

PTHER 521 Clinical Practice IV

Course Description

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

Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE) and Course Coordinator

Heather Bredy

t: 780-492-3724

e: heather.bredy@ualberta.ca

Calgary Coordinator of Clinical Education

Gabriela Abbud

e: abbud@ualberta.ca

Clinical Education Administrator

Danielle Vallee

e: ptclined@ualberta.ca

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 May 4 to June 12, 2025

The placements is 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 (ie. 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 these 6-week placement courses are 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 be expected to bring your clinical learning back to the classroom, and 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
- complete the assignment ***Starting the Placement*** in collaboration / consultation 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 previous clinical placements. In addition, by the **end of PTH 521**, and in line with the **Essential Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada (2017) and Assessment of Clinical Performance (ACP)** you will:

1. Consistently display appropriate **Professional** behaviors, including:
 - a. Conducting yourself within legal and ethical requirements (6.7.1)
 - b. Respecting the individuality and autonomy of your clients (6.2.1; 6.7.2)
 - c. Contributing to the development of the profession (6.7.3)
2. Promote, improve and maintain the mobility, health and well-being of your clients as an **Expert** in function and mobility by:
 - a. Collecting assessment data relevant to your clients' needs and physiotherapy practice (6.1.1; 6.2.2)
 - b. Analyzing your assessment findings (6.1.2)
 - c. Establishing a physiotherapy diagnosis and prognosis (6.1.2)
 - d. Developing, implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of an intervention strategy (6.1.3; 6.1.4)
 - e. Managing the completion of physiotherapy services (6.1.4)
 - f. Adjusting appropriately for range of clients' physical abilities (6.1.1; 6.1.3)
 - g. Appropriately adapting to unforeseen situations (6.1.1; 6.1.3; 6.4.3)
3. Through effective **Communication** develop professional relationships with clients, families, care providers and team members by:
 - a. Developing, building and maintaining rapport, trust and ethical professional relationships through effective communication (6.2.1)

- b. Analyzing, recording and sharing information (6.1.2; 6.2.3)
 - c. Take lead and present patients for whom you are responsible at team rounds (6.2.2; 6.2.3; 6.3.1)
 - d. Employing effective verbal, non-verbal, written and electronic communications (6.2.3)
4. Work **Collaboratively** and effectively to promote interprofessional practice and achieve optimal client centered care by:
- a. Establishing and maintaining interprofessional relationships with your CI and other team members which foster effective client centered collaboration (6.3.1)
 - b. Collaborating with others to prevent, manage and resolve conflict (6.3.2)
 - c. Identifying the need for appropriate health professional referrals to ensure optimal client outcomes (6.3.1)
5. **Manage** time, resources and priorities for individual practice to ensure optimal client care through:
- a. Attempts at effective management of your own practice including time management, showing initiative and preparing for your clients (6.4.1).
Preparation will include time outside of the regular placement hours.
 - b. Management and supervision of support personal in the provision of physical therapy services as applicable (6.4.2)
 - c. Participating in activities that contribute to safe and effective physical therapy practice (6.4.3)
 - d. **By the end of the placement, the student is capable of managing approximately 50% of a fulltime physical therapist's caseload** (6.4.1)
 - e. **By the end of the placement the student requires clinical supervision less than 50% of the time managing patients with simple conditions and 75% of the time managing patients with complex conditions.** (6.6.1)
6. **Advocate** for the health and well-being of clients, communities and populations as well as the promotion of the profession by:
- a. Working collaboratively to identify and respond to the health needs of clients, population and communities (6.5.1)
 - b. Behaving as an ambassador for the profession of physical therapy(6.5.1; 6.7.1; 6.7.3)
7. Improve client outcomes through the application and dissemination of best practice evidence and the **translation of knowledge** to physical therapy practice by:
- a. Using a reflective approach to practice (6.6.1)
 - b. Incorporating lifelong learning and experiences into best practice (6.6.1; 6.6.2)
 - c. Engaging in scholarly enquiry (6.6.2)

(Note: numbers in brackets represent Accreditation criteria)

Please refer to *MScPT Student Manual* for further details of the specific objectives.

Measures that the Learning Objectives have been achieved

Your CI will evaluate your performance relative to each of the above learning objectives. His/her 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 Assessment of Clinical Performance (ACP) instrument will be used.

As part of your professional development, it is required that you complete a self-evaluation for both the midterm and final evaluations.

Required / Recommended Resources

- Required:
 - *MScPT Student Manual*
- Please make sure you have access to the following documentation in case you are asked for them:
 - Documentation regarding health and immunization records
 - Basic Life Support (BLS) level CPR certification
 - Police Information Check
 - Fit-test documentation, as required

The website for the Clinical Program, Department of Physical Therapy, is a resource that you may use during your placement.

