

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

**DPTR9280 Clinical Experience III  
Course Syllabus  
2021-2022**

**Course Instructor:**

Tracy Ellison, PT, DPT  
[tracyellison@atsu.edu](mailto:tracyellison@atsu.edu)  
Office (480)-219-6024  
Cell: (616) 634-3646  
Department Fax: (480) 219-6100

**Description:**

The second full-time terminal clinical education experience. A ten-week, full-time clinical internship under the supervision of a licensed professional. During the week experience, the student will apply physical therapy principles learned in the first two years of didactic work. Clinical education 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:**

All courses in the first two years of the curriculum

**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. Demonstrate safe practice that minimizes risk to patient, self, and others. (CL6, 7D28, 7D32, 7D33, 7D37, SR3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
2. Practice ethical decision making consistent with the APTA Code of Ethics, Core Values, and Professional Code of Conduct. (AL5 7D1, 7D4, 7D5, 7D28, SR3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
3. Exhibit professional behaviors consistent with the APTA Code of Ethics, Core Values, and Professional Code of Conduct. (AL5, 7D1, 7D4, 7D5, 7D28, SR3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
4. Display appropriate therapist/patient relationships. (AL5, 7D1, 7D4, 7D5, 7D7, 7D8, L6, SR3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
5. Communicate effectively with all individuals when engaged in physical therapy practice, including patients, clients, families, caregivers, other members of the health care team, consumers and payers. (AL5, 7D5, 7D7, 7D8, 7D12, 7D24, 7D36, IS1, IC1,3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
6. Collect pertinent history during patient interview. (CL5, 7D17, 7D18)
7. Plan appropriate tests and measures based on health condition. (CL5, 7D19a-w)
8. Apply appropriate test and measures in a systematic way (CL5, 7D19a-w)
9. Construct comprehensive patient care management, including applying the scientific principles underlying each treatment. (CL5, 7D10, 7D11, 7D20, 7D27a-i, CT1-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
10. Evaluate patient observations, research/clinical knowledge, medical records and PT examination data to develop appropriate PT evaluation, diagnoses, plan of care and prognosis. (CL6, 7D9, 7D10, 7D11, 7D20, 7D21, 7D22, 7D26, CT1,2,3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
11. Modify treatment plan to maximize patient outcomes. (CL5, 7D24, 7D30, 7D31, CT3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
12. Establish goals and functional outcomes that specify expected time duration. (CL5, 7D23, 7D24, 7D26, CT1,3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
13. Evaluate the need for further examination or consultation by a physical therapist or for referral to another health care professional. (CL6, 7D4, 7D5, 7D16, 7D35, CT1, IC1,2-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
14. Perform tests and measures to accurately gather data. (PL4, 7D19a-w)
15. Implement physical therapy interventions in a safe manner. (PL4, 7D27a-i)
16. Adapt physical therapy interventions to enhance patient performance and functional outcomes. (PL4, 7D27a-i)

17. Consider key members of the healthcare team including patients, clients, family members, payers and other professionals to determine a realistic and acceptable plan of care. (CL6, 7D5, 7D7, 7D24, 7D26, 7D36, 7D39, IS1,2, IC1,2,3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
18. Advocate consistently for patients and clients through communication with family members, payers, and other professionals. (AL5, 7D5, 7D7, 7D24, 7D26, 7D36, 7D39, IS1,2, IC1,2,3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
19. Produce written reports/documents that are effective, appropriate, thorough and timely. (CL5, 7D1, 7D32, 7D42)
20. Delegate appropriate activities during the supervision of support staff. (CL6, 7D1, 7D4, 7D5, 7D25, 7D28, 7D29, IS1, IC1,2-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
21. Implement personal/professional growth and development using constructive feedback and self-assessment. (AL5, 7D5, 7D15, CT3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)
22. Display sensitivity toward individual and cultural differences, not allowing biases to impact the patient-provider relationship. (AL5, 7D5, 7D8, CP1,2,3-MZ-Clinical Performance Instrument)

#### **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

Students failing to achieve passing clinical performance or the minimum 70% competency 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 second ten-week clinical education experience, students are expected to be between a rating of **Advanced Intermediate and Entry Level 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 exceeded 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 exceed Advanced Intermediate within an additional two weeks or less and only if the clinical site agrees to the schedule. Upon successful achievement ratings between Advanced Intermediate and Entry Level, 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 a rating between Advanced Intermediate and Entry Level 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 experience, alteration of the clinical experience 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 will be required. Alterations to the clinical experience 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 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 profile to clinical instructor	2 weeks prior to start date	15
Complete Clinical Instructor details in EXXAT	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
	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 Site Evaluation in EXXAT	Prior to last day <i>(do not include specific names)</i>	5

Complete Clinical Instructor Evaluation in EXXAT	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 including, but not limited to, punctuality, attentiveness, participation, professional appearance and attire, interpersonal relations, attitudes, neatness and punctuality of work, and preparation. More specific expectations are outlined in the ATSU Doctor of Physical Therapy Student Manual. 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 through EXXAT. If the request is approved, the student will receive confirmation of approval through EXXAT and the student may then request approval of the absence from the clinical site. The student will then communicate with the assigned DCE the final decision. Unexpected absences must be reported as soon as the student is able to do so. The student may be required to make up 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 the student to make up any 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](#)

[Handbook: with Code of Behavioral Standards](#)

### **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: [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](tel:660.626.2790) ( [hr@atsu.edu](mailto:hr@atsu.edu) )

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



TITLE IX OFFICE - [660.626.2113](tel: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