

**PTHER 520**  
Clinical Placement III  
Course Outline

**Course Calendar Description**

Clinical practice in approved clinical sites.

**Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE) - 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 that is scheduled from **January 8 to February 16, 2018 inclusive. (225 hours)**

The placement is full-time – i.e. +/- 40 hours / week. The exact hours of clinical practice will coordinate with those of the Clinical Instructor. Flex hours (ie. 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, you may need to complete this clinical course outside your location of choice. Accommodation and travel expenses are your responsibility.

**Course Goals and Expectations**

This is a six-week placement. The goals of this course are that you will have the opportunity:

- for further experience with hands-on practice with increasing independence over the six weeks
- further develop your professional behaviors

You will be expected to bring your clinical learning back to the classroom.

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

**Student Learning Strategies**

- Prepare for the placement.
  - Check the web for a Placement Profile on your specific placement. This will help direct your review and preparation for your placement.
  - write a letter of intent and forward it and a résumé to your site contact.

- 100% attendance is expected
- Write a learning plan **in collaboration / consultation** with the Clinical Instructor. This process should begin before the placement starts and be “fine tuned” with the therapist in the first week.
- Behave professionally, this begins before the placement starts and must be maintained throughout the placement
- Participate actively
- Work collaboratively
- Use learning resources
- Complete one minor project
- Seek out supplementary resources to enhance learning

### **Key Learning Objectives**

You are expected to integrate the learning objectives from previous placements into this Block 5 placement (PTHER 520). In addition, by the **end of** PTHHER 520, and in line with the **Essential Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada (2009)** 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 (6.7.2)
  - c. Seeking and incorporating formative feedback to enhance your performance (6.6.1)
  - d. 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. Beginning to establish a physiotherapy diagnosis and prognosis (6.1.2)
  - d. Beginning to develop, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of an intervention strategy(6.1.3; 6.1.4)
  - e. Assisting with the completion of physiotherapy services (6.1.4)
  - f. Adjusting appropriately for range of clients' physical abilities (6.1.1; 6.1.3)
  - g. Beginning to appropriately adapt to unforeseen situations (6.1.1; 6.1.3)
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. 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. Beginning to establish interprofessional relationships with CI and other team members which foster effective client centered collaboration (6.3.1)
  - b. Beginning to collaborating with others to prevent, manage and resolve conflict (6.3.2)
  - c. Beginning to recognize 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)
  - b. Beginning to manage and supervise support personal in the provision of physical therapy services(6.4.2)
  - c. Participating in activities that contribute to safe and effective physical therapy practice (6.4.3)
  - d. **Carrying approximately 50% of a full time physical therapist's caseload and its associated responsibilities** (6.4.1)
  - e. **Managing your caseload with CI guidance about 50% of the time for simple patients and 75% of the time for patients with more 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)

Please refer to the *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. The CI provides ongoing **formative** feedback throughout the placement. In addition, structured feedback will be provided on two occasions – at the midterm evaluation and the final **summative** evaluation. On these two occasions, the Assessment of Clinical Performance (ACP) will be used. The ACP aligns with the Essential Competency Profile

and areas of assessment are indicated by the seven roles and relate to each of the learning objectives above.

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

### **Required / Recommended Resources**

Required: *MScPT Student Manual*

The web site for the Clinical Program, Department of Physical Therapy (<http://rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/departments/physical-therapy/clinical-education>) 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 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 eClass and your ePortfolio by the end of the second week of the placement.** (6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.7)
2. Bring your **completed self-evaluation** 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 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 to eClass and to your ePortfolio for review by the ACCE no later than 5pm on the last Friday of placement for review** (6.2.3; 6.6.2)
4. Complete the **Student Evaluation of Clinical Placement form** is due on the final Sunday after placement after your final evaluation. This is done electronically and is found at

[Evaluation of Site - Private Practice](#)

[Evaluation of site - other](#)

5. Update your Clinical Learning Record throughout the placement (6.6.1). This is also done electronically – the links are found within your Clinical Education Moodle course site
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 eClass site and to your ePortfolio by the Friday, one week after your placement ends, and will form the basis for future learning plans.** Review your ACP evaluation from your Clinical Instructor. Looking at the last page, read over the areas of strength and areas for improvement. Summarize your strengths and weaknesses from this placement and include this in your reflection, what areas of practice still require additional focus and attention. Did you demonstrate the skills and behaviors overtly that would allow your CI to accurately evaluate your performance? What might you

do differently in your upcoming placement that will accurately demonstrate your performance of your physiotherapy skills?

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 of second week of placement (January 19, 2018) (23:59)
Self Evaluation	Midterm and final evaluation
Minor project	Last Friday of placement (23:59)
Student Evaluation of Site	Sunday after the placement ends (Feb 18, 23:59)
Reflection	Friday, one week after placement ends (Feb 23, 23:59)

**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 CPI

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

**The recommendation from the CI will be taken into account by the ACCE in assigning the final mark and transcript 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. Pass with Distinction → Pass, Pass → Borderline Pass, Borderline Pass → Fail. 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 (C)

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. If you receive this grade at midterm it means that you are at risk of failing the placement if significant change/improvements are not noted by the final.

- **If the student's CI recommends a borderline pass**, 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 requirements and graduate from the program. This will also lengthen your program.

As this is a graduate program you are permitted to receive No Credit (NC) in one course only.

Should you Fail any two courses you will be asked to leave the program – see failure policy in *the 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 which will result in a Fail.

### 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.

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>

### 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 Student Accessibility Services (SAS).**

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](http://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)