

## University of Maine at Presque Isle Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### Service-Based Learning Project:

It is expected that all students will complete a service-based learning project during their clinical experiences. A service-based learning project is a method of teaching and learning involving a project that is connected to 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/Rehab 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/rehab 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. Student will present their project usually during the last week or two of their experience.

For PTA 212: Due to the short duration of this experience, (3 weeks) the project will be on a much smaller scale as compared to the 7 week experiences. A case study or journal article review may be sufficient unless the CI has another small project to complete that would be a learning experience for the student and helpful for the facility.

For PTA 220/PTA 225: These are formal projects and students should expect to spend 10-20 hours on the project for preparation. They should expect to formally present their project to clinical faculty/staff at their facility. Again, the project should be a mutual decision between the student and CI. We highly recommend that the topic and format be determined within the first 3 weeks of the experience with an outline ready to share with the CI by the midterm assessment.

Examples from past projects/in-services:

- Case study of current patient scenario.
- Research a particular diagnosis or treatment. Condense the material and present it.
- Research a new treatment idea or technique. 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.
- Create a patient oriented bulletin board
- Create a patient education video, booklet or brochure.
- Create a caregiver packet
- Participate in a community screening program that facility is hosting.
- Create a poster for patient education.
- Create/modify/update the student information packet for the facility

Questions or concerns about service based learning projects may be directed to the UMPI PTA program ACCE at 768-9678 or [matthew.papsadora@maine.edu](mailto:matthew.papsadora@maine.edu)