

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

**DPTR9180 Clinical Internship I  
Course Syllabus  
2020-2021**

**Course Instructors:**

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**Description:**

The first ten-week, full-time clinical education experience 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 Canvas Clinical Education 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 Education 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 education experience requirements and tasks

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 Policy:**

The academic policy requires a student to successfully pass each clinical education 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 of 70 percent on the clinical education experience requirements and tasks

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.

**Graded Categories**

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 clinical education 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, an Incomplete grade may be given based on clinical performance alone.** It is the decision of the DCE to allow the student to continue with additional clinic time by either extending the current clinical or completing time at a later date. 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 and only if the clinical site agrees to the schedule. Upon successful achievement of Advanced Intermediate performance or higher, the Incomplete grade will be changed.

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. Failure of a clinical education experience must be successfully remediated to meet graduation requirements. Length and nature of this remediation is dependent upon the cause(s) for the failure and is determined by the DCE in consultation with the academic faculty, clinical faculty, and the student. The DCE decides the final grade.

If the student receives a failing or incomplete grade on any clinical education experience, alteration of the clinical education schedule will occur. Additionally, as a result of poor clinical performance, a reorganization of clinical education experiences including requiring the student to return to the Phoenix metropolitan area to allow greater involvement of the DCE will be required. Alterations to the clinical education 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 education experience.

If a student receives two failing grades, the student will be dismissed from the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Students who retake a clinical course due to an original clinical course failure, and fail the retake, will be considered to have two failing grades.

## 2. ***Completion of forms***

Students are required to complete several forms prior to, during, and before the end of the clinical education experience. Students earn points for each item if completed by the deadline outlined. If not completed by the deadline, no points will be awarded.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Points</i>
Clinical requirements completed	4 weeks prior to start date	30
Email objectives to clinical instructor	2 weeks prior to start date	15
Complete Clinical Information Form (CIF)	By end of first week	15
Complete CPI self-evaluation	End of week 5*	20
Complete CPI self-evaluation	End of week 10*	20
Complete weekly planning forms	Week 1	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Each student will be awarded full points unless, upon DCE request, the student does not turn in within the required 24 hours. Failure to submit once requested will result in a 10 point deduction for each incident.</i></li> </ul>	Week 2	10
	Week 3	10
	Week 4	10
	Week 5	10
	Week 6	10
	Week 7	10
	Week 8	10
	Week 9	10
Complete Student Final Assessment of Experience in Acadaware	Prior to last day <i>(do not include specific names)</i>	5
Complete Student Evaluation of Clinical Instructor in Acadaware	Prior to last day	5
	<i>Total points</i>	<i>200</i>

\* Or prior to meeting with clinical instructor (whichever comes first)

### 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 falls out of compliance with health requirements during the clinical experience, the final course grade will be lowered 10%.*

*Students are expected to communicate with designated DCE to arrange midterm visit.*

### **Final Grade:**

*Final grade for this course is determined by a combination of meeting passing clinical performance and meeting 70% minimum competency in graded categories. Points are awarded and deducted as outlined above to determine final grade. Students failing to meet the 70% minimum competency will receive a*

course failure. Failure to pass the clinical performance category will result in course failure even if the 70% minimum competency in other categories is met.

### **Grading System:**

The following letter grading scale will be used:

A = 90 -100%

B = 80 -89%

C = 70 – 79%

F = < 70%

### **Professional Behaviors:**

Students are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors and assessment of these behaviors is included in this course as part of the grading. These behaviors include, but are not limited to: punctuality, attentiveness, participation, professional appearance and attire, interpersonal relations, attitudes, neatness and punctuality of work, completion of required tasks, and preparation. More specific expectations are outlined in the ATSU Doctor of Physical Therapy Student Manual. The instructor reserves the right to deduct a maximum of 12% from the course grade for unprofessional behavior. Students demonstrating unprofessional behavior in multiple courses or other program activities will be referred to the Physical Therapy Academic Review Board.

### **Attendance:**

A student is required to attend all scheduled clinical days.

#### **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 first request approval of anticipated absences from the assigned DCE by telephone or email. 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 in the ATSU University Catalog. For more information visit:

[Link to 20-21 Student Handbook: with Code of Behavioral Standards](#)

#### **Post of Grades by the 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: [Link to 20-21 ATSU Policies: Student Records, FERPA](#) ; [Link to 20-21 ATSU Policies: Grading](#)

#### **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](mailto:disabilityresources@atsu.edu), 660.626.2774 Missouri campus, or 480.245.6248 Arizona campus. For more information visit: [Link to Learning and Disability Resources homepage](#)

### **Title IX Reporting: Discrimination, Harassment, Trauma, 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.

A range of resources are available within the University to assist any student struggling with trauma or stress. The Student Affairs website includes information about resources such as: counseling, self-help, student handbook, catalogs, etc.

For assistance or more information contact:

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

STUDENT AFFAIRS - 660.626.2236 / 480.248.8137 ([Link to Department of Student Affairs - Contact Us](#))

TITLE IX OFFICE - 660.626.2113 ( [titleix@atsu.edu](mailto:titleix@atsu.edu) )

Approved by Council of Deans: 10-12-2016

Approved by Senior VP for Academic Affairs: 10-12-2016

Amended to add Title IX reporting information 5-24-2017

Amended format and updated links 1-11-2018

Amended to update links 1-18-2018

Amended to update links 7-17-2019

Amended to update links, address possibility of hybrid courses, and change LMS 5-27-2020