

**Valdosta State University**  
**BS Exercise Physiology Competencies**  
**Job Task Analysis for ACSM Exercise Physiologist Certification**

Each competency is identified by the course or courses where significant primary coverage is provided. HSEP 4510 Practicum and HSEP 4550 Internship are not identified as these course competencies vary depending upon semester needs (HSEP 4510) and internship setting (HSEP 4550).

Updated for Spring 2025 term



Primary Coverage	DOMAIN I: HEALTH AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT
	<b>A. Implement assessment protocols and pre-participation health screening procedures to maximize participant safety and minimize risk.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210	I.A.1.a a) Knowledge of pre-activity screening procedures and tools that provide accurate information about the individual's health/medical history, current medical conditions, risk factors, sign/symptoms of disease, current physical activity habits, and medications.
3010, 3011, 4210	I.A.1.b b) Knowledge of the key components included in informed consent and health/medical history.
3010, 3011, 4210	I.A.1.c c) Knowledge of the limitations of informed consent and health/medical history.
	<b>DOMAIN I: HEALTH AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT</b>
	<b>B. Determine participant's readiness to take part in a health-related physical fitness assessment and exercise program.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210	I.B.1.a a) Knowledge of risk factor thresholds for ACSM risk stratification including genetic and lifestyle factors related to the development of CVD.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.b b) Knowledge of the major signs or symptoms suggestive of cardiovascular, pulmonary and metabolic disease.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.c c) Knowledge of cardiovascular risk factors or conditions that may require consultation with medical personnel prior to exercise testing or training (e.g., inappropriate changes in resting heart rate and/or blood pressure, new onset discomfort in chest, neck, shoulder, or arm, changes in the pattern of discomfort during rest or exercise, fainting, dizzy spells, claudication).
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.d d) Knowledge of the pulmonary risk factors or conditions than may require consultation with medical personnel prior to exercise testing or training (e.g., asthma, exercise-induced asthma/bronchospasm, and extreme breathlessness at rest or during exercise, chronic bronchitis, emphysema).
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.e e) Knowledge of the metabolic risk factors or conditions than may require consultation with medical personnel prior to exercise testing or training (e.g., obesity, metabolic syndrome, diabetes or glucose intolerance, hypoglycemia).
3010, 3011, 4210	I.B.1.f f) Knowledge of the musculoskeletal risk factors or conditions than may require consultation with medical personnel prior to exercise testing or training (e.g., acute or chronic pain, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, inflammation/pain, low back pain)

3010, 3011, 4210	I.B.1.g g) Knowledge of ACSM risk stratification categories and their implications for medical clearance before administration of an exercise test or participation in an exercise program.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.h h) Knowledge of risk factors that may be favorably modified by physical activity habits.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.i i) Knowledge of medical terminology including, but not limited to, total cholesterol (TC), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), triglycerides, impaired fasting glucose, impaired glucose tolerance, hypertension, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, dyspnea, tachycardia, claudication, syncope and ischemia.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.j j) Knowledge of recommended plasma cholesterol levels for adults based on National Cholesterol Education Program/ATP Guidelines
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.1.k k) Knowledge of recommended blood pressure levels for adults based on National High Blood Pressure Education Program Guidelines.
3010, 3011, 4210	I.B.1.l l) Knowledge of medical supervision recommendations for cardiorespiratory fitness testing.
3010, 3011, 4210	I.B.1.m m) Knowledge of the components of a health-history questionnaire (e.g., past and current medical history, family history of cardiac disease, orthopedic limitations, prescribed medications, activity patterns, nutritional habits, stress and anxiety levels, and smoking and alcohol use).
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.B.2.a n) Skill in the risk stratification of participants using CVD risk factor thresholds, major signs or symptoms suggestive of cardiovascular, pulmonary, or metabolic disease, and/or the presence of known cardiovascular, pulmonary, and metabolic disease status.
3010, 3011, 4210	I.B.2.b o) Skill in reviewing pre-activity screening documents to determine the need for medical clearance prior to exercise and to select appropriate physical fitness assessment protocols.
	<b>DOMAIN I: HEALTH AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT</b>
	<b>C. Select and prepare physical fitness assessments for healthy participants and those with controlled disease.</b>
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.C.1.a Knowledge of the physiological basis of the major components of physical fitness: cardiorespiratory fitness, body composition, flexibility, muscular strength, and muscular endurance.
3010, 3011, 4210	I.C.1.b Knowledge of selecting the most appropriate testing protocols for each participant based on preliminary screening data.
3020	I.C.1.c Knowledge of calibration techniques and proper use of fitness testing equipment.
3020	I.C.1.d Knowledge of the purpose and procedures of fitness testing protocols for the components of health related fitness.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.C.1.e Knowledge of test termination criteria and proper procedures to be followed after discontinuing health fitness tests.
3020	I.C.1.f Knowledge of fitness assessment sequencing.