Assigned/required documentation that must be completed while on placement

It is expected that you will:

1. Collaborate with your Clinical Instructor to complete the **Starting the Placement** document for each placement. This should be done in the first week of the placement. **The Starting the Placement document must be submitted via your ePortfolio and eClass by the end of the first week of the placement** (6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.7)
2. On HSPnet submit your **completed ACP self-evaluation** for both the midterm and final evaluation sessions with your CI. Submitting 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 a **minor project in three out of five placements**. Examples of an appropriate project include a case study or a presentation of key evidence to address a clinical question. This should be your original work. **A one-page summary or a copy of the handout used for each project presentation must be posted on your ePortfolio and Canvas no later than 23:59 on the last Friday of the placement for review** (6.2.3; 6.6.2)
4. Complete the **Student Evaluation of Clinical Placement form** by 11:59 pm on the final Friday of the placement. This is done electronically and is found on HSPnet.
5. Update your Clinical Learning Record throughout the placement (6.6.1). This is done through the clinical learning record accessed through Canvas.

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 posted in your ePortfolio and eClass by **23:59 on the Sunday after your placement ends, and will form the basis for future learning plans.**

Reflection Guidelines:

Please answer reflection questions as per document in Assignments on Canvas.

Assigned Documentation	Deadline Date
Starting the Placement Document	Friday, May 8, 2026
Self Evaluation – Mid-term	Friday, May 22, 2026
Minor project	Friday, June 12, 2026
Self Evaluation - Final Student Evaluation of Site	Friday, June 12, 2026 Friday, June 12, 2026
Reflection	Sunday, June 14, 2026

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 FAIL/NC 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 FAIL
- unsatisfactory professional conduct

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 will result in your overall mark being downgraded i.e. Credit with exceptional performance → Credit, Credit → Credit with reservation, Credit with reservation → No credit.

This may impact on 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 consistently performed below the expected level and/or demonstrated significant deficits in professionalism, communication, safety or clinical reasoning. 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.

Students that have received Credit with Reservation or No Credit will be placed on Academic Probation until successful completion of the next placement. The student will need to maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and must pass subsequent placements with a recommendation of “Credit with exceptional performance” or “Credit”.

As this is a graduate program you are permitted to Fail one course only.

Should you Fail two courses the Department may request of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research that you be required to withdraw from 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. All absences, except illness, MUST be approved in writing by the ACCE prior to the absence. If this is not done, the absence will be considered unauthorized and will result in a grade of No Credit.

Withdrawals

See the University Calendar for the relevant [add/drop deadlines](#) for each term.

Course Outlines

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Academic Regulations, Evaluation Procedures and Grading section](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Academic Integrity

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.

Accommodations for Students

In accordance with the University of Alberta's [Accommodation Policy](#) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#), accommodation support is available to eligible students who encounter limitations or restrictions to their ability to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary level due to medical conditions and/or non-medical protected grounds. Accommodations are coordinated through the [Academic Success Centre](#), and students can learn more about eligibility on the [Register for Accommodations website](#).

It is recommended that students apply **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** in order to ensure sufficient time to complete accommodation registration and coordination. Students are advised to review and adhere to published deadlines for accommodation approval and for specific accommodation requests (e.g., exam registration submission deadlines). Students who request accommodations less than a month in advance of the academic term for which they require accommodations may experience unavoidable delays or consequences in their academic programs, and may need to consider alternative academic schedules.

Faculty Policy

Students in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine may appeal failing final course grades and/or practicum interventions. Students should refer to the FRM Appeals Policy for more information.

Physical Therapy Department Academic Performance Expectations

The Physical Therapy (PT) Department supports and adheres to the Faculty of Graduate and Post Doctorate Studies (FGPS) policies outlined in the Graduate Program Manual available at: <http://www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca/gradmanual>. In addition, the PT Department has set specific additional expectations regarding student performance and academic standing, as follows:

- Each student must successfully complete all courses (academic and clinical) in the

- MScPT program; and
- Each student must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 throughout the MScPT program.

Physical Therapy Department Academic Probation Policy

If any one or more of the following occur, the PT Department will consider making a recommendation to FGSR to place the student concerned on Academic Probation:

- First failure of a MScPT academic or clinical course
- Recommendation of a 'Borderline Pass' from a Clinical Instructor in a clinical course
- Cumulative GPA is below 3.0

Physical Therapy Department Failure Policy

- **Note:** The PT Department has an additional policy for failure of a clinical course (see Failure of a Clinical Course in the Student Academic Handbook).
- The PT Department will recommend to FGSR that a student who fails an academic or a clinical course be allowed to repeat the course once.
- If the repeated course is not passed (including an alternative delivery course), the PT Department will make a recommendation to FGSR that the student be required to withdraw from the program.
- When a student is on academic probation as a consequence of the student failing a course, if there is another failed academic or clinical course, the student's academic standing will be reviewed and the PT Department will consider a recommendation to FGSR that the student be required to withdraw from the program.
- If a student fails another academic or clinical course after a cleared academic probation which was a consequence of the student failing a course, the student's academic standing will be reviewed and the PT Department will consider a recommendation to FGSR that the student be required to withdraw from the program. (December 2010)

Practicum Intervention Policy

The University has an obligation to protect the public interest, public safety, and public health by ensuring that Students in Practicums conform to accepted standards of professional, competent and safe practice in their work with patients, clients, and co-workers. [This Policy](#) provides Deans with the authority to intervene in the Practicum of a Student and/or an associated Professional Program because of such concerns. The Dean's authority is balanced by the granting of appeal rights to a Student who is the subject of a Practicum Intervention.

