

**A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY
ARIZONA SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DOCTOR PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

**PT 781 Clinical Internship I
Course Syllabus
2018-2019**

Course Instructor:

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Description:

The first ten-week, full-time clinical internship under the supervision of a licensed professional. The student will apply physical therapy principles learned in the first two years of didactic work. Clinical experiences in the program take place in a variety of practice settings and provide the students with a breadth and depth in professional role modeling and access to patients who are representative of those commonly seen in practice.

Prerequisites:

The student is required to pass all didactic coursework within the physical therapy curriculum and be in good standing with the academic promotion board.

Credit:

10 semester hours

Clock Hours and Schedule:

To be determined by clinical site.

Required and Recommended Readings:

As requested by the clinical site

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Clinical Education Manual

Additional resources on Blackboard Clinical Internship Course

Course Goal:

The student will be able to complete examinations, evaluate findings, develop a plan of care and implement interventions appropriate for a variety of patient populations and settings while abiding by physical therapy practice standards.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of the Clinical Experience, the student will:

1. Practice in a safe manner that minimizes risk to patient, self, and others.

2. Practice ethical decision making that is consistent with applicable professional code of ethics and standards of professional practice.
3. Maintain appropriate therapist/patient relationships.
4. Effectively communicate with all individuals when engaged in physical therapy practice, including patients, clients, families, caregivers, other members of the health care team, consumers and payers.
5. Accurately perform systematic, appropriately selective and thorough initial examinations and re-examinations consistently.
6. Perform physical therapy interventions in a competent manner.
7. Use clinical decision making to:
 - a. Implement comprehensive patient care programs, including applying the scientific principles underlying each treatment.
 - b. Integrate patient observations, research/clinical knowledge, medical records and PT examination data to develop appropriate PT evaluation, diagnoses, plan of care and prognosis.
 - c. Modify treatment plan to maximize patient outcomes.
 - d. Establish goals and functional outcomes that specify expected time duration.
 - e. Determine the need for further examination or consultation by a physical therapist or for referral to another health care professional.
8. Collaborate with patients, clients, family members, payers and other professionals to determine a realistic and acceptable plan of care.
9. Complete written reports/documents that are effective, appropriate, thorough and timely.
10. Effectively delegate appropriate activities during the supervision of support staff.
11. Demonstrate additional professional behaviors to include:
 - a. Completion of self-assessment.
 - b. Implementation of personal/professional growth and development using constructive feedback and self-assessment.
 - c. Displaying sensitivity toward individual and cultural differences.

Teaching Methods and Learning Experiences:

As determined by the clinical education facility of each site with guidance by the DCEs.

Evaluation Techniques:

APTA Clinical Performance Instrument
Additional feedback from the clinical instructor as appropriate
Completion of clinical experience task lists
Attendance record

Additional requirements:

As determined by the site and per the clinical affiliation agreement for the clinical entity. Could include but is not limited to drug screening, fingerprint card, learning modules, journal articles, immunizations and continuing education courses.

Grading:

The academic policy requires a student to successfully pass each clinical experience. For the student to receive credit for this course and to receive a passing grade, the following criteria must be met:

- A passing performance as noted by the CPI and clinical instructor feedback and
- A minimum average of 70 percent

For students failing to achieve passing clinical performance or the minimum 70% competency, the student will receive a failing grade and will complete an additional 10 week experience. Final grades are determined by the DCE.

Grading Scale:

The following letter grading scale will be used:

A = 90 -100%

B = 80 -89%

C = 70 – 79%

F = < 70%

Students are required to complete aspects in all four categories below (clinical performance, completion of forms, attendance, and professionalism/communication).

1. ***Clinical Performance***

For the first ten-week experience, students are expected to reach a **minimum rating of Advanced Intermediate on all items of the CPI with no issues regarding safety, professional behavior, accountability, or communication. If the student is steadily progressing towards this level with no concerns regarding safety, professional behavior, accountability, or communication, but has not reached Advanced Intermediate, the DCE may grant up to two additional weeks in the clinic.** Continuation of the current clinical placement will only be considered if clinical performance is likely to meet Advanced Intermediate within an additional two weeks or less, if the clinical site agrees, AND the clinical site is able to accommodate the additional time.

In some clinical settings, the advanced or unique patient population may factor in the student's ability to reach Advanced Intermediate on the CPI. In this situation, the DCE will determine appropriate passing criteria in collaboration and with input from the SCCE/CI from the site.

Clinical performance failure: A student unable to meet an Advanced Intermediate rating within 10 weeks or following an extended time (if granted), will receive a failing grade in the course. A student may receive a failing grade if major safety concerns are evident or if performance fails to progress. A failed clinical internship course must be retaken and successfully passed to meet graduation requirements.

If the student receives a failing grade on any clinical experience, alteration of the clinical schedule will occur. Additionally, as a result of poor clinical performance, a reorganization of clinical experiences including requiring the student to return to the Phoenix metropolitan area to allow greater involvement of the DCE. Alterations to the clinical schedule due to failures may result in a delay in graduation as a student will not graduate until all requirements for completion of the degree are met.

Any clinical experience may be terminated, at any point, at the discretion of the DCE if the student is not making adequate progression. In addition, any safety violation could result in immediate removal from the site and failure of the clinical experience.

If a student is retaking a clinical course due to initial course failure of PT 781, PT 782, or PT 783, the student must reach entry-level performance within the 10 weeks of clinical time provided. If clinical performance has reached entry-level prior to 10 weeks, up to 3 weeks of previous clinical time can be applied to the 10 week experience, potentially completing the experience in 7 weeks. If entry-level performance is not reached within the 10 week experience, a second course failure will occur.

