultural and ethnic diversity issues.
3.	Communication Skills	The ability to communicate effectively (i.e., speaking, body language, reading, writing, listening) for varied audiences and purposes.
4.	Effective Use of Time and Resources	The ability to obtain the maximum benefit from a minimum investment of time and resources.
5.	Use of Constructive Feedback	The ability to identify sources of and seek out feedback and to effectively use and provide feedback for improving personal interaction.
6.	Problem-Solving	The ability to recognize and define problems, analyzes data, develop and implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes.
7.	Professionalism	The ability to exhibit appropriate professional conduct and to represent the profession effectively.
8.	Responsibility	The ability to exhibit appropriate professional conduct and to represent the profession effectively.
9.	Critical Thinking	The ability to question logically; to identify, generate, and evaluate elements of logical argument; to recognize and differentiate facts, illusions, assumptions, and hidden assumptions; and to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant.
10.	Stress Management	The ability to identify sources of stress and to develop effective coping behaviors.

**** Developed by the Physical Therapy Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison**
May et al. Journal of Physical Therapy Education. 9:1, Spring 1995

GENERIC ABILITIES/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT

Directions: Circle the appropriate levels. Add comments as needed. Sign and date.

	U-Unsatisfactory	B-Beginning Level	D-Developing Level	E-Entry Level	
1.	Commitment to Learning				
	Comments: _____				

2.	Interpersonal Skills				
	Comments: _____				

3.	Communication Skills				
	Comments: _____				

4.	Effective Use of Time and Resources				
	Comments: _____				

5.	Use of Constructive Feedback				
	Comments: _____				

6.	Problem Solving				
	Comments: _____				

7.	Professionalism				
	Comments: _____				

8.	Responsibility				
	Comments: _____				

9.	Critical Thinking				
	Comments: _____				

10.	Stress Management				
	Comments: _____				

○ Signature _____ Date _____