

Virginia Western Community College
PTH 105
Introduction to Physical Therapist Assisting

Prerequisites

PTA program placement

Course Description

Introduces the physical therapist assistant student to the field of physical therapy practice and develops basic patient care skills for application in the initial physical therapy clinical experience.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 1 Lab:2

Required Materials**Textbooks:**

1. *Dreeben-Irimia's Introduction to Physical Therapy, 4th edition* by Christina M. Barrett; ISBN: 9781284175738
2. *Mobility in Context: Principles of Patient Care Skills, 3rd edition* by Charity Johansson & Susan A. Chinworth; ISBN: 9781719642866

Other Required Materials:

1. PhysioU Subscription (this will be required in courses throughout the program, so students should be sure to purchase a subscription long enough to last through the full program).
2. Physical Therapy Student Kit (purchased at campus bookstore)

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the physical therapist and the physical therapist assistant.
2. Recognize the role of the physical therapist assistant in patient education, discharge planning, and follow up as directed by the supervising physical therapist.
3. Outline the non-clinical roles and responsibilities of a physical therapist assistant including volunteerism, advocacy, and leadership.
4. Differentiate the roles and responsibilities of interprofessional healthcare team members.
5. Outline the components of the Virginia Physical Therapy Practice Act.
6. Recognize common legal and ethical issues within physical therapy.
7. Identify the components and purpose of the Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant and the Standards of Ethical Conduct.
8. Interpret the Standards of Ethical Conduct and the Virginia Physical Therapy Practice Act for clinical scenarios.
9. Recognize the components and importance of the Core Values for the PT and PTA (Value Based Behaviors).

10. Compose a reflection paper based on the Core Values (Value Based Behaviors) Self-Assessment.
11. Identify the purpose and structure of the American Physical Therapy Association.
12. Recognize the importance of involvement in professional organizations, including volunteerism, advocacy, leadership, and professional development.
13. Outline effective teaching and education strategies in the healthcare setting.
14. Demonstrate the ability to provide effective patient and family education.
15. Identify the importance of effective communication with patients, family members, other health care professionals, payers, and policy makers.
16. Recognize culturally competent communication strategies to utilize with patients from various backgrounds.
17. Identify the role of the physical therapist assistant in the clinical education of physical therapist assistant students.
18. Identify key components of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
19. Recognize safety barriers in the home, community, and work environments.
20. Identify components of HIPAA and the importance of patient confidentiality.
21. Identify the principles and concepts of infection control.
22. Compare infection control guidelines for different patient isolation categories.
23. Differentiate common blood borne pathogens, including prevalence, risk, and methods to minimize infection.
24. Demonstrate competence in infection control techniques, including appropriate hand washing and donning/doffing of personal protective equipment.
25. Recognize appropriate body mechanics during functional activities, including lifting, pushing, and carrying objects.
26. Demonstrate appropriate body mechanics during patient mobility activities.
27. Compare normal and abnormal vital sign values at rest and during position changes.
28. Demonstrate competent assessment of vital signs including blood pressure, pulse, respiration rate, and oxygen saturation.
29. Compare common assessment instruments utilized for pain.
30. Identify the common elements of a patient interview that a PTA will perform prior to a treatment session.
31. Demonstrate the ability to complete a basic patient interview related to current health status and pain.
32. Identify the purposes of draping as part of patient care.
33. Respect patient modesty by performing appropriate draping during a simulated treatment session.
34. Recognize how patient positioning can impact pain and skin integrity.
35. Recognize areas prone to skin breakdown in the immobilized patient.
36. Demonstrate competence in positioning a mock patient in supine, prone, and sidelying.
37. Compare the levels of patient function during bed mobility, transfers, and gait training.
38. Demonstrate competence in performing common patient bed mobility and transfer techniques.
39. Identify the assistive devices utilized for gait training.

40. Identify the ability of a patient and caregiver to care for an assistive device.
41. Identify a patient's or caregiver's ability to utilize and care for a wheelchair.
42. Describe safety concerns and potential changes in skin condition while using assistive and adaptive devices.
43. Identify common measurements utilized in wheelchair fitting.
44. Recognize common wheelchair fitting and positioning problems.
45. Demonstrate competence in wheelchair management and mobility, including pressure relief techniques.
46. Recognize the gait pattern and assistive device appropriate for a patient's disability and weight bearing status within a case scenario.
47. Demonstrate competence in gait training, including accurate fitting of an assistive device and appropriate patient guarding.
48. Select the appropriate response for common medical emergencies seen in physical therapy settings such as hypoglycemia, shock, and cardiac arrest.
49. Identify common institutional policies and procedures for clinical emergencies such as fire, hospital codes, and weather events.
50. Display appropriate professional behaviors in all interactions with classmates and instructors by displaying all professional behaviors at the beginning level.

Topical Description

This course will cover the following topics:

- The roles and responsibilities of the PT and the PTA and communication with the supervising PT.
- Handwashing & Infection Control, use of PPE
- Elements of PT practice
- The APTA
- The PTA as a member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team
- Ethical and legal issues within physical therapy
- Virginia State Laws and Regulations
- HIPAA
- Professionalism and Core Values
- Communication
- Teaching and Learning
- Vital signs and pain assessment
- Basic patient interview
- Body mechanics for the PTA and the patient
- Draping & Positioning
- Mobility assistance levels
- Bed mobility
- Wheelchairs:

- Parts
- management and positioning
- Mobility
- Pressure relief procedures
- Assistive Devices
- Transfers
- Gait Training
- Responses to medical and environmental emergencies
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Safety barriers in home, work, and community
- Professional development and the role of the PTA in PTA clinical education

Notes to Instructors

- This course should follow all PTA program policies.