

Physical Therapist Assistant Course Syllabus



Revised: 7/10 5/11 10/13 3/14

COURSE: PTA 245 – Clinical Affiliation II (6 weeks)

INSTRUCTOR: Designated Clinical Instructor from the community-based physical therapy setting, who has a minimum of one (1) year of clinical experience and LATI Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a clinical practicum learning experience that takes place in a community-based physical therapy setting over a period of six consecutive weeks. It occurs after the completion of the first and second year of coursework and the Clinical Affiliation I. The student attends the clinic setting each day for a full workday. While in the clinic setting, the student practices physical therapist assistant procedures necessary for patient care. The clinical instructor provides opportunities for the student to observe and implement physical therapist assistant standards of practice.

The following is a list of the classroom coursework that the student is expected to apply during clinical affiliation II:

Anatomy	Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting	Musculoskeletal Disorders and Treatment
Human Physiology	Fundamentals of Physical Therapist Assisting	Rehabilitation Procedures
Composition	Ethics and Issues in Physical Therapy	Human Development and Pediatric Disorders
Automated External Defibrillator	Kinesiology	Neuroanatomy and Neurological Dysfunction
General Psychology	Physical Agents and Massage	Psychosocial Considerations in Patient Care
Medical Terminology	Observation and Measurement	Special Topics
Fundamentals of Speech	Pathology for the PTA	Applications in Therapeutic Exercise
Applied General Math	Theories of Therapeutic Exercise	
Introduction to Sociology	Electrotherapy	

Students will demonstrate the following skills at the level of instruction indicated:

Exposed to Skill	Demonstration Skill	Competency Skill
Student has received instruction and testing, but may or may not have applied the skill.	Student has practiced this skill and faculty have observed demonstration of this skill, but has not been tested for competency.	Student has practiced and been tested on this skill in the lab to assure competency.
Physical Agents: Infrared Ultraviolet	Physical Agents: Hydrotherapy	Physical Agents: Paraffin Ultrasound Short wave Diathermy Cryotherapy: ice packs and ice massage Thermotherapy: hot packs Contrast Baths
First Aid	Electrotherapy: Biofeedback Microcurrent	Electrotherapy: NMES and Russian TENS Interferential Current High Volt Pulsed Current Iontophoresis Ultrasound/E-stim combo treatment
	Tilt table Bandaging Therapeutic massage Patient positioning/draping Wound care/ sterile technique Postural assessment/training Identify architectural barriers Postural drainage	Traction Range of motion Manual muscle testing Goniometry Vital signs Sensation testing Adaptive/assistive devices Mobility skills

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Exposed to Skill	Demonstration Skill	Competency Skill
	Breathing exercises	Universal Precautions and Infection Control techniques
	PNF techniques	Ambulation training
	Patient education skills	Patient transfers
	Aerobic conditioning	Segmental length, girth, volume
	Orthotic and Prosthetic training	Strengthening exercise
		Flexibility exercise
		Assess skin
		Documentation
		Continuous passive motion
		Intermittent Compression Pump
		Body mechanics
		CPR/AED
		Balance and coordination assessment
		Exercise for balance and coordination
		Functional activities
		Pain assessment

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: Students participate in hands on patient care at the clinical site under the direction of the clinical instructor, participate in all physical therapist assistant duties associated with patient care, such as documentation, provide an in-service to the staff at the clinical site, complete weekly summaries, complete a timesheet, complete a Facility Clinical Instructor Evaluation Report, and review the “Clinical Performance Instrument” with the clinical instructor.

LENGTH OF COURSE: 240 contact hours 4 semester credits

TEXT: All of the texts used with the classes listed above under course description. This should be brought along during the clinical for reference.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Perform in a safe manner that minimizes risk to patient, self, and others.
2. Conduct self in a responsible manner.
3. Interact with others in a respectful manner.
4. Adhere to ethical standards.
5. Adhere to legal standards.
6. Communicate in ways that are congruent with situational needs.
7. Produce documentation to support the delivery of physical therapy services.
8. Deliver established patient care to reflect respect for and sensitivity to individual differences.
9. Participate in patient status judgments within the clinical environment based on the plan of care established by the physical therapist.
10. Obtain accurate information by performing selected data collection consistent with the plan of care established by the physical therapist.
11. Discuss the need for modifications to the plan of care established by the physical therapist.
12. Perform physical therapy interventions in a technically competent manner.
13. Educate other (patients, family, caregivers, staff, students, other health care providers) using relevant and effective teaching methods.
14. Participate in activities addressing quality of service delivery.
15. Participate in addressing patient needs for services other than physical therapy.
16. Manage resources (e.g., time, space, and equipment) to achieve goals of the clinical setting.
17. Participate in fiscal management of the physical therapy clinical setting.
18. Use physical therapy aides and other support personnel according to legal standards and ethical guidelines.
19. Implement a self-directed plan for career development and lifelong learning.
20. Assist the physical therapist in addressing primary and secondary prevention needs of individuals and groups.
21. Perform at a minimum of two thirds of the expectations of an entry level physical therapist assistant.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

1. This course is either pass or fail. A passing grade is determined by achieving the minimum standards on the Clinical Performance Instrument for Clinical Affiliation II. The Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) will be graded using a scale based upon the student's average performance level as determined by the CPI. At the conclusion of Clinical Affiliation II, the rating of student performance is expected to be at the intermediate performance level.

The ACCE may also take the following into consideration when assigning the grade: clinical setting, experience with patients in that setting and skills required for the setting, progression of performance from mid-experience to final evaluations, whether or not "significant concerns" box or "with distinction" box were checked, congruence between the CI's narrative comments, and other site visit information.

2. Punctual daily attendance is required. Most sites prefer students to be at the site a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the day. A call should be made to the clinical facility and the LATI ACCE to report an absence or lateness. Inappropriate handling of absences will be reflected on the CPI (2.).
3. The student is responsible to complete an in-service or project on a pertinent topic of physical therapy; applicable to the clinical setting he/she is in.
4. The student is responsible for completing weekly summaries.
5. The student is responsible to complete the Facility Clinical Instructor Evaluation Report and review it with the Clinical Instructor at the end of the clinical. It should be signed and returned to the ACCE upon completion of the clinical affiliation.
6. The student and the clinical instructor should review the "Clinical Performance Instrument" both at midterm and the final.
7. The student must also have completed and returned to the ACCE the following paperwork: weekly summaries (6), copy of the in-service presented or project completed, completed timesheet to include signatures, the Facility Clinical Instructor Evaluation Report, and the Clinical Performance Instrument signed by all parties both at the midterm and the final evaluation.

GRADING CRITERIA: Once all of the above information under performance standards must be received, reviewed and determined that the program standards have been met, the student will receive a passing grade. If these are not met, the student will receive a failing grade.

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