Course Overview

Course Description
This first clinical education experience is integrated within the curriculum and provides students with the opportunity to work in a healthcare setting under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Students will apply learned knowledge and skills and assume responsibilities in direct patient care.

Prerequisites
Successful completion of all PTA general education requirements and first semester technical coursework.

Instructor: As assigned by clinical sites
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Clinical experience days/times: TBA

Required Text(s)
NONE

Blackboard Information (www.bb.courses.maine.edu)

Additional required material(s): Contact clinical site for specific details

Course Outcomes/ Program Outcomes

PTA PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
#1 Professional Communication: The student will demonstrate effective, accurate, and professional verbal, nonverbal, and written communication in all aspect of health care.
#2 Professionalism: The student will demonstrate behavior in a professional, legal, and ethical manner in all situations.
#3 Data Collection: The student will competently and safely collect data as needed to carry out the physical therapy plan of care under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.
#4 Interventions: The student will competently and safely implement select components of intervention identified in the physical therapy plan of care under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist.
#5 Clinical Problem Solving: The student exhibits sound clinical decision making abilities within the
department's physical therapy plan of care while carrying out the physical therapy plan of care.

#6 Participation in Clinical Environment and Practice Management: The student demonstrates
proficient knowledge and skills to participate in clinical provider safety, interprofessional collaboration,
quality assurance, organizational planning and operation, billing and payment

SLOs

(1-2) 7D1 Adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state, and institutional regulations
related to patient/client care and fiscal management.

(1-2) 7D2 Report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of abuse of vulnerable populations.

(1-2) 7D3 Report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of fraud and abuse related to the
utilization of and payment for physical therapy and other health care services.

(1-2) 7D4 Perform duties in a manner consistent with the Guide for Conduct of the Physical
Therapist Assistant (APTA) and Standards of Ethical Conduct (APTA) to meet the expectations of
patients, members of the physical therapy profession, and other providers as necessary.

(1-2) 7D5 Perform duties in a manner consistent with APTA’s Values Based Behaviors for the
Physical Therapist Assistant.

(1-2) 7D6 Implement, in response to an ethical situation, a plan of action that demonstrates sound
moral reasoning congruent with core professional ethics and values.

(1) 7D7 Communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members,
caregivers, practitioners, interprofessional team members, consumers, payers, and policymakers.

(1-2) 7D8 Identify, respect, and act with consideration for patients’/clients’ differences, values,
preferences, and expressed needs in all work-related activities.

(1-2) 7D9 Apply current knowledge, theory, and clinical judgment while considering the patient/client
perspective and the environment, based on the plan of care established by the physical therapist.

(5) 7D10 Identify basic concepts in professional literature including, but not limited to, validity,
reliability and level of statistical significance.

(5) 7D11 Identify and integrate appropriate evidence based resources to support clinical decision-
making for progression of the patient within the plan of care established by the physical therapist.

(1) 7D12 Effectively educate others using teaching methods that are commensurate with the needs of
the patient, caregiver or healthcare personnel.

(2) 7D13 Participate in professional and community organizations that provide opportunities for
volunteerism, advocacy and leadership.

(2) 7D14 Identify career development and lifelong learning opportunities, including the role of the
physical therapist assistant in the clinical education of physical therapist assistant students.

(1, 3) 7D15 Interview patients/clients, caregivers, and family to obtain current information related
to prior and current level of function and general health status (e.g., fatigue, fever, malaise,
unexplained weight change).

(5) 7D16 Use the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) to describe
a patient's/client’s impairments, activity and participation limitations.

(1, 5) 7D17 Communicate an understanding of the plan of care developed by the physical therapist to
achieve short and long term goals and intended outcomes.

(3) 7D18 Review health records (e.g., lab values, diagnostic tests, specialty reports, narrative,
consults, and physical therapy documentation) prior to carrying out the PT plan of care.

(3, 5) 7D19 Monitor and adjust interventions in the plan of care in response to patient/client status
and clinical indications.

