University of Evansville  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
PT249: Clinical II (5 Credit Hours)  
Prerequisites: PT111, PT210, PT251 and Required Clinical Health Documentation  
Meeting Schedule: Per Clinical Faculty Schedule.  
Meeting Location: Assigned Clinical Site

Syllabus

Joni Taylor McFelea, PT, MS, PhD  
Director of Clinical Education (DCE)  
1800 Lincoln Avenue  
Wallace Graves Hall # 211  
812-488-2009  
jm476@evansville.edu

Office Hours will be scheduled per students’ request at mutually agreed-upon times.

Course Description: Students complete a six-week (240 hours) clinical experience as an active participant in the healthcare team and are actively involved in the care of patients under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. This experience will reinforce the development of therapeutic techniques and patient care skills.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will consistently:

1. Perform in a safe manner that minimizes risk to patients, others, and self.
2. Demonstrate expected clinical behaviors in a professional manner in all situations.
3. Perform in a manner consistent with established legal standards, standards of the profession, and ethical guidelines.
4. Adapt delivery of physical therapy services with consideration for patients’ differences, values, preferences, and needs.
5. Communicate in ways that are congruent with situational needs.
7. Participate in a self-assessment and develop a plan to improve knowledge, skills, and behaviors.
8. Maintain 75% of a full-time PTA caseload and require ≤ 25% supervision to achieve the following objectives:
   a. Perform selected therapeutic exercises in a competent manner.
   b. Apply selected manual therapy, airway clearance, and integumentary repair and protection techniques in a competent manner.
   c. Apply selected physical agents and mechanical modalities in a competent manner.
   d. Apply selected electrotherapeutic modalities in a competent manner.
   e. Apply and adjust assistive devices and equipment in a competent manner.
   f. Perform functional training in self-care and home management in a competent manner.
   g. Produce quality documentation in a timely manner to support the delivery of physical therapy services.
   h. Participate in efficient delivery of physical therapy services.

Pre-Clinical Course Requirements: Prior to the course, the student will:
1. Complete an online training tutorial on use of the course evaluation tool, the PTA Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) Web. Refer to separate instructions to complete the pre-course training.

2. Read and familiar the State Practice Act relevant to your clinical facility. Practice acts can be accessed through [http://www.apta.org/Licensure/StatePracticeActs/](http://www.apta.org/Licensure/StatePracticeActs/). The student should be prepared to discuss issues related to physical therapy practice for his or her assigned state with clinical faculty for the purpose of adhering to legal standards.

**Students Rights:**

1. The student will be provided professional liability coverage by the university during the clinical experience in the amount identified in the clinical affiliation agreement between the clinical facility and the university.

2. The student will receive timely feedback regarding his or her clinical performance. This will occur through use of the midterm and final PTA CPI Web evaluation, face-to-face discussion with clinical faculty, and telephone, email, or face-to-face discussion with DCE or other faculty members during a scheduled site visit. The student may request additional feedback from either the clinical or academic faculty as needed.

**Student Responsibilities:**

1. Provide proof of health insurance to the university and be accountable for medical expenses associated with illness or injury during clinical education.

2. Assume responsibility for housing arrangements and expenses incurred during clinical education.

3. Assume responsibility for transportation to and from the clinical facility.

4. Adhere to the policies and procedures of the clinical facility throughout the clinical education experience.

5. Comply with **Required Clinical Health** requirements of the facility, including but not limited to: criminal background check, OSHA regulated Blood Borne Pathogen Training, HIPAA Training, drug screen, current CPR certification for healthcare providers, annual TB skin test or chest x-ray, hepatitis B vaccination or waiver, influenza vaccine, immunity or past medical history for rubella, measles, mumps, varicella and polio.

6. Wear a name tag and identify self as a student physical therapist assistant during patient care encounters.

7. Provide a written evaluation of the clinical facility and the clinical faculty to both the clinical facility and university.

8. Follow grievance procedure as outlined in the PTA Student Handbook.

9. Recognize that he or she is neither an employee of the clinical facility or the university.

**Clinical Course Schedule:**

1. **Pre-Clinical Course Requirements:**

   a. submit required clinical health documentation

   b. submit criminal background check

   c. submit annual TB skin test results

   d. submit immunization record (DPT, MMR, polio, varicella)

**Clinical Course Schedule (continued):**

   e. complete Student Data Form
f. initiate communication with clinical facility CCCE (introduce self, verify dates of course, confirm clinical course location, discuss relevant policies, obtain housing information if needed, provide clinical health information as required)
g. provide DCE with clinical faculty name(s) and email addresses
h. complete pre-clinical course requirements
i. complete practice transportation from housing to clinical facility (consider impact of traffic flow on commute)

2. **Week # 1:**
   a. receive orientation to clinical facility
   b. discuss, with clinical faculty, the course syllabus, the curriculum and other information as needed ([http://www.evansville.edu/majors/physicaltherapy/](http://www.evansville.edu/majors/physicaltherapy/)), and a possible student project / inservice
   c. discuss, with clinical faculty, the clinical course evaluation tool (PTA CPI Web, to be accessed at [https://cpi2.amsapps.com/user_session/new](https://cpi2.amsapps.com/user_session/new) – log onto website and locate evaluation, ask clinical faculty to log onto website and locate evaluation, and establish date for midterm evaluation)

