

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

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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 April 25 – June 3, 2022

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
- Write a learning plan 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 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. Effective management 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.

Required / Recommended Resources

- Required:
 - *MScPT Student Manual*
- 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
 - Fit-test documentation, as required

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

<https://www.ualberta.ca/physical-therapy/clinical-education/students/index.html>

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 plan** for each placement. This should be done in the first week of the placement. **Your learning plan must be submitted via your ePortfolio and on eClass by 23:59 on Friday, May 6, 2022** (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 **one minor project** during each placement. 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 eClass no later than 23:59 on Friday, June 3, 2022 for review** (6.2.3; 6.6.2)
4. Complete the **Student Evaluation of Clinical Placement form** prior to the final evaluation; this is to be done online. Link to this evaluation is on HSPnet.
5. Update your Clinical Learning Record throughout the placement (6.6.1). This is done through the activity tracker on 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 posted in your ePortfolio and eClass by **23:59 on Sunday, June 5, 2022.**

Reflection Guidelines:

Review your ACP evaluation from your Clinical Instructor. Looking at the last page, read over the areas of strength and areas for improvement.

Review your self-evaluation of this placement.

- **To what extent is your self-evaluation similar to that of your CI's? Discuss the reasons for similarities or differences.**
- **Did you demonstrate the skills and behaviors overtly that would allow your CI to accurately evaluate your performance?**
- **Summarize your strengths and weaknesses – areas that require continued focus in upcoming placements.**
- **What might you do differently in your upcoming placement that will accurately demonstrate your performance of your physiotherapy skills?**
- **How will you incorporate your experiences from this placement to improve future clinical practice?**

Based on your and your CI's evaluation in this placement:

- **List at least two areas that you believe need focus in your next placement. These areas will, and should, form the basis of your goals for your learning plan in your subsequent placement.**

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
Learning plan	Friday, May 6, 2022
Self Evaluation – Mid-term	Friday, May 13, 2022
Minor project	Friday, June 3, 2022
Self Evaluation - Final	Friday, June 3, 2022
Student Evaluation of Site	Friday, June 3, 2022
Reflection	Sunday, June 5, 2022

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). Late assignments will not be marked.

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

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, 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.

Code of Student Behaviour

The Code of Student Behaviour will apply at all times during a clinical placement both on and off the University Campus. Further information on the code may be found in section 30 of the General Faculties Council Policy Manual.

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 must also contact Accessibility Resources (AR).

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standard 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 Code of Students Behaviour -online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm or <http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm> - 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. (GFC 29 SEP 2003)