

COURSE: PTA 250 – Clinical Affiliation III (6 weeks)

INSTRUCTOR: Brad Thuringer, PTA Phone: 882-5284 Ext 325 brad.thuringer@lakeareatech.edu

INSTRUCTOR: Designated Clinical Instructor from the community-based physical therapy setting, who has a minimum of 1 year of clinical experience and LATC 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 Clinical Affiliation I and II. 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.

LENGTH OF COURSE: 240 contact hours 4 semester credits

PREREQUISITES: The completion of all coursework of the PTA curriculum:

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, complete patient case studies, complete daily and weekly summaries, a timesheet, the PTA Skills Checklist, the Physical Therapist Assistant Student Evaluation: Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction form, and review the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) with the clinical instructor.

REQUIRED RESOURCES: None

COURSE OUTLINE:

The following is a list of completed coursework from the first year of the PTA curriculum:

ANAT 142 – Anatomy	PTA 100 – Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting
CPR 112 – Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Worker	PTA 106 – Kinesiology
ENGL 101 – Composition	PTA 110 – Fundamentals of Physical Therapist Assisting
MA 115 – Medical Terminology	PTA 116 – Ethics and Issues in Physical Therapy
MATH 100 – Applied General Math	PTA 120 – Observation and Measurement
PHGY 210 – Human Physiology	PTA 125 – Physical Agents and Massage
SOC 118 – Sociology in Healthcare	PTA 136 – Electrotherapy
PSYC 101 – General Psychology	PTA 141 – Clinical Affiliation I
CSC 100 – Computer Concepts	PTA 145 – Theories of Therapeutic Exercise
SPCM 101 – Fundamentals of Speech	PTA 150 – Pathology for the PTA
CSS 100 – Career Search Strategies	PTA 216 - Applications in Therapeutic Exercise
	PTA 220 – Musculoskeletal Disorders and Treatment
	PTA 228 – Neuroanatomy and Neurological Dysfunction
	PTA 229 – Human Development and Pediatric Disorders
	PTA 231 - Special Topics
	PTA 242 – Rehabilitation Procedures

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	Physical Agents	Physical Agents
Infrared	Hydrotherapy	Ultrasound
Ultraviolet	Contrast Baths	Electrotherapy
First aid	Paraffin	NMES & Russian
	Short wave Diathermy	TENS
	Cryotherapy: ice packs & ice massage	Interferential Current
	Thermotherapy: hot packs	Iontophoresis
	Tilt table	Ultrasound/E-stim combo treatment
	Bandaging	Biofeedback
	Therapeutic massage	Traction
	Patient positioning/draping	Patient education skills
	Wound care	Manual muscle testing
	Postural assessment/training	Goniometry
	Identify architectural barriers	Vital signs
	Aerobic conditioning	Sensation testing
	Electrotherapy	Assistive devices
	High Volt Pulsed Current	Mobility skills
	Continuous passive motion	Universal Precautions and Infection Control techniques
		Sterile Technique
		Ambulation training
		Patient transfers
		Segmental length, girth, volume
		Strengthening exercise
		Flexibility exercise
		Assess skin
		Documentation
		Intermittent Compression Pump
		Body mechanics
		Balance and coordination assessment
		Exercise for balance and coordination
		Functional activities
		Pain assessment
		Range of motion
		CPR/AED

STUDENT LEARNING 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. Demonstrates expected clinical behaviors in a professional manner in all situations.
3. Performs in a manner consistent with established legal standards, standards of the profession, and ethical guidelines.
4. Adapts delivery of physical therapy services with considerations for patients' differences, values, preferences, and needs.
5. Communicate in ways that are congruent with situational needs.
6. Participates in self-assessment and develops plans to improve knowledge, skills, and behaviors.
7. Demonstrates clinical problem solving.
8. Performs selected therapeutic exercises in a competent manner.
9. Applies selected manual therapy, airway clearance, integumentary repair and protection techniques in a competent manner.
10. Applies selected physical therapy agents and mechanical modalities in a competent manner.
11. Applies selected electrotherapeutic modalities in a competent manner.
12. Performs functional training in self-care and home management and application and adjustment of devices and equipment in a competent manner.
13. Produces quality documentation in a timely manner to support the delivery of physical therapy services.
14. Participate in the efficient delivery of physical therapy services.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

