

PTHER 522: Clinical Practice V

Course Description Hands-on clinical application of learned academic coursework in approved clinical sites.

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Office Hours The course coordinator may be contacted via email or phone to address any questions or concerns that may arise during your placement(s). Appointments, as needed, can be scheduled at times that are mutually convenient.

Placement Times / Location This is a six-week placement and is scheduled as follows:

September 2 to October 10, 2025 (240 hours)

The placements are full-time – i.e. +/-40 hours / week. The exact hours of the clinical placements will be required to coordinate with those of the Clinical Instructors. Flex hours (i.e. shifts, evenings and weekends) are possible and may be required.

The ACCE will attempt to place you in locations of choice. However, given availability of placements, you may need to complete these clinical courses outside your location of choice in order to meet the requirements of the program. Accommodation and travel expenses are your responsibility.

Course Goals The global goals of this 6-week placement course is to offer you:

- further experience with hands-on practice with increasing independence
- the opportunity to further develop your professional behaviors
- opportunity to enhance interprofessional collaboration
- experience with appropriate delegation to support personnel

You will need to commit to active-learning in order to optimize your learning in the placement.

Student Expectations

- Prepare for the placement.
 - Research conditions likely to be encountered.
 - Check the web for a Placement Profile on your specific placement. This will help direct your review and preparation for your placements.
 - Write a letter of intent and forward it and a résumé to your site contact well in advance of the start of the placement.
 - 100% attendance
 - Write learning goals in collaboration with the Clinical instructor. This process should begin before the placement begins and “fine tuned” with the therapist in the first week.
 - Behave professionally – this begins even before the placement begins and must be continued throughout the placement
 - Participate actively – this will include but not limited to: demonstrating appropriate initiative (leadership) in researching background knowledge, communicating with your CI and suggesting to your CI activities where you could take leadership
 - Work collaboratively
 - Use learning resources and seek out supplementary resources to enhance learning

Key Learning Objectives You are expected to build on the learning from the prior clinical placements. In addition, by the **end of PTher 522**, and in line with the **Essential Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada (2017) and Assessment of Clinical Performance, (ACP)** you will:

1. As an Expert in function and mobility, students will use clinical reasoning to help provide quality care to enhance the health and wellbeing of clients.
 - a. Employ a client-centred approach. (1.1)
 - b. Obtain relevant information and perform appropriate tests and measures to conduct a physiotherapy assessment. (1.3.1, 1.3.7)
 - c. Interpret assessment finding and relevant information to develop a physiotherapy assessment (1.4.1, 1.4.3)
 - d. Establish physiotherapy goals and determine an intervention plan (1.5.1, 1.5.2)
 - e. Monitor client status during interventions and modify plan as indicated (1.5.5, 1.5.7)

- f. Evaluate client outcomes and goal attainment (1.6.1)
 - g. Act in a manner that respects client uniqueness, diversity and autonomy, and is in the client's best interest (1.1.1)
 - h. Monitor and respond to client status during interventions (1.5.5)
- 2. Through effective **Communication** strategies develop therapeutic and professional relationships with clients, families, care providers and team members by:
 - a. Use effective verbal, non-verbal, and written and communications(2.1, 2.2)
 - b. Listen actively, to build trust and foster exchange of information (2.1.2)
 - c. Give and receive feedback in a constructive manner (2.1.4)
 - d. Prepare comprehensive and accurate health records and other documents appropriate to purpose. (2.2.3)
 - e. Adjust communication strategy consistent with purpose and setting (2.3.1)
- 3. Work **Collaboratively** and effectively to promote inter and intra professional care by:
 - a. Facilitated collaborative relationships with CI and other team members, maintaining mutually supportive working relationships. (3.2, 3.2.4)
 - b. Recognize conflict, respond constructively and apply conflict resolution principle in a structured fashion (3.4.1, 3.4.2)
 - c. Identify practice situation that may benefit from collaborative care(3.1.1)
- 4. **Manage** self, time, resources and priorities to ensure safe, effective and sustainable services through:
 - a. Manage your own time effectively, , showing initiative and preparing for your clients (4.2.3)
 - b. Management and supervision of support personnel in the provision of physical therapy services (4.5).
 - c. Adhere to individual, team and system-level safety practices, and apply best practices for infection control (4.3.3, 4.3.4)
 - d. **The student is capable of maintaining approximately 75% of a full-time therapist's caseload.**
 - e. **Requires clinical supervision less than 25% of the time managing new patients or patients with complex conditions and is independent in managing patients with simple conditions**