3011, 4070, 4080, 4210	I.C.1.g Knowledge of the effects of common medications and substances on exercise testing (e.g., antianginals, antihypertensives, antiarrhythmics, bronchodilators, hypoglycemics, psychotropics, alcohol, diet pills, cold tablets, caffeine, nicotine)
3011, 4070, 4210, 4080	I.C.1.h Knowledge of the physiologic and metabolic responses to exercise testing associated with chronic diseases and conditions (e.g., heart disease, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, obesity, pulmonary disease).
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.C.2.a Skill in analyzing and interpreting information obtained from assessment of the components of health related fitness.
4210	I.C.2.b Skill in modifying protocols and procedures for testing children, adolescents, older adults and individuals with special considerations.
	<b>DOMAIN I: HEALTH AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT</b>
	<b>D. Conduct and interpret cardiorespiratory fitness assessments.</b>
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	13 I.D.1.a Knowledge of common submaximal and maximal cardiorespiratory fitness assessment protocols.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.1.b Knowledge of blood pressure measurement techniques.
3020, 4070	I.D.1.c Knowledge of Korotkoff sounds for determining systolic and diastolic blood pressure.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.D.1.d Knowledge of the blood pressure response to exercise.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.1.e Knowledge of techniques of measuring heart rate and heart rate response to exercise.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.1.f Knowledge of the rating of perceived exertion (RPE).
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.1.g Knowledge of heart rate, blood pressure and RPE monitoring techniques before, during, and after cardiorespiratory fitness testing.
4070	I.D.1.h Knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	I.D.1.i Knowledge of cardiorespiratory terminology including angina pectoris, tachycardia, bradycardia, arrhythmia, and hyperventilation.
4070	I.D.1.j Knowledge of the pathophysiology of myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, stroke, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia.
4070, 3011, 4210	I.D.1.k Knowledge of the effects of myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, hypertension, claudication, and dyspnea on cardiorespiratory responses during exercise.
3420, 4070	I.D.1.l Knowledge of oxygen consumption dynamics during exercise (e.g., heart rate, stroke volume, cardiac output, ventilation, ventilatory threshold).
3420, 3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.1.m Knowledge of methods of calculating VO <sub>2</sub> max.
3420, 4070, 3011, 4210	I.D.1.n Knowledge of cardiorespiratory responses to acute graded exercise of conditioned and unconditioned participants.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.2.a Skill in interpreting cardiorespiratory fitness test results.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.2.b Skill in locating anatomic landmarks for palpation of peripheral pulses and blood pressure.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.2.c Skill in measuring heart rate, blood pressure, and RPE at rest and during exercise.

3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.2.d Skill in conducting submaximal exercise tests (e.g., cycle ergometer, treadmill, field testing, step test).
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.D.2.e Skill in determining cardiorespiratory fitness based on submaximal exercise test results.
	<b>DOMAIN I: HEALTH AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT E. Conduct assessments of muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility.</b>
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	I.E.1.a Knowledge of common muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility assessment protocols.
3020, 3650, 4050, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.E.1.b Knowledge of interpreting muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility assessments.
3020, 3650, 4050, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.E.1.c Knowledge of relative strength, absolute strength, and repetition maximum (1-RM) estimation.
3430	I.E.1.d Knowledge of the anatomy of bone, skeletal muscle, and connective tissues.
3430	I.E.1.e Knowledge muscle action terms including anterior, posterior, inferior, superior, medial, lateral, supination, pronation, flexion, extension, adduction, abduction, hyperextension, rotation, circumduction, agonist, antagonist, and stabilizer.
3430	I.E.1.f Knowledge of the planes and axes in which each movement action occurs.
3430	I.E.1.g Knowledge of the interrelationships among center of gravity, base of support, balance, stability, posture, and proper spinal alignment.
3430	I.E.1.h Knowledge of the normal curvatures of the spine and common assessments of postural alignment.
3430	I.E.1.i Knowledge of the location and function of the major muscles (e.g., pectoralis major, trapezius, latissimus dorsi, biceps, triceps, rectus abdominus, internal and external obliques, erector spinae, gluteus maximus, quadriceps, hamstrings, adductors, abductors, and gastrocnemius).
3430	I.E.1.j Knowledge of the major joints and their associated movement.
3430	I.E.2.a Skill in identifying the major bones, muscles, and joints.
3020, 3650, 4050, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.E.2.b Skill in conducting assessments of muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility (e.g., 1-RM, hand grip dynamometer, push-ups, curl-ups, sit-and-reach).
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.E.2.c Skill in estimating 1-RM using lower resistance (2-10 RM).
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.E.2.d Skill in interpreting results of muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility assessments.
	<b>DOMAIN I: HEALTH AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT F. Conduct anthropometric and body composition assessments.</b>
3020	I.F.1.a Knowledge of the advantages, disadvantages and limitations of body composition techniques (e.g., air displacement plethysmography (BOD POD®), dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA), hydrostatic weighing, skinfolds, and bioelectrical impedance).
3020	I.F.1.b Knowledge of the standardized descriptions of circumference and skinfold sites.