2. **Completion of forms**

Students are required to complete several forms prior to, during, and before the end of the clinical experience. Students must complete these requirements as outlined below.

1. Email clinical instructor learning style and goals and cc school advisor two weeks prior to clinical experience.
2. Complete clinical information form by end of first week.
3. Complete self-evaluation on CPI prior to Friday of week 5 or prior to meeting with clinical instructor (whichever comes first).
4. Complete self-evaluation on CPI prior to the last day or prior to final meeting with clinical instructor (whichever comes first).
5. Complete site final evaluation on Acadaware prior to last day.
6. Complete clinical instructor final evaluation on Acadaware prior to last day.

Failure to complete one of the above will result in grade being lowered 5%.

Failure to complete two of the above will result in grade being lowered 15%.

Failure to complete three of the above will result in grade being lowered 25%.

Failure to complete more than three will result in course failure.

3. **Attendance**

Students must follow the attendance policy (below).

Failure to abide by the attendance policy will result in the course grade being lowered 10% for each occurrence.

4. **Professionalism and Communication**

If the student fails to complete experience requirements (listed in Acadaware and specific to each clinical site) by the designated time or falls out of compliance with health requirements while on a clinical experience, the final course grade will be lowered 10%.

Students are expected to communicate with designated DCE during midterm at minimum. Failure to communicate and arrange a phone call or visit will result in a 5% reduction.

Final Grade:

Final grade for this course is determined by a combination of meeting passing clinical performance and graded categories. Percentage deductions as outlined above will be calculated and final grade awarded. Students with percentage deductions >30% will receive a course failure. Failure to pass the clinical performance category will result in course failure even if no percentage deductions in other areas occur.

Professional Behaviors:

Evaluation of a wide range of behaviors commonly called *Professional Behaviors* will be incorporated into this course. These behaviors include but are not limited to: attendance and punctuality, attentiveness, participation, professional appearance, interpersonal relations, attitudes, neatness of work, punctuality of work, and preparation. Students should consult the DPT Student Manual for more specific descriptions of unprofessional behavior. Failure to demonstrate professional behaviors will result in a reduction in the final course grade by up to 12%.

Attendance:

A student is required to attend all scheduled clinical days. Absences of clinical days will be completed in the clinic as outlined in Student Responsibilities.

1. Student Responsibilities

The student must notify the assigned DCE whenever absences from the facility are necessary. Anticipated absences must be reported as soon as the student becomes aware. The student must request approval of anticipated absences from the assigned DCE by telephone or email before discussion with the clinical site. If the request is approved, the student will receive written confirmation and the student may then request approval of the absence from the clinical site. The student will then email the assigned DCE and the clinical instructor to provide the DCE with the final decision. Unexpected absences must be reported by phone call only. The student may be required to remediate any missed days by working Saturdays, Sundays, extended hours, or by extending the length of the clinical experience. The program and/or the clinical site reserves the right to require the

student to complete all missed hours. The program may require remediated missed days even if the clinical site does not.

2. Program Responsibilities

The DCE will monitor the attendance of students during each clinical experience and will be available to assist the CI in determining the necessity of remediation of any missed clinical hours. The program will also assist the student and the clinical site in coordinating the hours to be completed.

Additional course information:

This course must be passed with a minimum grade of “C” in order to be considered for retention and progression in the Physical Therapy Program.

University Policies:

Student Conduct

ATSU students are expected to abide by two important codes: the Code of Academic Conduct and the Code of Behavioral Standards. The codes establish minimal expectations of students and serve as guidelines for professional behavior. Inappropriate behavior is subject to sanctions. Information on student academic and disciplinary codes and processes can be found on pages 35-40 of the ATSU Student Handbook. For more information visit

https://www.atsu.edu/student_affairs/handbook/index.htm

Posting of Grades by Faculty

The public posting of grades either by the student’s name, school identification number, or social security number without the student’s prior written consent is a violation of FERPA. This includes the posting of grades to a class website and applies to any public posting of grades for students taking distance education courses.

Instructors who wish to post grades should use a system that ensures that FERPA requirements are met. This can be accomplished by obtaining the student’s written consent or by using a unique identifier known only to the student and the instructor. The order of posting **should not** be alphabetic. For more information visit

https://www.atsu.edu/registrar/ferpa/ferpa_facstaff.htm

Students with Disabilities

Learning & Disability Resources (LADR) supports ATSU students with disabilities by determining eligibility and coordinating necessary academic adjustments (accommodations), while maintaining the standards of the University. Any student seeking academic adjustments to accommodate limitations due to a documented disability is required to register with LADR. ATSU faculty will not provide disability-related academic adjustments without referral to and notice from LADR.

To register, or to discuss adjustments and services as they may apply to your individual situation, please contact LADR at disabilityresources@atsu.edu, 660.626.2774 Missouri campus, or 480.245.6248 Arizona campus. For more information visit http://www.atcu.edu/learning_resources/disabilities/index.htm

Resources and Reporting: Discrimination, Harassment, Trauma, Stress

A range of resources are available within the University to assist any student having issues or concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, violence, trauma or stress. If you inform a faculty member of issues regarding harassment, violence, or discrimination, it is his/her duty to inform Student Affairs, Human Resources, or ATSU's Title IX office. A student may also report concerns directly to these offices. Students struggling with trauma or unusual stress may always talk to a counselor confidentially through Counseling Services. For assistance or more information contact:

HUMAN RESOURCES - [660.626.2790](tel:660.626.2790) (hr@atsu.edu)

STUDENT AFFAIRS - [660.626.2236](tel:660.626.2236) (www.atcu.edu/student_services/contact)