**Role Modeling Behaviors for a Successful Clinical Internship**

Studies have shown that students look to their Clinical Instructors to a greater extent than they look to Academic Instructors to model appropriate clinical behaviors. As such, it is important to identify the characteristics that students find most descriptive of a “model therapist”. Some key characteristics are:

1. **Clinical Competence**
	1. Emitting a strong sense of confidence and proficiency.
	2. Remaining current in the practice of physical therapy.
2. **Professional Demeanor**
	1. Dressing professionally.
	2. Being punctual and maintaining good attendance to work.
	3. Maintaining personal and public spaces organized.
	4. Doing the best job for the patient possible in the time available.
	5. Being industrious and hard-working.
	6. Developing good rapport with students.
	7. Demonstrating flexibility; adapting readily to a variety of situations and crises.
3. **Therapist-Patient Interactions**
	1. Showing genuine care, concern, and compassion for patients.
	2. Motivating patients to work to their capacity while helping them realize limitations.
	3. Having a positive attitude and being optimistic.
4. **Ethical Values**
	1. Demonstrating integrity, honesty, decency, and trustworthiness.
	2. Always acting in the best interest of the patient.
	3. Maintaining confidentiality of patient information.
5. **Social Consciousness**
	1. Demonstrating a sense of concern for humanity and the problems of others.
	2. Acting in an altruistic manner.