

A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY

Acute Care Curriculum Content and Objectives

Our students participate in activities relevant for acute care and now complete a dedicated acute care course with a faculty member practicing in an acute care environment. The course consists of both a lecture and laboratory component where students are actively engaged in treatment planning and thinking quickly as the demands of an acute care environment require. The goal of the course is to prepare the student physical therapist in the treatment of a variety of patient populations in the acute care setting.

Acute Care Course Description: The course includes an in-depth study of the role of the physical therapist in the acute care setting. Emphasis is on patient care management and clinical decision-making, establishing appropriate plan of care, goal setting, and treatment design, interdisciplinary communication and collaboration, PT role in the emergency department and ICU, and discharge planning. Laboratory is required.

Patient Presentations Covered

Several patient presentations/conditions are covered within the course including but not limited to: Cerebral Vascular Accident, Respiratory Failure, Total Hip Arthroplasty, Total Knee Arthroplasty, Lumbar Spinal Fusion, Myocardial Infarction, Gastric Bypass.

Overall Course Objectives:

1. Analyze information from medical record and determine clinical relevance to the patient's physical therapy diagnosis and limitations.
2. Effectively complete a chart review to determine whether the patient will benefit from physical therapy services and recommend referral to another healthcare provider as needed.
3. Complete an ongoing assessment of the patient and demonstrate ability to adjust interventions according to patient response.
4. Apply evidence-based practice to predict the patient's expected prognosis to accurately establish goals, appropriate discharge plan and further rehab needs.
5. Prioritize and develop interventions focusing on functional mobility in preparation for discharge.
6. Apply the appropriate communication style, after consideration of patient specific communication needs.
7. Implement an evidence-based plan of care that characterizes the PT's autonomy in clinical judgment including withholding or discontinuing PT services.
8. Collaborate with an Interprofessional team to create an environment that eliminates barriers to the patient accessing physical therapy services and promotes safe and effective care.
9. Choose and uphold professional and appropriate communication with all members of the healthcare delivery team.
10. Evaluate the need to don/doff appropriate personal protective equipment to minimize risk of infection and ensure safety all staff and patient during the physical therapy session.
11. Analyze the patient and environment in order to identify barriers to safety prior to initiating interventional strategies.
12. Demonstrate ability to safely manage the patient's lines and tubes, requesting assistance when needed.
13. Determine and recommend appropriate discharge plan for patients, including necessary support, continuation of care, and any additional follow-up needs.
14. Determine assistive device needs, in context of available funding and patient's individual circumstances and preferences.
15. Assess appropriate components of a patient's plan of care that can may and may not be delegated to assistive personnel.