3020	I.F.1.c Knowledge of procedures for determining BMI and taking skinfold and circumference measurements.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3020	I.F.1.d Knowledge of the health implications of variation in body fat distribution patterns and the significance of BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-hip ratio.
3020	I.F.2.a Skill in locating anatomic landmarks for skinfold and circumference measurements.
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	I.F.2.b Skill in interpreting the results of anthropometric and body composition assessments.
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation A. Review pre-participation health screening including self-guided health questionnaires and appraisals, exercise history and fitness assessments</b>
3010, 3011, 4210	II.A.1.a Skill in synthesizing pre-screening results and reviewing them with participants
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation B. Determine safe and effective exercise programs to achieve desired outcomes and goals.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210	II.B.1.a Knowledge of strength, aerobic, and flexibility based exercise.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	II.B.1.b Knowledge of the benefits and precautions associated with exercise training in apparently healthy participants and those with controlled disease.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.B.1.c Knowledge of program development for specific client needs (e.g., sport specific training, performance, health, lifestyle, functional ability, balance, agility, aerobic, anaerobic).
3020, 3650, 4050	II.B.1.d Knowledge of the six motor skill related physical fitness components; agility, balance, coordination, reaction time, speed, and power.
3420	II.B.1.e Knowledge of the physiologic changes associated with an acute bout of exercise.
3420	II.B.1.f Knowledge of the physiologic adaptations following chronic exercise training.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.B.1.g Knowledge of ACSM exercise prescription guidelines for strength, aerobic, and flexibility based exercise for apparently healthy clients, clients with increased risk, and clients with controlled disease.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.B.1.h Knowledge of the components and sequencing incorporated into an exercise session (e.g., warm-up, stretching, conditioning or sports related exercise, cool-down).
3020	II.B.1.i Knowledge of the physiological principles related to warm-up and cool-down.
3650, 4210	II.B.1. Knowledge of the principles of reversibility, progressive overload, individual differences and specificity of training, and how they relate to exercise prescription.
3020	II.B.1.k Knowledge the role of aerobic and anaerobic energy systems in the performance of various physical activities.
3430	II.B.1.l Knowledge of the basic biomechanical principles of human movement.

3050	II.B.1.m Knowledge of the psychological and physiological signs and symptoms of overtraining.
3050	II.B.1.n Knowledge of the signs and symptoms of common musculoskeletal injuries associated with exercise (e.g., sprain, strain, bursitis, and tendonitis).
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.B.1.o Knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of exercise equipment (e.g., free weights, selectorized machines, aerobic equipment).
3650, 4050	II.B.2.a Skill in teaching and demonstrating exercises.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.B.2.b Skill in designing safe and effective training programs.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.B.2.c Skill in implementing exercise prescription guidelines for apparently healthy clients, clients with increased risk, and clients with controlled disease.
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation C. Implement cardiorespiratory exercise prescriptions using the FITT principle (frequency, intensity, time, and type) for apparently healthy participants based on current health status, fitness goals and availability of time.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.C.1.a Knowledge of the recommended FITT framework for the development of cardiorespiratory fitness.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.C.1.b Knowledge of the benefits, risks and contraindications of a wide variety of cardiovascular training exercises based on client experience, skill level, current fitness level and goals.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.C.1.c Knowledge of the minimal threshold of physical activity required for health benefits and/or fitness development.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.C.1.d Knowledge of determining exercise intensity using HRR, VO <sub>2</sub> R, peak HR method, peak VO <sub>2</sub> method, peak METs method, and the RPE Scale.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.C.1.e Knowledge of the accuracy of HRR, VO <sub>2</sub> R, peak HR method, peak VO <sub>2</sub> method, peak METs method, and the RPE Scale.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070, 4080, 3420	II.C.1.f Knowledge of abnormal responses to exercise (e.g., hemodynamic, cardiac, ventilatory).
3010, 3020, 4210, 3420, 3200	II.C.1.g Knowledge of metabolic calculations (e.g., unit conversions, deriving energy cost of exercise, caloric expenditure).
3010, 3020, 4210, 3420, 3200	II.C.1.h Knowledge of calculating the caloric expenditure of an exercise session (kcal-session <sup>1</sup> ).
3010, 3020, 4210	II.C.1.i Knowledge of methods for establishing and monitoring levels of exercise intensity, including heart rate, RPE, and METs.
3650, 4050	II.C.1.j Knowledge of the applications of anaerobic training principles.
4070, 4080	II.C.1.k Knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems including the basic properties of cardiac muscle.
3200	II.C.1.l Knowledge of the basic principles of gas exchange.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.C.2.a Skill in determining appropriate exercise frequency, intensity, time and type for clients with various fitness levels.