(1, 3, 5) 7D20 Report any changes in patient/client status or progress to the supervising
physical therapist.

(3, 5) 7D21 Determine when an intervention should not be performed due to clinical indications or
when the direction to perform the intervention is beyond that which is appropriate for the physical
(6) 7D22 Contribute to the discontinuation of episode of care planning and follow-up processes as directed by the supervising physical therapist.

**Intervention**

(4) 7D23 Demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist. Interventions include:

a. Airway Clearance Techniques: breathing exercises, coughing techniques and secretion mobilization
b. Application of Devices and Equipment: assistive / adaptive devices and prosthetic and orthotic devices
c. Biophysical Agents: biofeedback, electrotherapeutic agents, compression therapies, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, superficial and deep thermal agents, traction and light therapies
d. Functional Training in Self-Care and in Domestic, Education, Work, Community, Social, and Civic Life
e. Manual Therapy Techniques: passive range of motion and therapeutic massage
f. Motor Function Training (balance, gait, etc.)
g. Patient/Client Education
h. Therapeutic Exercise
i. Wound Management: isolation techniques, sterile technique, application and removal of dressing or agents, and identification of precautions for dressing removal

**Test and Measures**

(3) 7D24 Demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests and measures (before, during and after interventions) for the following areas:

a. Aerobic Capacity and Endurance: measurement of standard vital signs; recognize and monitor responses to positional changes and activities (e.g., orthostatic hypotension, response to exercise)
b. Anthropometrical Characteristics: measurements of height, weight, length and girth
c. Mental Functions: detect changes in a patient’s state of arousal, mentation and cognition
d. Assistive Technology: identify the individual’s and caregiver’s ability to care for the device; recognize changes in skin condition and safety factors while using devices and equipment
e. Gait, Locomotion, and Balance: determine the safety, status, and progression of patients while engaged in gait, locomotion, balance, wheelchair management and mobility
f. Integumentary Integrity: detect absent or altered sensation; normal and abnormal integumentary changes; activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations, or that can produce associated skin trauma; and recognize viable versus nonviable tissue
g. Joint Integrity and Mobility: detect normal and abnormal joint movement
h. Muscle Performance: measure muscle strength by manual muscle testing; observe the presence or absence of muscle mass; recognize normal and abnormal muscle length, and changes in muscle tone
i. Neuromotor Development: detect gross motor milestones, fine motor milestones, and righting and equilibrium reactions
j. Pain: administer standardized questionnaires, graphs, behavioral scales, or visual analog scales for pain; recognize activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or
relieve pain or altered sensations  
k. Posture: determine normal and abnormal alignment of trunk and extremities at rest and during activities  
l. Range of Motion: measure functional ROM and measure ROM using an appropriate measurement device  
m. Self-Care and Civic, Community, Domestic, Education, Social and Work Life: inspect the physical environment and measure physical spaces; recognize safety and barriers in the home, community and work environments; recognize level of functional status; administer standardized questionnaires to patients and others  
n. Ventilation, Respiration and Circulation: detect signs and symptoms of respiratory distress, and activities that aggravate or relieve edema, pain, dyspnea, or other symptoms; describe thoracoabdominal movements and breathing patterns with activity, and cough and sputum characteristics  

(1, 2, 6) 7D25 Complete accurate documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting, and other regulatory agencies.  

(1-5) 7D26 Respond effectively to patient/client and environmental emergencies that commonly occur in the clinical setting.  

Participation in Health Care Environment  

(1, 2, 6) 7D27 Contribute to efforts to increase patient and healthcare provider safety.  

(1, 2, 6) 7D28 Participate in the provision of patient-centered interprofessional collaborative care.  

(1, 2, 6) 7D29 Participate in performance improvement activities (quality assurance).  

Practice Management  

(1, 6) 7D30 Describe aspects of organizational planning and operation of the physical therapy service.  

(1, 2, 6) 7D31 Describe accurate and timely information for billing and payment purposes.  