5. Use **Leadership** to advocate for a health system and well-being of clients, and societies by:
 - a. Advocate for accessibility and sustainability of physiotherapy and other services across the continuum of care.(5.1.1)
 - b. Promote the value of physiotherapy to client health (5.3.1)
6. Demonstrate a commitment to **Scholarship** and excellence in practice through continuous learning, education of others and evaluation of evidence by:
 - a. Integrating self-reflection and external feedback to improve personal practice (6.3)
 - b. Maintaining currency with developments relevant to the area of practice (6.4)
 - c. Access reliable sources of information and critically appraise information (6.2.2, 6.2.3)
7. Consistently display highest standards of **Professional** behaviors, including:
 - a. Complying with legal and ethical requirements(7.1)
 - b. Maintain confidentiality and privacy(7.1.3)
 - c. Maintain awareness of issues and advances affecting the health system locally, nationally and globally (7.3.1)
 - d. Behave with honesty, respect for others and in a manner that values diversity. (7.4.1, 7.4.2)

(Note: numbers in brackets represent essential competencies)

Measures that the Learning Objectives have been achieved Your CI will evaluate your performance relative to each of the above learning objectives. Their feedback may be **formative** and occur informally throughout the placement. At two points during each placement the feedback will be structured – at the midterm evaluation and the final **summative** evaluation. At these two formal evaluations, the ACP will be used.

Required / Recommended Resources

- Required:
 - *MScPT Student Manual*
 - *All evaluation forms are on HSPnet*
- You are required to take the following documentation on placement in case you are asked for them:
 - Documentation regarding health and immunization records
 - Basic Life Support (BLS) level CPR certification
 - Police Information Check, as required
 - N-95 Fit-test documentation, as required

The Clinical Education website, Department of Physical Therapy, is a resource that you may use during your placement

(<http://rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/departments/physical-therapy/clinical-education/students>)

Assigned/required documentation that must be completed while on placement

It is expected that you will:

1. Collaborate with your Clinical Instructor to formulate a **learning goal** for each placement. This should be done in the first week of the placement. **Your “Starting the Placement document” must be submitted to the ACCE via eClass by 11:59 pm on the Friday of the first week of placement.**
2. Submit your **completed self-evaluation ACP** to both the midterm and final evaluation sessions with your CI. Presenting your self-evaluation contributes to open communication between you and your CI and is an essential component of professional practice. (6.6.1)
3. Complete **one minor project** during each placement. Examples of appropriate projects include a case study or a presentation of key evidence to address a clinical question, patient education resource or a literature review. This should be your original work. **A copy of the project must be submitted to ACCE, via eClass, no later than 11:59 pm on the last Friday of placement for review**
4. Complete the **Student Evaluation of Clinical Placement on HSPnet** by 11:59 pm on Friday of the last day of placement.
5. Update the Activity Tracker on HSPnet throughout the placement (6.6.1). This is done through HSPnet.
6. Reflect on your performance at the end of this placement, incorporating your own evaluation of performance as well as your CIs. This is to be submitted on eClass by 11:59 pm on **Sunday after your placement ends**, and will form the basis for future learning goals. Review your ACP evaluation from your Clinical Instructor. Looking at the last page, read over the areas of strength and areas for improvement. There are guiding questions for the reflection on the eClass Google Assignment

By reflecting on your current performance, identifying knowledge gaps and areas for improvement and then focusing your energies on them, you will facilitate improved performance and clinical practice.

Assigned Documentation Deadline Dates – (due 11:59 pm)

Starting the Placement document	Friday, September 5, 2025
Self Evaluation Midterm	Agreed upon date with CI (HSPnet) approx Friday September 19, 2025
Self Final Evaluation	Friday October 10, 2025 in time for discussion with CI (HSPnet)
Minor Project	Friday October 10, 2025
Student Evaluation of Clinical Placement	Friday October 10, 2025 (HSPnet)
Reflection	Sunday October 12, 2025

NOTE: These required documents are equivalent to placement assignments and must be submitted by the stipulated deadline dates. If any of the assignments are missing, a penalty will result (see Marking section below).

Course Grading Credit/No credit The Department of Physical Therapy expects all students to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 throughout the MScPT program. The Department of Physical Therapy will consider recommending to FGSR that a student be placed on academic probation if a student's cumulative GPA is below 3.0.

Marking

In order to pass this clinical course, you must:

- consistently demonstrate safe physical therapy practice
- consistently display appropriate professional behaviour and communication skills
- achieve acceptable ratings / rankings on the ACP

Professionalism Expectations

- 1) Adheres to local dress code
- 2) Demonstrates respect for the time of others.
 - a. Arrives on time each day and fully prepared for scheduled activities and appointments
 - b. Gives adequate notice and explanation for absenteeism. Contacts CI and ACCE in a timely manner.