3010, 3011, 4210	II.C.2.b Skill in determining the energy cost, absolute and relative oxygen costs (VO <sub>2</sub> ), and MET levels of various activities and applying the information to an exercise prescription.
3010	II.C.2.c Skill in identifying improper technique in the use of cardiovascular equipment.
3010	II.C.2.d Skill in teaching and demonstrating the use of a variety of cardiovascular exercise equipment.
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation D. Implement exercise prescriptions using the FITT principle (frequency, intensity, time, and type) for flexibility, muscular strength, and muscular endurance for apparently healthy participants based on current health status, fitness goals and availability of time.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.D.1.a Knowledge of the recommended FITT framework for the development of muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.D.1.b Knowledge of the minimal threshold of physical activity required for health benefits and/or fitness development.
3650, 4050	II.D.1.c Knowledge of safe and effective exercises designed to enhance muscular strength and/or endurance of major muscle groups.
3650, 4050	II.D.1.d Knowledge of safe and effective stretches that enhance flexibility.
3011, 4210	II.D.1.e Knowledge of indications for water based exercise (e.g., arthritis, obesity).
3650, 4050	II.D.1.f Knowledge of the types of resistance training programs (e.g., total body, split routine) and modalities (e.g., free weights, variable resistance equipment, pneumatic machines, bands).
3650, 4050	II.D.1.g Knowledge of acute (e.g., load, volume, sets, repetitions, rest periods, order of exercises) and chronic training variables (e.g., periodization).
3420, 3430, 3650, 4050	II.D.1.h Knowledge of the types of muscle contractions (e.g., eccentric, concentric, isometric).
3430, 3650, 4050, 3010, 3011, 4210	II.D.1.i Knowledge of joint movements (e.g., flexion, extension, adduction, abduction) and the muscles responsible for them.
3420	II.D.1.j Knowledge of acute and delayed onset muscle soreness (DOMS).
3420	II.D.1.k Knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of skeletal muscle fiber, the characteristics of fast and slow-twitch muscle fibers, and the sliding filament theory of muscle contraction.
3420	II.D.1.l Knowledge of the stretch reflex, proprioceptors, golgi tendon organ (GTO), muscle spindles, and how they relate to flexibility.
3420	II.D.1.m Knowledge of muscle-related terminology including atrophy, hyperplasia, hypertrophy.
4070, 3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.D.1.n Knowledge of the Valsalva maneuver and its implications during exercise.
3650, 4050	II.D.1.o Knowledge of the physiology underlying plyometric training and common plyometric exercises (e.g., box jumps, leaps, bounds).

3650, 4050	II.D.1.p Knowledge of the contraindications and potential risks associated with muscular conditioning activities (e.g., straight-leg sit-ups, double leg raises, squats, hurdler's stretch, yoga plough, forceful back hyperextension, and standing bent-over toe touch, behind neck press/lat pulldown).
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.D.1.q Knowledge of prescribing exercise using the calculated %1-RM.
3650, 4050	II.D.1.r Knowledge of spotting positions and techniques for injury prevention and exercise assistance.
3650, 4050	II.D.1.s Knowledge of periodization (e.g., macro, micro, mesocycles) and associated theories.
3650, 4050	II.D.1.t Knowledge of safe and effective Olympic weight lifting exercises.
3650, 4050	II.D.1.u Knowledge of safe and effective core stability exercises (e.g., planks, crunches, bridges, cable twists).
3650, 4050	II.D.2.a Skill in identifying improper technique in the use of resistive equipment (e.g., stability balls, weights, bands, resistance bars, and water exercise equipment).
3650, 4050	II.D.2.b Skill in teaching and demonstrating appropriate exercises for enhancing musculoskeletal flexibility.
3650, 4050	II.D.2.c Skill in teaching and demonstrating safe and effective muscular strength and endurance exercises (e.g., free weights, weight machines, resistive bands, Swiss balls, body weight and all other major fitness equipment).
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation E. Establish exercise progression guidelines for resistance, aerobic and flexibility activity to achieve the goals of apparently healthy participants.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.E.1.a Knowledge of the basic principles of exercise progression.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.E.1.b Knowledge of adjusting the FITT framework in response to individual changes in conditioning.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.E.1.c Knowledge of the importance of performing periodic reevaluations to assess changes in fitness status.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.E.1.d Knowledge of the training principles that promote improvements in muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiorespiratory fitness, and flexibility.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3650, 4050	II.E.2.a Skill in recognizing the need for progression and communicating updates to exercise prescriptions.
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation F. Implement a weight management program as indicated by personal goals that are supported by pre-participation health screening, health history, and body composition/anthropometrics.</b>
3011, 4210	II.F.1.a Knowledge of exercise prescriptions for achieving weight management, including weight loss, weight maintenance and weight gain goals.
3200, 3011, 4210	II.F.1.b Knowledge of energy balance and basic nutritional guidelines (e.g., MyPyramid, USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans).

