

## **Prolonged Leave of Absence - Skills Screen Policy**

Following a Department sanctioned leave of absence from the MScPT program and therefore from the culture of the profession, a student may have regressed in the knowledge level and/or skill proficiency that is required to perform at an acceptable level on clinical placement. This puts the student at risk for poor performance and potential failure on a clinical placement, and more importantly puts the safety of the public in jeopardy. In addition, without this knowledge level and skill proficiency the student may be at a disadvantage academically in remaining MScPT courses.

The Department supports the continuity of safe and effective care provided by students within their clinical placements. When students have been absent from the program on an approved leave, the student will be required to successfully challenge a multi-station practical exam prior to being permitted to enrol in any clinical placement courses. The student must demonstrate competence in a number of practical stations; this exam acts as a screen for safe clinical practice. The number and type of stations will depend on the academic and clinical courses completed prior to the approved leave of absence; this will be decided by the associate chair and the ACCE in collaboration with course instructors. In other words, the student must demonstrate the expected competence level for a student at that point in the program. If the student does not successfully complete all stations of the exam, the student will be required to register in PTher 560 (Individual study). This will be a self-study course; faculty will provide resources and guidance for materials to be studied to enable the student to remediate in areas that are below the acceptable standard. At the end of the course the student will be required to pass another practical exam for clinical areas failed in the challenge exam. As with other academic courses, students must pass PTher 560 in order to progress in the program. The Department failure policy will apply to PTher 560.

Only once all components of the practical exam are successfully completed will the student be permitted to enrol in a clinical placement course.