1. The student has read and understood the contents of the LATC PTA Clinical Education Handbook and agrees to abide by the policies and procedures stated in the LATC PTA Clinical Education Handbook.
2. This course is either pass or fail. A passing grade is determined by achieving Entry Level Performance marks on the visual analog scale of the Clinical Performance Instrument. Any mark not at entry level will be assessed using the substantiating comments to determine the validity of the mark. The CCE reserves the right to review marks from PTA 245 to determine if the student achieved entry level performance on an item in the previous clinical. Items 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 under course objectives are considered "red flag" items. The red flag items are considered foundational elements in clinical work and the student is expected to achieve no less than at Entry Level Performance on the visual analog scale by the end of this clinical. The item's scoring must be accompanied by substantiating comments.
3. 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 LATC CCE to report an absence or lateness. Inappropriate handling of absences will be reflected on the CPI (2.).
4. The student will complete an in-depth case study on a patient that is receiving physical therapy. Instructions and grading are available on the rubric. The case study will reflect the student's clinical problem solving (objective 7).
5. The student is responsible for completing weekly summaries.
6. The student is responsible to complete the Physical Therapist Assistant Student Evaluation: Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction form and review it with the Clinical Instructor at the end of the clinical. It should be signed and returned to the CCE upon completion of the clinical affiliation.
7. The student and the clinical instructor should review the "Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI)" both at midterm and the final.
8. The student must also have completed and returned to the CCE the following paperwork: online weekly summaries (6), completion of a case study, the completed timesheet to include signatures, the Physical Therapist Assistant Student Evaluation: Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction form, the PTA Skills Checklist and the Online Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) signed by all parties both at the midterm and the final evaluation.
9. Students will be required to pass a comprehensive exam prior to graduation. Students, who do not receive a passing score, will be required to perform remediation in the areas of weakness and retest. Students will be given up to 4 attempts to receive a passing score. Inability to pass the comprehensive exam will result in a failure of the course.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: If you are unable to reach the course instructor and have technical difficulties with MyPortal or your LATC eMail, you can contact service.desk@lakeareatech.edu at any time or call 605-882- 5284, extension 280, between 8 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Please provide screenshots if you are experiencing an error screen.

GRADING CRITERIA: Once the information is received and the CCE has 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.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance

Attendance during clinical education is mandatory. Excused absences are permitted only for illness, death in the family, emergencies, or special circumstances with prior approval of the clinical supervisor and the CCE and/or faculty.

Obtaining an Excused Absence for an Unplanned Event

To obtain an excused absence for illness, a death in the family, or an emergency during a clinical, the student must contact his/her clinical instructor before the absence or, in the case of illness, prior to the start of the working day. The student must inform the LATC PTA Program in the same working day.

Obtaining an Excused Absence for a Planned Event

To obtain approval for an excused absence for a special circumstance during a clinical, the student must follow the “planned absences” procedure outlined in the LATC PTA Program Student Handbook. The student must present a written request for absence to the Program Chair and the CCE.

Required Clinical Make-up Time

If a student misses clinical days or other amounts of time during a clinical education experience due to inclement weather, the student must inform the CCE. The student is required to make up the clinical hours with a plan approved by the clinical facility and the CCE. The only exception is if the clinical site is “closed” due to weather. The student should have a back - up plan for staying in the town of the clinical facility during the winter months in case the weather changes unexpectedly.

Students are expected to attend clinical experiences as arranged by the CCE. Students on clinical assignments will be expected to be present at the facility during evening hours, weekends and holidays if scheduled to do so by the facility. Students should plan to work the holidays unless notified otherwise by their CI. Students will not ask for holidays or personal days off. Students will schedule their time around clinic hours, not vice versa. Excessive absences may result in a continuation of the clinical affiliation or a failure of the affiliation.

1. Without clinical faculty permission, you do not have the authority to record any patient care situations, clinical faculty treatment applications, or any content expressed here.
2. The instructor has the right to alter the syllabus and assignments during the course. Any changes will be announced.
3. Personal responsibility is expected of all students. You are responsible for knowing the material as well as meeting all due dates. It is suggested that each student develop a method for keeping track of due dates.
4. Professional behavior is expected at clinic at all times. Professionalism in the workplace is vital to your success. Unprofessional behavior including, but not limited to, swearing, cheating, making rude comments or gestures, showing disrespect, and talking during clinical time will not be tolerated.
5. Excellent communication is a vital tool to success in the workplace. This communication includes in-person and email as well as any other methods utilized by your instructor. The course (via My Portal) is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your instructor is available 8:00 am to 4:00 pm M-F and by appointment. *It is expected that you will check your LATC email at least 5 days a week* to ensure you are receiving up to date information. As your instructor, I am here to assist you. If I do not know you have questions or are struggling, I am not able to help. Please feel free to call, stop by my office, or send an email if you have any questions or need assistance.

Communication guidelines for email:

- When emailing, always use LATC’s email system for communicating with your instructor.
- Include a subject line to let me know what the message is about.