3020, 3010, 3011, 4210, 3420, 3200	II.F.1.c Knowledge of weight management terminology including, but not limited to, obesity, overweight, percent fat, BMI, lean body mass (LBM), anorexia nervosa, bulimia, binge eating, metabolic syndrome, body fat distribution, adipocyte, bariatrics, ergogenic aid, fat-free mass (FFM), resting metabolic rate (RMR) and thermogenesis.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.F.1.d Knowledge of the relationship between body composition and health.
3200	II.F.1.e Knowledge of the unique dietary needs of participant populations (e.g., women, children, older adults, pregnant women).
3200	II.F.1.f Knowledge of common nutritional ergogenic aids, their purported mechanisms of action, and associated risks and benefits (e.g., protein/amino acids, vitamins, minerals, herbal products, creatine, steroids, caffeine).
3011, 4160, 4210	II.F.1.g Knowledge of methods for modifying body composition including diet, exercise, and behavior modification.
3420, 3200	II.F.1.h Knowledge of fuel sources for aerobic and anaerobic metabolism including carbohydrates, fats and proteins.
3200	II.F.1.i Knowledge of the effects of overall dietary composition on healthy weight management.
3200	II.F.1.j Knowledge of the importance of maintaining normal hydration before, during and after exercise.
3200	II.F.1.k Knowledge of the consequences of inappropriate weight loss methods (e.g., saunas, dietary supplements, vibrating belts, body wraps, over exercising, very low calorie diets, electric stimulators, sweat suits, fad diets).
3200	II.F.1.l Knowledge of the kilocalorie levels of carbohydrate, fat, protein, and alcohol.
3011, 4210, 3200	II.F.1.m Knowledge of the relationship between kilocalorie expenditures and weight loss.
3011, 4210	II.F.1.n Knowledge of published position statements on obesity and the risks associated with it (e.g., National Institutes of Health, American Dietetic Association, ACSM).
3020, 3010, 3011, 4210	II.F.1.o Knowledge of the relationship between body fat distribution patterns and health.
3011	II.F.1.p Knowledge of the physiology and pathophysiology of overweight and obese participants.
3011, 4210	II.F.1.q Knowledge of the recommended FITT framework for participants who are overweight or obese.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.F.1.r Knowledge of comorbidities and musculoskeletal conditions associated with overweight and obesity that may require medical clearance and/or modifications to exercise testing and prescription.
4160	II.F.2.a Skill in applying behavioral strategies (e.g., exercise, diet, behavioral modification strategies) for weight management.
3011, 4210	II.F.2.b Skill in modifying exercises for individuals limited by body size.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.F.2.c Skill in calculating the volume of exercise in terms of kcal-session-1 .

	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation G. Prescribe and implement exercise programs for participants with controlled cardiovascular, pulmonary, and metabolic diseases and other clinical populations.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210	II.G.1.a Knowledge of ACSM risk stratification and exercise prescription guidelines for participants with cardiovascular, pulmonary, and metabolic diseases and other clinical populations.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.G.1.b Knowledge of ACSM relative and absolute contraindications for initiating exercise sessions or exercise testing, and indications for terminating exercise sessions and exercise testing.
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	II.G.1.c Knowledge of physiology and pathophysiology of cardiac disease, arthritis, diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, musculoskeletal injuries, overweight and obesity, osteoporosis, peripheral artery disease, and pulmonary disease.
3011, 4210	II.G.1.d Knowledge of the effects of diet and exercise on blood glucose levels in diabetics.
3011, 4210	II.G.1.e Knowledge of the recommended FITT principle for the development of cardiorespiratory fitness, muscular fitness and flexibility for participants with cardiac disease, arthritis, diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, musculoskeletal injuries, overweight and obesity, osteoporosis, peripheral artery disease, and pulmonary disease.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.G.2.a Skill in progressing exercise programs, according to the FITT principle, in a safe and effective manner.
3011, 4210	II.G.2.b Skill in modifying the exercise prescription and/or exercise choice for individuals with cardiac disease, arthritis, diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, musculoskeletal injuries, overweight and obesity, osteoporosis, peripheral artery disease, and pulmonary disease.
4210	II.G.2.c Skill in identifying improper exercise techniques and modifying exercise programs for participants with low back, neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee and/or ankle pain.
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation H. Prescribe and implement exercise programs for healthy special populations (i.e., older adults, youth, and pregnant women).</b>
3420, 4210	II.H.1.a Knowledge of normal maturational changes, from childhood to old age, and their effects on the skeletal muscle, bone, reaction time, coordination, posture, heat and cold tolerance, maximal oxygen consumption, strength, flexibility, body composition, resting and maximal heart rate, and resting and maximal blood pressure.
3011, 4210	II.H.1.b Knowledge of techniques for the modification of cardiovascular, flexibility, and resistance exercises based on age, functional capacity and physical condition.
4210	II.H.1.c Knowledge of techniques for the development of exercise prescriptions for children, adolescents and older adults with regard to strength, functional capacity, and motor skills.