3. **Week # 2:** complete the Week One Assessment (WOA) Form (follow instructions located at the bottom of the form)
4. **Week # 3:**
   a. complete the midterm Student Evaluation of Clinical Instructor Form (sign, and ask clinical faculty to sign after the midterm review)
   b. complete the PTA CPI Web – Self Assessment (sign, and ask clinical faculty to sign after the midterm review)
   c. review the PTA CPI Web – CI Assessment and sign

5. **Week # 6:**
   a. complete the final Student Evaluation of Clinical Instructor Form (sign, and ask clinical faculty to sign after the final review)
   b. complete the Student Evaluation of Clinical Experience Form (sign, and ask clinical faculty to sign after the final review)
   c. complete the PTA CPI Web – Self Assessment (sign, and ask clinical faculty to sign after the final review)
   d. review the PTA CPI Web – CI Assessment and sign

6. **Course Completion Requirements** (due within two weeks of course completion): Submit hard copies of the Student Evaluation of Clinical Instructor Form and the Student Evaluation of Clinical Experience Form to the DCE (name and physical address are provided at the top of the first page of this document).

**Teaching Methods and Learning Experiences:** Practical clinical experiences occur under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Learning experiences may include direct patient care, interdisciplinary activities, departmental meetings, inservice training, research, and observation of medical procedures.
**Methods of Evaluation**: The student will be evaluated by the clinical faculty per criteria on the standardized PTA Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) Web at mid-term and completion of the clinical course. Mid-term evaluations will be used to identify the student’s strengths and the areas of his or her clinical performance that need improvement. Narrative comments documented on the CPI, as well as written and verbal feedback received from clinical faculty must support clinical competence at the advanced intermediate level (as defined in Appendix A of the PTA CPI Web) and will be used by the DCE to determine the final course grade.

**Grading Criteria**: Successful completion of this course requires a grade of **B- or higher** and will be determined by the following criteria:

1. Submission of clinical health documents as outlined in the PTA Student Handbook and per assigned clinical facility. The clinical **course may be delayed or cancelled** if the student fails to submit Clinical Health Documentation to the PT Department or fails to meet timelines for facility requirements.

2. Completion of the clinical course as scheduled (240 contact hours). The final course grade may be **reduced by a portion of a letter** (e.g., from an A to an A-, from an A- to a B+, and so forth) for each day missed or for repeated tardiness. Repeated incidence may result in course failure.

3. Each final mark on the PTA CPI Web rating scale falling closer to ‘entry level performance’ than the midterm mark, thus reflecting improved performance.

4. No significant concern boxes are checked on the final CPI evaluation.

5. No concerns have been identified for red flag items (CPI criteria 1-4,7). **Any action(s) demonstrating unsafe or unethical clinical practice may constitute grounds for failure and/or removal from a clinical course based upon the mutual decision of the academic and clinical faculty.**

6. The final rating scale marks and narrative comments for all CPI criteria fall **at or to the right of advanced intermediate level performance**. Failure to demonstrate advanced intermediate level performance will **result in course failure.**

7. Completion of the student CPI at midterm and final that includes **clinical examples that support the rating scale mark and reflect advanced intermediate level performance.** Failure to complete the required PT CPI Web self evaluation at midterm or final will result in course failure. Inadequate completion and / or limited self-reflection will result in course grade deduction by a **full letter.**

8. Completion and submission (per instructions provided on the third page of this document) of the Clinical Instructor Evaluation Form and the Clinical Experience Evaluation Form, both with clinical faculty signature(s). Incomplete forms or forms that arrive after the due date will result in final course grade **reduction by a portion of a letter** (e.g., from an A to an A-, from an A- to a B+, and so forth).

**Credit Hour Statement**: This course meets the federal requirements of 45-75 hours of supervised clinical or fieldwork experience per credit hour.

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities**: It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification to faculty from the Office of Counseling Services is required for any academic accommodations. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like
to request it for this course, please discuss it with the DCE a minimum of two weeks in advance of the clinical course begin date (otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be made on a timely basis). Contact the Office of Counseling Services at 812-488-2663 with any questions about services for students with disabilities or procedures for requesting services.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Evansville is an independent university which operates, in all aspects pertaining to students, faculty, staff, and administration, under a non-discriminatory policy with regard to age, color, creed, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

Honor Code: Students are expected to adhere to the University’s Honor Code. Any form of dishonesty, whether intentional or not, will be taken seriously and appropriate action as outlined by the Physical Therapist Assistant Student Handbook will be taken immediately.

Intellectual Property: The student shall not commercialize, or use for commercial or personal gain, any work of authorship, technology, process, device, idea, invention or intellectual property created by or for a clinical facility. Any such work shall be property of the clinical facility.

Withdrawal Policy: A student may withdraw from this course by following the guidelines for course withdrawal outlined in the University of Evansville Student Handbook and PTA Student Handbook. The last day to withdraw from this course with a “W” is the 22nd day of the clinical experience.