

Pennsylvania College of Technology

School: School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Department: Department of Physical Therapist Assistant

Course Number and Section: FA PTA215

Course Title: Level I Clinical Experience

Course Instructor: Christine Tilburg

Date: Fall Semester Year 2

Location: Clinical Education Site

Office Hours: Mondays 12:00-1:00 or by scheduled appointment

Office Location: ATHS W207A

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Course Description:

An integrated clinical experience to occur in an acute care, outpatient, or a long-term care setting with the opportunity to observe clinical treatment and apply skills and knowledge gained during the first and second technical semesters of the PTA program. Practical experience encounters allow students to integrate and apply knowledge and skills with diverse patients of varied ages and conditions. All activities are performed in the presence of a licensed physical therapist. Designed to provide a minimum of 120 clinical education hours.

Special Designator: None

Credit Hours: 2 Credits (0 Lecture - 6 Clinical)

Pre-Requisites: None

Co-Requisites: PTA220 and PTA226 and PTA230

Scheduling (Optional): Fall Only

Rationale:

This is the first clinical experience during which students integrate skills and knowledge learned during the first two semesters of study and apply techniques and skills to clinical situations. Students must understand the role of the physical therapist assistant in various clinical settings, conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the profession of physical therapy, and adhere to ethical and legal standards of practice.

Required Student Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to meet the following required student outcomes at a minimum rating of Advanced Beginner as measured by the APTA PTA Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI 3.0):

1. demonstrate professionalism through ethical and legal practice;
2. evaluate clinical performance and seek educational opportunities for professional growth;
3. demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication with patients, caregivers, and other healthcare professionals;
4. provide inclusive and equitable care with consideration for patient diversity;
5. interpret data from multiple sources to make sound clinical decisions;
6. perform selected technical and procedural interventions in a safe and effective manner;
7. produce quality documentation and accurate billing that supports facility and payer requirements; and
8. demonstrate efficient delivery of physical therapy services.

Course Competencies:

The student should be able to achieve a minimum rating of Advanced Beginner on the following criteria from the APTA PTA Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI 3.0):

1. Demonstrate professionalism through ethical and legal practice (Professionalism: Ethical Practice/Professionalism: Legal Practice);
 1. Practices according to the Standards of Ethical Conduct.
 2. Demonstrates respect for self, the patient/client, and colleagues in all situations.
 3. Practices according to legal and professional standards, including all federal, state, and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management.
2. Evaluate clinical performance and seek educational opportunities for professional growth (Professionalism: Professional Growth);
 1. Accepts and is receptive to feedback.
 2. Participates in planning and/or self-assessment to improve clinical performance.
 3. Contributes to the advancement of the clinical setting through educational opportunities.
 4. Seeks out opportunities to improve knowledge and skills.
3. Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication with patients, caregivers, and other healthcare professionals (Interpersonal: Communication);

1. Demonstrates professional verbal and non-verbal communication with all stakeholders (e.g., patients/clients, caregivers, intra/interprofessional colleagues).
2. Adapts to diverse verbal and nonverbal communication styles during patient/client interactions.
3. Utilizes communication resources (e.g., interpreters) as appropriate.
4. Incorporates appropriate strategies to engage in challenging encounters with patients/clients and others.
5. Facilitates ongoing communication with physical therapist regarding patient/client care.

4. Provide inclusive and equitable care with consideration for patient diversity (Interpersonal: Inclusivity);

1. Delivers physical therapy services with consideration for patient/client diversity and inclusivity for all regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, or other characteristics of identity.
2. Provides equitable patient/client care that does not vary in quality based on the patient's/client's personal characteristics (e.g., ethnicity, socioeconomic status).

5. Interpret data from multiple sources to make sound clinical decisions (Technical/Procedural: Clinical Reasoning);

1. Strategically gathers, interprets, and synthesizes information from multiple sources to make effective clinical judgments.
2. Applies current knowledge and clinical judgement while supporting the physical therapist with clinical activities.
3. Ensures patient/client safety during the episode of care.
4. Presents a logical rationale for clinical decisions with all stakeholders (e.g., patients/clients, caregivers, intra/interprofessional colleagues).

6. Perform selected technical and procedural interventions in a safe and effective manner (Technical/Procedural: Interventions);

1. Performs selected therapeutic exercises, manual therapy techniques, airway clearance, and integumentary repair and protection techniques in a competent manner (Technical/Procedural: Interventions: Therapeutic Exercise and Techniques).
2. Applies selected mechanical and electrotherapeutic modalities in a competent manner (Technical/Procedural: Interventions: Mechanical and Electrotherapeutic Modalities).
3. Performs functional training in self-care and home management, including therapeutic activities; performs application and adjustment of

devices and equipment in a competent manner (Technical/Procedural: Interventions: Functional Training and Application of Devices and Equipment).

7. Produce quality documentation and accurate billing that supports facility and payer requirements (Business: Documentation);
 1. Produces quality documentation that includes changes in the patient's/client's status, a description and progressions of specific interventions used, and communication among providers.
 2. Maintains organization of patient/client documentation.
8. Demonstrate efficient delivery of physical therapy services (Business: Resource Management).
 1. Participates in the efficient delivery of physical therapy services.
 2. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of time management and appropriate use of clinical supplies and equipment when supporting physical therapy services.