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### Assessment/ Grading  

**Evaluation Methods:**  
- Weekly Planning Forms  
- Final evaluation PTA CPI  
- Service-based learning project  

**Grading:** The final grade for the PTA 212 Integrated Clinical I will be Pass/Fail  

In order to successfully pass PTA 212 Integrated Clinical Education I, the student will demonstrate a minimum of Intermediate ratings on all criteria on the PTA CPI and a minimum of above Intermediate ratings on all red flag areas on the PTA CPI.  

**WEEKLY PLANNING FORMS:** The use of this form at the end of each week of the experience is strongly urged but not mandatory for CIs. It is mandatory for students to complete for all of their clinical experiences and pass them in at the end of their experience. Students will be filling out these forms near the end of each week and will encourage their CIs to give them feedback on them. It is encouraged for CIs to use the Weekly Planning Forms to give students feedback on their performance at the end of each week, so that they may be successful and attempt to improve upon any identified weak areas. The forms also serve as a great tool to
improve CI and student communication. This will be especially important for PTA 212 Clinical Educational Experience I as it is only 3 weeks in duration.

**Student Clinical Education Experience Performance Evaluation:** Students completing their clinical experiences will be evaluated by their CI using the online PTA CPI. This is the evaluation tool to be used to assess student competence during the final week of the clinical experience. It is required that students also self-assess at this time. The final assessment should reflect the student’s performance during the last week of the affiliation. Mistakes made in the early part of the clinical experience should not be held against the student or averaged. The ACCE will issue the final grade for the student clinical based on the CI’s assessment. The PTA program (ACCE or Program Director) reserves the right to adjust student grades up or down based on any other objective information gathered from personal communication with the student, CI, CCCE, or other clinical site staff, or personal observations made by PTA faculty during site visits. Weekly planning forms are strongly encouraged to be used during weeks 1 & 2 to give students feedback, both positive and constructive so that they can attempt to improve upon any identified weak areas.

**Student Evaluation of Clinical Site:** This form will be filled out by the student during their last week of their clinical and reviewed with their CI. The form will be returned to the ACCE at the university within one week of the completion of the clinical experience. Grades for the clinical experience will not be issued until this form is received. The form has 2 parts: (evaluation of the clinical site and evaluation of the clinical instructor). The ACCE will make copies of the Overall Summary Appraisal of the Clinical Experience. One copy will be mailed to the CCCE at the clinical site and the other will be placed in the student file following completion of the student affiliation.

**Service-Based Learning Project:**
It is expected that all students will complete a service-based learning project. A service-based learning project is a method of teaching and learning involving a project that is connected to a classroom or course content. Each project is expected to have an academic/research component and a community/clinical site service component.

The project should NOT create extra work for the clinical site. It is intended to have the student research a topic helpful for the PT department and/or community while at the same time fulfilling the clinical education course objective of educating others (patients, family, caregivers, staff, students, other health care providers) using relevant and effective teaching methods. It is also a means of giving back or thanking the PT department for allowing the student to complete a clinical experience with them.

**How to do it:** Projects are discussed with supervisors regarding what topics would be helpful to the department and of interest to the student.
For PTA 212, the Service Based Learning Project expectations are much lower due to the 3-week duration of the experience.

Examples:
- Case study of current patient scenario
- Research a particular diagnosis or treatment. Condense the material and present it.
- Research and present a recent journal article of interest.
- Create or update home exercise programs for a specific diagnosis or surgery.

Questions or concerns about service based learning projects may be directed to the PTA program ACCE or program director.

**A rubric for grading the service-based learning project will be provided to each clinical instructor and included with the evaluation tool. The project is pass/fail.

Where to Get Help

Vanessa Patenaude 768-9678 or 227-4833
Christopher Rolon 768-9542

Course Policies

For Clinical Education policies, please refer to UMPI PTA Clinical Education Handbook

For more information: http://www.maine.edu/about-the-system/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section402/