- c. Responds promptly when contacted by ACCE/CECC or CI
- 3) Demonstrates effective time management skills.
 - a. Completes assigned tasks and patient care activities on time
 - b. Meets all deadlines for assignments and placement documentation.
- 4) Shows the ability to balance own needs with the needs of others
 - a. Suspends external personal needs to focus on the task or interaction
 - b. Takes responsibility for own physical and mental health and refrains from practicing physiotherapy while their ability to provide appropriate and competent care is compromised.
- 5) Maintains confidentiality of patient information
 - a. Demonstrates ethical, responsible and respectful use of electronic communication, social media and other forms of digital technology, conforming to confidentiality guidelines in line with local site policies and standards of practice of the College of Physiotherapists of Alberta.
 - b. Exchanges using electronic communication and social media are appropriate for therapeutic relationships established with patients and supervising therapists.
 - c. Accesses only relevant patient information/data when providing professional services for the specific patient, in keeping with legislative compliance.
- 6) Demonstrates non-biased, non- discriminatory behaviour and communication, and is inclusive of all people. Demonstrates tolerance of and respect for others with differing opinions.
- 7) Maintains professional boundaries that honour and respect the therapeutic relationship with patients.
 - a. Establishes and maintains professional boundaries and does not make abusive, suggestive or harassing comments or engage in inappropriate physical contact or sexual advances with patients, colleagues, students, and others.
- 8) Acts honestly, transparently and with integrity in all professional and business practices to uphold the reputation of the profession.
- 9) Accepts constructive feedback and modifies behavior appropriately
 - a. Takes steps to prevent repetition of errors
 - b. Maintains composure during difficult interactions with colleagues
 - c. Takes personal responsibility for expressing own feelings
- 10) Commits to maintaining and enhancing the reputation and standing of the physiotherapy profession, and to inspiring public trust and confidence by treating everyone with dignity and respect in all interactions.

Adapted from the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethical Conduct for Physiotherapists in Alberta and Professional Behaviour Rubric MacKenzie et al, 2004.

A grade of No Credit will be assigned in the following circumstances:

The student's clinical or professional conduct does not meet the standard for the course as evidenced by:

- unsafe clinical practice
- unsatisfactory professional conduct
- clinical/professional skills are not competent for level of training
- The clinical educator/site withdraws the placement for reasons of unsatisfactory clinical or professional conduct
- The student withdraws from a placement after being informed that clinical or professional conduct may lead to a grade of No Credit

In any of these cases, and in accordance with the Practicum Intervention Policy, conditions may be placed on any future placement by the Dean or designate.

In order to receive credit for the placement, you must:

- obtain credit *(CR+, CR or CR-) on the overall recommendation from your CI
- submit the required documentation outlined above.

The recommendation from the Clinical supervisor will be taken into account by the ACCE in assigning the final grade for the course.

The required documents are considered placement assignments and must be submitted in the time frames stipulated above. Failure to do so may result in your overall mark being downgraded i.e. Credit with exception performance → Credit → Credit with reservation → No Credit. This will impact out of province and international placement requests. The grades will be submitted to FGSR 5 days after the end of the course/placement. At this point a change in grade is not typically allowed.

***Explanation of recommendations:**

Credit with Exceptional Performance (CR+) This ranking indicates that your **overall** performance has been significantly better than would have been expected of a student at your experience level. While the University transcript presents the course

grade as CREDIT, you will know that your overall performance was outstanding.

Credit (CR) This ranking indicates that you have successfully completed the clinical placement and you will receive CREDIT. You may have demonstrated areas of strength and areas requiring continued work, but your overall performance was that expected of a student at your experience level.

Credit with Reservation (CR-) This recommendation indicates that significant areas of weakness have been identified in certain areas of your performance. The student will receive a grade of CREDIT for the course. However, the student will be required to complete a **remedial** placement in an area of practice specified by the ACCE (in consultation with the CI). This remedial placement will normally be organized for the next available placement.

No Credit (NC) This ranking indicates that you have not met the expectations. The transcript will indicate a NO CREDIT grade. You will be required to complete a **repeat** placement in the same general area of practice in order to meet the placement requirement and graduate from the program. This will be in additional placement and will lengthen your program and delay graduation.

As this is a graduate program you are permitted to Fail one course. Should you Fail two courses you will be asked to leave the program – see failure policy
MScPT Student Manual

Cell phone use: The Department of Physical Therapy places professional behaviour in the highest regard. The use of cell phones (voice, text or data) in patient care areas is considered unprofessional behaviour and is strictly forbidden.

Unauthorized Absence: Any unauthorized absence from clinical practice is regarded as a serious breach of discipline and a lack of professional conduct. The site may refuse to allow the student to continue their placement and will result in a Fail grade.

Academic Accommodations: Students are advised to review the University of Alberta's Reasonable Accommodation Policy (see University GFC Policy Manual (Section 44.8) and the University's Policy for Students with Disabilities (Section 108.5). The University of Alberta will take reasonable steps to accommodate individuals who are disadvantaged by employment, tenancy or educational rules, standards, policies or practices because of their race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical or mental disability, marital status, age, ancestry, place of origin, family status, source of income, sexual orientation, or political belief, to the extent required by law. (GFC Policy).

Requests for accommodations for clinical placements MUST be discussed with both the ACCE and Associate Chair or designate well in advance of any clinical placement. In addition, students must also contact Accessibility Resources (AR).

Student Academic Integrity Policy

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the *Student Academic Integrity Policy* and the *Student Conduct Policy* (on the [University of Alberta Policies and Procedures Online](#) (UAPPOL) website) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.