- Please include a salutation (Hi) and a closing (thank you, sincerely,)
- Clearly describe your question or information you would like to share.
- Use complete sentences including capital letters and punctuation. Email (in an academic and workplace setting) should follow a professional format; it is not the same as texting or sending a quick reply to a close friend.

Professional Online Etiquette:

- **Be aware of how you communicate via e-mail or in the forum so your message is not misinterpreted.** Communication between humans is approximately 90 percent body language, 8 percent tone of voice, and 2 percent spoken words. With e-mail, 98 percent of the communication's context is no longer in play.
 - **Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive.** Language can be easily misinterpreted in written communication. Humor and sarcasm may easily be misinterpreted in online platforms, so try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible. No inappropriate, offensive, or profane language.
 - **Review, review, then send.** There's no taking back a comment that has already been sent, so it is important to double-check all writing to make sure that it clearly conveys the exact intended message.
 - **Proofread posts and messages.** Make sure you are communicating your points as clearly as possible in the forums and other communications. The accurate grammar and spelling of a message is vital. If your audience cannot decode misspelled words or poorly constructed sentences, you are not communicating. It is a good practice to compose, review, and check your comments in Word before posting them
6. You, as a student, are responsible for knowing the information in the LATC handbook, the LATC Clinical handbook, the LATC PTA policy and procedure manual, and the most current course descriptions. Lake Area Tech reserves the right to change regulations and policies as necessary.
 7. Without my permission, you do not have the authority to record any of my class, its class members, or any content expressed here.

LATC POLICIES and STUDENT SERVICES

The LATC Student Handbook is available under the Campus Life menu on the LATC webpage. Please review this handbook to familiarize yourself with the student handbook. Some policies and student services listed in the handbook are outlined below.

- *Academic Honesty/Dishonesty Statement*

Students' Responsibilities: Students are responsible for their own behaviors and are expected to maintain stated standards of academic honesty. Students share the responsibility with the faculty for maintaining an environment that supports academic honesty and discourages plagiarism or cheating.

Faculty and Administrator Responsibilities: Faculty are responsible for creating a classroom and testing environment that discourages cheating, confronts suspected violators and insures fair treatment of all students. Administrators also share the responsibility for developing an environment that discourages academic dishonesty.

If a student is participating in academic dishonesty and is caught, he/she may be dismissed from the course.

Students come to LATC not only to improve their minds, gain knowledge, and develop skills that will assist them in their life's work, but also to build character. Students should complete their own work and be evaluated upon that work. They should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including but not limited to plagiarism, falsification, cheating and other academic misconduct. Per the LATC student conduct policy: Dishonesty and/or plagiarism in class, laboratory, shop work, or on tests is regarded as a serious offense, and the student is subject to disciplinary action including dismissal by the instructor and authorized representatives of the institute. It is essential that students in this course understand plagiarism and how to avoid it. Consult this website for more information about plagiarism: <https://www.plagiarism.org/understanding-plagiarism>

The following activities are examples (not all inclusive) of academic dishonesty:

- Failing to report observed instances of academic dishonesty
- Plagiarism, defined as representing as one's own, the ideas, writings, or other intellectual properties of others, including other students; any material taken verbatim from the work of others must be placed in quotation marks and a reference cited. Paraphrased content must have appropriate attribution.
- Collaboration on assignments unless it is clearly permitted per the syllabus/instructor
- Falsifying academic records
- Bribing faculty to improve academic scores or grades
- Receiving, retaining, and/or using materials obtained in a manner that is defined as academically dishonest
- Using signals or otherwise communicating (e.g. text messaging) during an examination to share answers with or from another student
- Continuing to answer test items beyond the prescribed exam time limit
- Falsifying reasons for excused absences from clinical experiences.
- Taking examinations at times other than the one to which you have been assigned in order to obtain more preparation time

- *Career Counseling*

Guidance is available for students when investigating career choices or in reaffirming the choice already made.

- *Personal Counseling*

Knowing that student life can be stressful, Lake Area Tech provides personal on-campus counseling for either school-related or non-school-related issues. At times, referral to another counseling service may be warranted. Check with the on-campus counseling staff if you have concerns you need to discuss. Specific referrals for drug and alcohol-related issues will be made by on-campus counselors.

- *Americans with Disabilities Act Policy*

Students are entitled to 'reasonable accommodations' under provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Those in need of such accommodations should notify the instructor and make appropriate arrangements with the Counseling Office.

- *Inclusivity Statement*

We understand that our members represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The Physical Therapist Assistant program is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- share their unique experiences, values and beliefs
- be open to the views of others
- honor the uniqueness of their colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the Lake Area Tech community

- *Student Tutoring*

The Center for Student Engagement and Support staff and peer tutors provide tutoring for all courses.

If you are a student in need of help in any of your classes, please contact the Educational Services Coordinator located in Room 209.