4210	II.H.1.d Knowledge of the unique adaptations to exercise training in children, adolescents, and older participants with regard to strength, functional capacity, and motor skills.
4210	II.H.1.e Knowledge of the benefits and precautions associated with exercise training across the lifespan.
4210	II.H.1.f Knowledge of the recommended FITT framework for the development of cardiorespiratory fitness, muscular fitness and flexibility in apparently healthy children and adolescents.
4210, 3420	II.H.1.g Knowledge of the effects of the aging process on the musculoskeletal and cardiovascular structures and functions during rest, exercise, and recovery.
3010, 3011, 4210	II.H.1.h Knowledge of the recommended FITT framework necessary for the development of cardiorespiratory fitness, muscular fitness, balance, and flexibility in apparently healthy, older adults.
4210	II.H.1.i Knowledge of common orthopedic and cardiovascular exercise considerations for older adults.
3011, 4210	II.H.1.j Knowledge of the relationship between regular physical activity and the successful performance of activities of daily living (ADLs) for older adults.
4210	II.H.1.k Knowledge of the recommended frequency, intensity, type, and duration of physical activity necessary for the development of cardiorespiratory fitness, muscular fitness and flexibility in apparently healthy pregnant women.
3650, 4050	II.H.2.a Skill in teaching and demonstrating appropriate exercises for healthy populations with special considerations.
3011, 4210	II.H.2.b Skill in modifying exercises based on age, physical condition, and current health status.
	<b>Domain II: Exercise Prescription and Implementation I. Modify exercise prescriptions based on environmental conditions.</b>
3420	II.I.1.a Knowledge of the effects of a hot, cold, or high altitude environment on the physiologic response to exercise.
3420	II.I.1.b Knowledge of special precautions and program modifications for exercise in a hot, cold, or high altitude environment.
3420	II.I.1.c Knowledge of the role of acclimatization when exercising in a hot or high altitude environment.
3420	II.I.1.d Knowledge of appropriate fluid intake during exercise in a hot, humid environments as well as cold, and altitude.
	<b>Domain III: Exercise Counseling and Behavioral Strategies A. Optimize adoption and adherence to exercise programs and other healthy behaviors by applying effective communication techniques.</b>
4160	III.A.1.a Knowledge of the effective and timely uses of communication modes (e.g., email, telephone, web site, newsletters).
4160	III.A.1.b Knowledge of verbal and non-verbal behaviors that communicate positive reinforcement and encouragement (e.g., eye contact, targeted praise, empathy).
4160	III.A.1.c Knowledge of group leadership techniques for working with participants of all ages.

4160	III.A.1.d Knowledge of active listening techniques.
4160	III.A.1.e Knowledge of learning modes (auditory, visual, kinesthetic).
4160	III.A.1.f Knowledge of types of feedback (e.g., evaluative, supportive, descriptive).
4160	III.A.2.a Skill in using active listening techniques.
4160	III.A.2.b Skill in applying teaching and training techniques to optimize participant training sessions.
4160	III.A.2.c Skill in using feedback to optimize participant training sessions.
4160	III.A.2.d Skill in applying verbal and non-verbal communications with diverse participant populations.
	<b>Domain III: Exercise Counseling and Behavioral Strategies B. Optimize adoption of and adherence to exercise programs and other healthy behaviors by applying effective behavioral and motivational strategies.</b>
4160	III.B.1.a Knowledge of behavior change models and theories (e.g., health belief model, theory of planned behavior, socio-ecological model, transtheoretical model, social cognitive theory, and cognitive evaluation theory).
4160	III.B.1.b Knowledge of the basic principles involved in Motivational Interviewing.
4160	III.B.1.c Knowledge of intervention strategies and stress management techniques.
4160, 3011, 4210	III.B.1.d Knowledge of the stages of motivational readiness (e.g., Transtheoretical model).
4160, 3010, 3011, 4210	III.B.1.e Knowledge of behavioral strategies for enhancing exercise and health behavior change (e.g., reinforcement, S.M.A.R.T. goal setting, social support).
4160, 3011, 4210	III.B.1.f Knowledge of behavior modification terminology including, but not limited to, self-esteem, self efficacy, antecedents, cues to action, behavioral beliefs, behavioral intentions, and reinforcing factors.
4160, 3011, 4210	III.B.1.g Knowledge of behavioral strategies (e.g., exercise, diet, behavioral modification strategies) for weight management.
4160	III.B.1.h Knowledge of the role that affect, mood and emotion play in exercise adherence.
4160, 3011, 4210	III.B.1.i Knowledge of common barriers to exercise initiation and compliance (e.g., time management, injury, fear, lack of knowledge, weather).
4160, 3011, 4210	III.B.1.j Knowledge of techniques that facilitate motivation (e.g., goal setting, incentive programs, achievement recognition, social support).
4160	III.B.1.k Knowledge of the role extrinsic and intrinsic motivation plays in the adoption and maintenance of behavior change.
4160	III.B.1.l Knowledge of relapse prevention strategies and plans of action.
4160	III.B.1.m Knowledge of applying health coaching principles and lifestyle management techniques related to behavior change.

