

PTHER 523 Clinical Placement VI

Course Outline

Course Calendar Description Clinical practice in approved clinical sites.

Course Instructor/Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education

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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 scheduled from **October 14 to November 21, 2025** (240 hours).

The placement is full-time – i.e. ~40 hours / week. The exact hours of the clinical practice will coordinate with those of the Clinical Instructor. Flex hours (i.e. shifts, evenings and weekends) are possible and may be required.

The ACCE will attempt to place you in a location of choice. However, given availability of a placement, you may need to complete this clinical course outside your location of choice. 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 behaviours
- 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.

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 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 Starting the Placement Document and review with your Clinical Instructor 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
- 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 523**, and in line with the **Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada (2017) and the Assessment of Clinical Performance (ACP)**, you will:

1. Consistently display appropriate **Professional** behaviors, including:
 - a. Conducting yourself within legal and ethical requirements (1.2, 7.1, 7.2)
 - b. Respecting the individuality and autonomy of your clients (1.1, 1.1.1)
 - c. Contributing to the development of the profession (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 (1.3.1, 1.3.3)
 - b. Analyzing your assessment findings (1.4.1)
 - c. Establishing a physiotherapy diagnosis and prognosis (1.4.3)
 - d. Developing, implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of an intervention strategy (1.5.1, 1.5.2)
 - e. Managing the completion of physiotherapy services (1.5.3)

- f. Adjusting appropriately for range of clients' physical abilities(1.5.5, 1.5.3, 1.5.7)
 - g. Appropriately adapting to unforeseen situations (1.5.5, 1.5.6, 1.5.7)
- 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 (1.1.5, 2.1, 2.2)
 - b. Analyzing, recording and sharing information (2.2, 2.3)
 - c. Take lead and present patients for whom you are responsible at team rounds (3.2, 3.3.2, 3.3.3)
 - d. Employing effective verbal, non-verbal, written and electronic communications (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)
- 4. Work **Collaboratively** and effectively to promote interprofessional practice and achieve optimal client centered care by:
 - a. Establishing and maintaining interprofessional relationships with CI and other team members which foster effective client centered collaboration (3.2, 3.3)
 - b. Collaborating with others to prevent, manage and resolve conflict (3.4)
 - c. Recognizing the need for appropriate health professional referrals to ensure optimal client outcomes (3.1.1, 3.2.3)
- 5. **Manage** time, resources and priorities for individual practice to ensure optimal client care through:
 - a. Effective management your own practice including time management, showing initiative and preparing for your clients (4.2)
 - b. Management and supervision of support personnel in the provision of physical therapy services(4.5)
 - c. Participating in activities that contribute to safe and effective physical therapy practice (4.2, 4.3) **Student is capable of maintaining at minimum a 75% of a full-time physical therapists caseload in a cost effective manner** (4.2, 4.3)
 - d. **Requires infrequent clinical supervision managing patients with simple conditions and minimal supervision/guidance in managing patients with complex conditions** (4.2, 4.3)
- 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 (5.1)
 - b. Behaving as an ambassador for the profession of physical therapy (5.1, 5.3)

7. Improve client outcomes through the application, application and dissemination of best practice evidence and the **translation of knowledge** to physical therapy practice by:

- a. Using a reflective approach to practice (6.3)
- b. Incorporating lifelong learning and experiences into best practice (6.4, 6.5)
- c. Engaging in scholarly enquiry (6.2)

(Note: numbers in brackets represent Accreditation criteria)

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 throughout the placement. At two points during the placement the feedback will be structured – at the midterm evaluation and the final **summative** evaluation. At these two times, the ACP will be used.

As part of your professional development and reflective practice, you are required to complete a self-evaluation for both the midterm and final evaluations.

Required / Recommended Resources

Required: *MScPT Student Manual*

Required for possible presentation at your clinical site:

- evaluation forms for the placement
- Documentation regarding health and immunization records
- Basic Life Support (BLS) level CPR certification
- Police Information check
- Fit-test documentation

The web site for the Clinical Program, Department of Physical Therapy (<http://rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/departments/physical-therapy/clinical-education/students>), may be helpful to you 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. This should be done in the first week of the placement.
Your Starting the Placement Document must be submitted to the ACCE via Canvas by 11:59 pm on Friday of the first week of placement. (6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.7)

2. Bring 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. This should be your original work. **A one-page summary or a copy of the handout used for each project presentation must be submitted to ACCE, via Canvas, no later than 11:59 pm on the last Friday of the placement for review** (6.2.3; 6.6.2)
4. Complete the **Student Evaluation of Clinical Placement on HSPnet** by 11:59 pm on the last Friday of placement.
5. Update your Clinical Learning Record throughout the placement (6.6.1).
6. Reflect on your performance at the end of this placement as per the questions on the Reflection Google Assignment that is posted on Canvas. This is to be submitted on Canvas by 11:59 pm on Sunday after your placement ends. Review your ACP evaluation from your Clinical Instructor. Looking at the last page, read over the areas of strength and areas for improvement.

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 Date – due 11:59 pm

Starting the Placement document	October 17, 2025
Self Evaluation Mid term	October 31, 2025
Self evaluation Final	November 21, 2025
Minor project	November 21, 2025
Student Evaluation of Site, SECP on HSPnet	November 21, 2025
Reflection	November 23, 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 entry level 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

In any of these cases, conditions may be placed on any future placement by the Dean or

designate.

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

- obtain a Pass *(CR+, or CR) on the overall recommendation from your CI. **There is no Credit with Reservation option for this placement**
- submit the required documentation outlined above.

*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.

Fail (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. See failure policy in *MScPT Student Manual*.

As this is a graduate program you are permitted to fail one course. Should you fail any two courses you will be required to withdraw from the program

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. Pass with Distinction → Pass, Pass → Fail.

The grades will be submitted to FGSR five days after the end of the course/placement. At this point a change in grade is not typically allowed.

The recommendation from the CI will be taken into account by the ACCE in assigning the final mark and transcript grade for the course.

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.

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.

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 Department Chair or designate well in advance of any clinical placement. In addition, students are encouraged to contact Accessibility Resources

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<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/dean-of-students/services/student-conduct-accountability/student-conduct/academic/index.html>