

Virginia Western Community College
PTH 251
Clinical Practicum I

Prerequisites

PTH 141, Co-requisite: PTH 210, PTH 226, PTH 227

Course Description

Provides instruction in local health care facilities in the actual administration of physical therapy treatments under the supervision of licensed physical therapists. Provides experience in a variety of clinical settings. Part I of II.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 0 Lab: 16/week, condensed into 6 weeks which is 40 hours/week.

Required Materials

1. No textbooks or materials are required; however, students should have access to all prior course textbooks and materials so they can be adequately prepared for each day of their time in the clinic.

Course Outcomes

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

1. With moderate guidance from the supervising PT/PTA, demonstrate the ability to consistently perform safe, effective, and competent physical therapy assessment techniques and treatment interventions from within the physical therapist's plan of care for routine patients.
2. With moderate guidance from the supervising PT/PTA, display the ability to provide timely and relevant documentation and communication to the physical therapist regarding all aspects of patient status, patient treatment and patient response to the treatment.
3. With moderate guidance from the supervising PT/PTA, display the ability to, in the most appropriate manner and while accounting for culture competence, communicate with patients, family members/caregivers, and other healthcare providers.
4. With moderate guidance from the supervising PT/PTA, demonstrate the ability to participate in the teaching of patients, family members/caregivers, and other health care providers.
5. With moderate guidance from the supervising PT/PTA, consistently demonstrate appropriate legal, ethical, and professional clinical behavior during skill performance and interactions with patients, family members, and other healthcare providers.
6. In the clinical setting, student will demonstrate all program-defined professional behaviors at least at an intermediate level.
7. With moderate guidance from the supervising PT/PTA, demonstrate the ability to participate in routine administrative processes of the physical therapy department, including billing and performance improvement activities.
8. Demonstrate the capability to maintain 50% of a full-time PTA patient care workload.

9. Describe individual interactions as a member of the PT/PTA team in the current practice setting.
10. Following the observation of an evaluation, reflect on the physical therapist evaluation as an important component of providing care as a PTA.
11. Demonstrate the comprehensive knowledge base of a physical therapist assistant student by obtaining a passing grade on a comprehensive review exam covering course material presented through the fourth semester.
12. Identify administrative roles and duties in current clinical setting through attendance at departmental meetings, committee meetings, and case conferences with other healthcare providers as appropriate.

Topical Description

To meet course objectives, students will complete at least 240 hours in an outpatient or inpatient physical therapy clinic (site assigned by program clinical coordinator). Depending on a student's clinical placement, students will be exposed to a variety of patients and treatment approaches. In this rotation, students continue to take on the responsibilities of a PTA while continuing to work under the supervision of a licensed PT or PTA throughout the clinical education experience. Students will be expected to become more independent in their display of the skills and behaviors outlined the course objectives.

Notes to Instructors

- This course should follow all PTA program policies.

[ADA Statement](#) (PDF)

[Title IX Statement](#) (PDF)