3011, 4210	III.B.1.n Knowledge of strategies that increase non-structured physical activity levels (e.g., stair walking, parking farther away, bike to work).
3010, 3011, 4210	III.B.2.a Skill in explaining the purpose and value of understanding perceived exertion.
4160	III.B.2.b Skill in using imagery as a motivational tool.
4160, 3010, 3011, 4210	III.B.2.c Skill in evaluating behavioral readiness to optimize exercise adherence.
4160	III.B.2.d Skill in applying the theories related to behavior change to diverse populations.
4160	III.B.2.e Skill in developing intervention strategies to increase self-efficacy and self-confidence.
4160	III.B.2.f Skill in developing reward systems that support and maintain program adherence.
4160, 3010, 3011, 4210	III.B.2.g Skill in setting effective behavioral goals.
	<b>Domain III: Exercise Counseling and Behavioral Strategies C. Provide educational resources to support clients in the adoption and maintenance of healthy lifestyle behaviors.</b>
3010, 3011, 4210, 4070	III.C.1.a Knowledge of the relationship between physical inactivity and common chronic diseases (e.g., Atherosclerosis, type II diabetes, obesity, dyslipidemia, arthritis, low back pain, hypertension).
3011, 4210	III.C.1.b Knowledge of the dynamic inter-relationship between fitness level, body composition, stress and overall health.
3011, 4210	III.C.1.c Knowledge of modifications necessary to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors for diverse populations.
4160	III.C.1.d Knowledge of stress management techniques and relaxation techniques (e.g., progressive relaxation, guided imagery, massage therapy).
3010, 3011, 4210	III.C.1.e Knowledge of the activities of daily living (ADLs) and how they relate to overall health.
4140	III.C.1.f Knowledge in accessing and disseminating scientifically-based, relevant health, exercise, nutrition, and wellness-related resources and information.
4160	III.C.1.g Knowledge of specific, age-appropriate leadership techniques and educational methods to increase client engagement.
3011, 4210, 4140	III.C.1.h Knowledge of community-based exercise programs that provide social support and structured activities (e.g., walking clubs, intramural sports, golf leagues, cycling clubs).
4140	III.C.2.a Skill in accessing and delivering health, exercise, and wellness-related information.
3010, 3011, 4210	III.C.2.b Skill in educating clients about benefits and risks of exercise and the risks of sedentary behavior.
	<b>Domain III: Exercise Counseling and Behavioral Strategies D. Provide support within the scope of practice of a Health Fitness Specialist and refer to other health professionals as indicated.</b>
4070, 3011, 4210	III.D.1.a Knowledge of the side effects of common over-the-counter and prescription drugs that may impact a client's ability to exercise.

4210	III.D.1.b Knowledge of signs and symptoms of mental health states (e.g., anxiety, depression, eating disorders) that may necessitate referral to a medical or mental health professional.
3010, 3011, 4210	III.D.1.c Knowledge of symptoms and causal factors of test anxiety (i.e., performance, appraisal threat during exercise testing) and how they may affect physiological responses to testing.
4160	III.D.1.d Knowledge of client needs and learning styles that may impact exercise sessions and exercise testing procedures.
4160	III.D.1.e Knowledge of conflict resolution techniques that facilitate communication among exercise cohorts.
3010, 3011, 4210	III.D.2.a Skill in communicating the need for medical, nutritional, or mental health intervention.
	<b>Domain IV: Legal/Professional A. Create and disseminate risk management guidelines for a health/fitness facility, department or organization to reduce member, employee and business risk.</b>
4140	IV.A.1.a Knowledge of employee criminal background checks, child abuse clearances and drug and alcohol screenings.
4140	IV.A.1.b Knowledge of employment verification requirements mandated by state and federal laws.
4140	IV.A.1.c Knowledge of safe handling and disposal of body fluids and employee safety (OSHA guidelines).
4140	IV.A.1.d Knowledge of insurance coverage common to the health/fitness industry including general liability, professional liability, workers' compensation, property, and business interruption.
4140	IV.A.1.e Knowledge of sexual harassment policies and procedures.
4140	IV.A.1.f Knowledge of interviewing techniques.
4140	IV.A.1.g Knowledge of basic precautions taken in an exercise setting to ensure participant safety.
4140, 3010	IV.A.1.h Knowledge of pre-activity screening, medical release and waiver of liability for normal and at risk participants.
4140, 3050, 3011, 4210	IV.A.1.i Knowledge of emergency response systems and procedures (EAP).
4140	IV.A.1.j Knowledge of the use of signage.
4140	IV.A.1.k Knowledge of preventive maintenance schedules and audit
4140	IV.A.1.l Knowledge of techniques and methods of evaluating the condition of exercise equipment to reduce the potential risk of injury.
4140, 3050	IV.A.1.m Knowledge of the legal implications of documented safety procedures, the use of incident documents, and ongoing safety training documentation for the purpose of safety and risk management
4140, 3050	IV.A.1.n Knowledge of documentation procedures for CPR and AED certification for employees.
4140, 3050	IV.A.1.o Knowledge of AED guidelines for implementation.
4140	IV.A.1.p Knowledge of the components of the ACSM Code of Ethics and the ACSM Certified Health Fitness Specialist scope of practice.
4140	IV.A.2.a Skill in developing and disseminating a policy and procedures manual.

