



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number PTA 224	Course Title PTA Clinical Education I	Credits 3
Hours: Lecture/Lab/Other 40 hours/week for 4 weeks = 160 clinical hours	Pre-requisite PTA 210, PTA 214	Implementation Semester & Year Summer 2024

Catalog description:

Supervised full-time clinical instruction to observe the clinic environment and PT/PTA interactions; develop professional deportment and communication; refine measurement and time management skills; and learn about patient chart information.

General Education Category:
Not GenEd

Course coordinator: Rachel Cordasco, 609-570-3385,
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Required texts & Other materials:

N/A

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

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

1. P11. recognize individual and cultural differences and respond appropriately in all aspects of physical therapy services (supports ILG 8, PLO 5 & PLO 7)
2. P3. Provide patient related instruction to patients, family members, and caregivers to achieve patient outcomes, based on the plan of care established by the Physical Therapist (supports ILG 1, PLO 5 & PLO 7)
3. P17 perform physical therapy interventions in a competent and safe manner including passive range of motion, therapeutic exercise, therapeutic activities, neuromuscular re-education, gait training, stair training, transfers, bed mobility, and biophysical agents as appropriate for the clinical site (supports ILG 4, PLO 5 & PLO 7)
4. A7. exhibit conduct that reflects practice standards that are legal, ethical, and safe by adhering to institutional, state and federal regulations, adhering to the APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct, and the APTA's Values Based Behaviors for the PTA (supports ILG 9, PLO 5 & PLO 7)
5. C7. contribute to treatment session and planning by applying knowledge and clinical judgment, while considering patient goals and the environment, within the established plan of care (supports ILG 11, PLO 5 & PLO 7)
6. P2. communicate to the Clinical Instructor an understanding of the plan of care, including the treatment plan and how it will achieve short and long term goals (supports ILG 10, PLO 5 & PLO 7)

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Institutional Learning Goal 4. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PLO)

1. To maintain high quality PTA courses and instruction for a diverse student population.
2. To provide meaningful and effective services and activities that support student success and preparation for safe and competent clinical practice.
3. To foster learning environments that celebrate and value diversity and respect.
4. To manage resources that support affordability, quality teaching, innovation and safe learning environments.
5. To foster community connections with providers of quality physical therapy to enhance the vitality of the PTA program and contribute to the physical therapy community.
6. To maintain a commitment to assessment to evaluate the PTA program's success in meeting these goals.
7. To provide an environment that creates adaptive learners who are able to function in complex, uncertain and novel situations.
8. To intentionally focus on learner development of professional identity and commitment to the physical therapy profession

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

PTA 224

		Supports SLOs:
Unit 1	Orientation to the clinical setting	all
Unit 2	Integration into the clinical setting	all
Unit 3	Integration into the clinical setting	all
Unit 4	Integration into the clinical setting	all

Week 1 Orientation to the clinical setting

The student/learner is expected to observe the physical therapy department and personnel utilization until the student/learner and the CI determine that the student/learner is sufficiently acclimated to this setting. The CI will be interacting with the student/learner and working with the student/learner to set up observations as needed. The student/learner needs to initiate interaction with patients, seek out the components of departmental organization, and documentation style. During this week the student/learner is expected to develop goals for the clinical affiliation, discuss and negotiate the goals with the CI, and determine a plan for implementation during the clinical affiliation.

Weeks 2-4 Integration into the clinical setting

Expected experiences:

an initial patient examination with an orthopedic patient

measurement of muscle strength, girth, and joint ROM measurement of vital signs

- gait training
- therapeutic exercise
- application of physical agents
- documentation of treatment
- patient chart organization patient education
- body mechanics techniques
- patient scheduling protocols
- 3rd party payer reimbursement structures plans for quality assurance
- a case study to follow the progress of a patient over at least 3 visits
- review patient chart information and compile a list of the medications and diagnoses, noting side effects that are observed by the physical therapy clinical staff.

Evaluation of student learning:

% of grade	Activity	Number within course
2.5	Quiz(es)	1
10	Case Study (Paper)	1
10	Communication with ACCE	1
77.5	Clinical Evaluation(s)	1

This is a clinical education course. Students will complete a preparatory quiz, a case study paper, be graded on their communication, and meeting the course objectives using a Clinical Performance Instrument, completed by the Clinical Instructor. Students will meet with the Clinical Instructor for mid-term and final evaluations, in which feedback on each and every course objective will be reviewed and discussed.