

**JEFFERSON COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**PTA 285**

**Clinical Experience IV**

4 Credit Hours

Prepared by:

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## PTA285 Clinical Experience IV

### I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

- A. Prerequisite: PTA Principles and Procedures II, PTA Principles and Procedures III, and Physical Agents each with a grade of “C” or better, and successful completion of Clinical Experience II  
Pre-/corequisite: Clinical Experience III, PTA Principles and Procedures IV
- B. Credit hour award: 4
- C. Description: This is the final of four clinical education experiences that provides an opportunity for students to integrate the principles and skills learned throughout the entire curriculum and apply them in a patient care setting. The student will work under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapist assistant for six weeks (40 hours per week) in a setting where he/she can further develop critical thinking skills, professional behaviors, and continue to build on practical abilities attained in previous clinical experiences. Students will work with a variety of patients to improve competence with the expected entry level skills of a physical therapist assistant. Students will function as an involved full time member of the healthcare team to prepare them for entry into the workforce. Students must pass this course to graduate from the physical therapist assistant program. (S)

### II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT MEASURES

(Numbers in parentheses refer to CAPTE performance expectations. PTA = Physical Therapist Assistant, and CPI = Clinical Performance Instrument.)

Expected Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures
Demonstrate appropriate interactions with patients, physical therapists, and other health care professionals in written, verbal, and nonverbal communication. (3.3.2.1.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Recognize individual and cultural differences and respond appropriately in all aspects of physical therapy services. (3.3.2.2.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Demonstrate conduct that reflects practice standards that are legal, ethical, and safe as well as reflect a commitment to meet the expectations of those receiving health care services and members of the profession of physical therapy. (3.3.2.3., 3.3.2.4., 3.3.2.5.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Demonstrate how to implement the plan of care developed by the physical therapist to achieve short and long term goals and intended outcomes, including situations where specialized equipment may be present. (3.3.2.6.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion

Demonstrate safety and competence in implementing selected components of interventions such as functional training, infection control procedures, manual therapy techniques, physical and mechanical agents, therapeutic exercise, and wound management as identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist. (3.3.2.7., 3.3.2.7.1-5., 3.3.2.7.7-29.)	PTA CPI
Demonstrate competence in performance of components of data collection skills such as aerobic capacity and endurance, anthropometrical characteristics, arousal, mentation, and cognition, assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic devices, gait, locomotion, and balance, integumentary integrity, joint integrity and mobility, muscle performance, neuromotor development, pain, posture, range of motion, self-care and home management and community reintegration, ventilation, respiration, and circulation. (3.3.2.8., 3.3.2.8.1-6., 3.3.2.8.8-35.)	PTA CPI
Modify interventions within a plan of care established by the physical therapist in response to patient clinical indications and reports this to the supervising physical therapist. (3.3.2.9.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Identify when intervention should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and reports these changes to the supervising physical therapist. (3.3.2.10.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Report any changes in the patient's status to the supervising physical therapist. (3.3.2.11.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Determine when the direction to perform an intervention is beyond that which is appropriate for a physical therapist assistant and initiate clarification with the physical therapist. (3.3.2.12.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Explain to patients, family members, and caregivers desired goals and outcomes based on the plan of care established by the physical therapist. (3.3.2.13., 3.3.2.14.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Describe appropriate actions to take in an emergency situation as applicable. (3.3.2.15)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Produce thorough, accurate, logical, concise, timely, and legible documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required. (3.3.2.16.)	PTA CPI
Describe elements of discharge planning and follow up as directed by the supervising physical therapist. (3.3.2.17.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Perform health care literature database searches. (3.3.2.18.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion

Explain therapy related concepts to other members of the health care team using established techniques, programs, and instructional materials commensurate with the learning characteristics of the audience. (3.3.2.19.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Explain the role of the physical therapist assistant to others. (3.3.2.20.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Practice with other members of the health care team in patient-care and non-patient care activities. (3.3.2.21.)	PTA CPI Written Assignments Online Discussion
Record accurate and timely information for billing and reimbursement. (3.3.2.22.)	PTA CPI
Demonstrate a commitment to meeting the needs of the patients and consumers of physical therapy services. (3.3.2.25.)	PTA CPI
Demonstrate an awareness of social responsibility, citizenship, and advocacy, including participation in community and service organizations and activities. (3.3.2.26.)	PTA CPI

### III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

- A. Supervised initial clinical education experience in an inpatient or outpatient setting.
  1. Observation and participation in the plan of care developed by a physical therapist
  2. Integration of theories, principles, skills, and behaviors learned thus far in the didactic curriculum
  3. Integration of evidence-based practice
  4. Regular journal entries
  5. Regular posts to online discussion board
  6. Completion of Values Based Behaviors for the Physical Therapist Assistant Self-Assessment by the student.
  7. Completion of Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Performance Instrument by student and clinical instructor at the end of the 5 weeks

### IV. METHOD(S) OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Physical interaction, participation in hands-on patient care with direct supervision by clinical instructor in clinical setting
- B. Interaction with other members of the health care team
- C. Regular participation in online discussion board
- D. Self-assessment and reflection
- E. Peer interaction activities

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

- A. Clinical Education Handbook
- B. Dreeben, O. (2008). *Physical Therapy Clinical Handbook for PTAs* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). Sudbury, MA Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

- A. Transportation to/from Clinical Site
- B. Clothing to match dress code as per the assigned clinical facility's policies

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

- A. Notes, texts from all previous didactic coursework
- B. Library Resources
  - 1. Textbooks
    - a. Skinner, S. B. & McVey C., (2011). *Clinical Decision Making for the Physical Therapist Assistant* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Publishers.
    - b. *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice* (2003, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Alexandria, VA: APTA.
  - 2. Databases including: "Nursing and Allied Health Collection", "Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy Collection", and "Medline"
  - 3. Periodicals
  - 4. Videos
- C. Internet Resources
  - 1. American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Website

VIII. METHOD OF EVALUATION

- A. Because this is a PASS/FAIL course, if a student fails the Clinical Education components, he/she cannot pass the course.
- B. Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Performance Instrument with 13/14 criteria rated by clinical instructor at a minimum of "Entry-Level" level of performance.
- C. Completion of participation in organizational planning and operation and/or quality improvement/assurance project.
- D. Completion of regular journal entries.
- E. Completion of regular online discussion board posts.

IX. ADA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library: phone 636-797-3000, ext. 3169).

## X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes will be subject to dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant program and will be referred to the college for disciplinary action. (see College website, <http://www.jeffco.edu>).

## XI. ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Any one of these four options may result in the student being removed from the class and an administrative withdrawal being processed: (1) Student fails to begin class; (2) Student ceases participation for at least two consecutive weeks; (3) Student misses 15 percent or more of the coursework; and/or (4) Student misses 15 percent or more of the course as defined by the instructor. Students earn their financial aid by regularly attending and actively participating in their coursework. If a student does not actively participate, he/she may have to return financial aid funds. Consult the College Catalog or a Student Financial Services representative for more details.

## XII. OUTSIDE OF CLASS ACADEMICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Department of Education mandates that students be made aware of expectations regarding coursework to be completed outside the classroom. Students are expected to spend substantial time outside of class meetings engaging in academically related activities such as reading, studying, and completing assignments. Specifically, time spent on academically related activities outside of class combined with time spent in class meetings is expected to be a minimum of 37.5 hours over the duration of the term for each credit hour.