4140	IV.A.2.b Skill in developing and implementing confidentiality policies.
4140, 3050, 3020	IV.A.2.c Skill in maintenance of a safe exercise environment (e.g., equipment operation, proper sanitation, safety and maintenance of exercise areas, and overall facility maintenance).
4140	IV.A.2.d Skill in the organization, communication, and human resource management required to implement risk management policies and procedures.
4140, 3050	IV.A.2.e Skill in training employees to identify high risk situations.
	<b>Domain IV: Legal/Professional B. Create an effective injury prevention program and ensure that emergency policies and procedures are in place.</b>
4140, 3050, 3020	IV.B.1.a Knowledge of emergency procedures (i.e., telephone procedures, written emergency procedures (EAP), personnel responsibilities) in a health and fitness setting
3050	IV.B.1.b Knowledge of basic first-aid procedures for exercise-related injuries, such as bleeding, strains/sprains, fractures, and exercise intolerance (dizziness, syncope, heat and cold injuries).
4140, 3050	IV.B.1.c Knowledge of the Health Fitness Specialist's responsibilities and limitations, and the legal implications of carrying out emergency procedures.
4140, 3050	IV.B.1.d Knowledge of safety plans, emergency procedures and first-aid techniques needed during fitness evaluations, exercise testing, and exercise training
3050	IV.B.1.e Knowledge of potential musculoskeletal injuries (e.g., contusions, sprains, strains, fractures), cardiovascular/pulmonary complications (e.g., tachycardia, bradycardia, hypotension/hypertension, dyspnea) and metabolic abnormalities (e.g., fainting/syncope, hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia, hypothermia/hyperthermia).
3050	IV.B.1.f Knowledge of the initial management and first-aid techniques associated with open wounds, musculoskeletal injuries, cardiovascular/pulmonary complications, and metabolic disorders.
4140, 3050	IV.B.1.g Knowledge of emergency documentation and appropriate document utilization.
3050	IV.B.2.a Skill in applying basic first-aid procedures for exercise-related injuries, such as bleeding, strains/sprains, fractures, and exercise intolerance (dizziness, syncope, heat and cold injuries).
3050	IV.B.2.b Skill in applying basic life support, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and automated external defibrillator techniques.
4140	IV.B.2.c Skill in designing an evacuation plan.
3010, 3011, 4210, 3020	IV.B.2.d Skill in demonstrating emergency procedures during exercise testing and/or training.
	<b>Domain V: Management A. Manage human resources in accordance with leadership, organization, and management techniques.</b>
4140	V.A.1.a Knowledge of industry benchmark compensation and employee benefit guidelines.

4140	V.A.1.b Knowledge of federal, state and local laws pertaining to staff qualifications and credentialing requirements.
4140	V.A.1.c Knowledge of techniques for tracking and evaluating member retention.
4140	V.A.2.a Skill in applying policies, practices and guidelines to efficiently hire, train, supervise, schedule and evaluate employees.
4140	V.A.2.b Skill in applying conflict resolution techniques.
	<b>Domain V: Management B. Manage fiscal resources in accordance with leadership, organization, and management techniques.</b>
4140	V.B.1.a Knowledge of fiduciary roles and responsibilities inherent in managing an exercise and health promotion program.
4140	V.B.1.b Knowledge of principles of financial planning and goal setting, institutional budgeting processes, forecasting, and allocation of resources.
4140	V.B.1.c Knowledge of basic software systems that facilitate accounting (e.g., Excel).
4140	V.B.1.d Knowledge of industry benchmarks for budgeting and finance.
4140	V.B.1.e Knowledge of basic sales techniques that promote health, fitness, and wellness services.
4140	V.B.2.a Skill in efficiently managing financial resources and performing related tasks (e.g., planning, budgeting, resource allocation, revenue generation).
4140	V.B.2.b Skill in administering fitness- and wellness-related programs within established budgetary guidelines.
	<b>Domain V: Management C. Establish policies and procedures for the management of health fitness facilities based on accepted safety and legal guidelines, standards and regulations.</b>
4140	V.C.1.a Knowledge of accepted guidelines, standards, and regulations used to establish policies and procedures for the management of health fitness facilities.
4140	V.C.1.b Knowledge of facility design and operation principles.
4140	V.C.1.c Knowledge of facility and equipment maintenance guidelines.
4140	V.C.1.d Knowledge of documentation techniques for health fitness facility management.
4140	V.C.1.e Knowledge of federal, state, and local laws as they relate to health fitness facility management.
	<b>Domain V: Management D. Develop and execute a marketing plan to promote programs, services and facilities.</b>
4140	V.D.1.a Knowledge of lead generation techniques.
4140	V.D.1.b Knowledge of the four Ps of marketing: product, price, placement, and promotion.
4140	V.D.1.c Knowledge of public relations, community awareness, and sponsorship and their relationship to branding initiatives.
4140	V.D.1.d Knowledge of advertising techniques.
4140	V.D.1.e Knowledge of target market (internal) assessment techniques.
4140	V.D.1.f Knowledge of target market (external) assessment techniques.

4140	V.D.2.a Skill in applying marketing techniques that promote client retention.
4140	V.D.2.b Skill in applying marketing techniques that attract new clients.
4140	V.D.2.c Skill in designing and writing promotional materials.
4140	D.2.d Skill in collaborating with community and governmental agencies and organizations.
4550	V.D.2.e Skill in providing customer service.
	<b>Domain V: Management E. Use effective communication techniques to develop professional relationships with other allied health professionals (e.g., nutritionists, physical therapists, physicians, nurses).</b>
4160	V.E.1.a Knowledge of communication styles and techniques.
4140	V.E.1.b Knowledge of networking techniques.
4140	V.E.2.a Skill in planning meetings