

# PTAT-1940: FIELD EXPERIENCE I

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: PTAT-1940 : Field Experience I**

**Board of Trustees:**

January 2024

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2024

**Subject Code**

PTAT - Physical Therapist Assist

**Course Number:**

1940

**Title:**

Field Experience I

**Catalog Description:**

Application of learned physical therapy techniques in clinical setting. It is recommended that program students register for this course as pass/no pass.

**Credit Hour(s):**

1

**Lecture Hour(s):**

0

**Lab Hour(s):**

0

**Other Hour(s):**

195

**Other Hour Details:**

Field experience: 195 hours per semester (39 hours per week for 5 weeks)

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

PTAT-1420 Therapeutic Exercise or concurrent enrollment, and PTAT-1411 Physical Therapy Procedures or concurrent enrollment, and departmental approval.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

A. Maintain a safe clinical environment, ensure patient safety during all aspects of care, and contribute to efforts aimed at improving patient, client, and provider safety at entry-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

**Objective(s):**

1. Monitor, recognize, and respond to changes in patient activity level, position, state of arousal, mentation, cognition, and skin condition.
2. Develop caregiver and patient treatment and education plans that ensure patient safety while using devices and equipment in the hospital, clinic, home, and community.
3. Observe and apply universal/standard precautions during patient care.
4. Adhere to the physical therapy plan of care.

5. Apply proper body mechanics, guarding, and level of assistance; recognizing when additional assistance is required to maintain a safe environment for patient and self, including selection of the most appropriate source of assistance.
6. Respond to environmental emergencies in the clinical setting by following site policies and procedures.
7. Determine when it is necessary to withhold intervention and seek assistance from the supervising therapist or other healthcare professional.
8. Determine when support personnel are necessary for patient safety and assistance, and supervise support personnel during all patient care activities.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

B. Develop behaviors expected of a physical therapist assistant by society, those within the profession, and by the clinical site at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Objective(s):**

1. Place patient and colleague needs above personal needs.
2. Exhibit punctual, dependable, and adaptable behavior.
3. Adapt to appearance, dress, and hygiene standards.
4. Abide by the policies and procedures of the clinical site.
5. Develop behaviors consistent with the Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant (APTA), the Standards of Ethical Conduct (APTA), and the Values Based Behaviors for the Physical Therapist Assistant (APTA).
6. Adhere to state and federal legal standards and regulations governing Physical Therapist Assistant practice.
7. Recognize and report violations of state and federal law governing practice of physical therapy, such as patient-related abuse and neglect, fraud, and fiscal abuse.
8. Create an individualized plan for professional development and lifelong learning by seeking out additional learning experiences and current knowledge and theory.
9. Demonstrate awareness of strengths and limitations, seek assistance as necessary, and utilize self-assessment to improve clinical performance.
10. Appropriately seek, accept, formulate, provide, and respond to feedback.
11. Identify, acknowledge, and report errors, accepting responsibility and consequences for own actions, and seek resolution of errors in a timely manner.
12. Comply with HIPAA standards.
13. Discuss possible outcomes of participation in professional and community organizations that provide opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy, and leadership.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

C. Collaborate with people of diverse backgrounds, adapt to the situation and individual needs of others, and effectively communicate in the healthcare environment at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Objective(s):**

1. Formulate effective verbal, non-verbal, and written communication and adapt based on audience response.
2. Identify, respect, and adapt to the unique needs of individuals, being sensitive to language barriers, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age, gender, and socioeconomic situation.
3. Design and adapt education activities that consider the learner's unique needs by choosing the most appropriate methods, tools, and resources.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of education provided.
5. Collect relevant subjective information from patients, clients, and other parties related to current patient status and progress toward established goals, and report changes to the supervising physical therapist in a timely manner.
6. Communicate accurate, timely, comprehensible, and complete information to the supervising physical therapist regarding changes in patient status, change or discontinuation of interventions, progress toward treatment goals, discharge-planning activities, and when interventions are beyond the scope of the physical therapist assistant.
7. Recognize personal biases and perform patient care duties in a nonjudgmental manner.
8. Seek diverse viewpoints during patient and non-patient activities.
9. Manage conflict by seeking out and utilizing effective strategies.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

D. Formulate defensible, rational clinical judgments based on current knowledge and information gathered through available resources at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Objective(s):**

1. Apply current knowledge, theory, and clinical reasoning, through integration of patient interview and observation, health record review, interprofessional team collaboration, and evidence-based resource appraisal, to guide the decision-making required for effective patient care.
2. Develop sound clinical judgment to support clinical decisions related to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health Information (ICF), data collection, ethical and legal considerations, patient readiness to initiate interventions, patient comfort and safety, need for modification and progression of patient treatments, rationale for chosen interventions, and need to communicate to the supervising physical therapist.
3. Identify urgent or emergency situations and formulate an appropriate response.
4. Recognize and modify personal biases (cognitive & affective) and other issues that can impact decision making.

**Course Outcome(s):**

E. Develop the ability to collect relevant information from available resources and utilize the information effectively in patient/client management at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Objective(s):**

1. Review health records and obtain clarifying information from the supervising physical therapist prior to implementing the plan of care.
2. Accurately collect and document relevant subjective and objective patient data.
3. Administer appropriate tests and measures essential to following the plan of care.
4. Identify urgent or emergency situations and formulate an appropriate response.
5. Recognize and modify personal biases (cognitive & affective) and other issues that impact decision making.
6. Identify barriers to learning.

**Course Outcome(s):**

F. Safely and competently apply therapeutic procedural interventions at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Objective(s):**

1. Apply knowledge of indications and contraindications in a proficient manner when selecting and administering therapeutic interventions.
2. Monitor, adjust, and defer therapeutic interventions based on plan of care, data collected, clinical indications, patient/client response, mental and physical status, and treatment tolerance.
3. Apply effective breathing and airway clearance techniques.
4. Provide functional training for self-care (domestic, educational, vocational, recreational, community).
5. Provide functional training in motor skills (balance, coordination, agility, body mechanics, postural stability, flexibility, gait/locomotion, neuromuscular reeducation, relaxation, strength, power, endurance).
6. Apply manual therapy techniques (massage, soft tissue mobilization, PROM, joint mobilization).
7. Apply therapeutic exercise and aerobic conditioning interventions.
8. Apply wound management interventions (dressing application/removal, isolation techniques, clean/sterile techniques, edema management).
9. Educate patients, clients, caregivers, and others regarding therapeutic interventions.

**Course Outcome(s):**

G. Safely and competently apply equipment-based procedural interventions at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Objective(s):**

1. Apply knowledge of indications and contraindications in a proficient manner when selecting and administering equipment-based therapeutic interventions.
2. Monitor, adjust, and defer equipment-based therapeutic interventions based on plan of care, data collected, clinical indications, patient/client response, mental and physical status, and treatment tolerance.
3. Apply physical agents: cryotherapy (cold pack, ice massage, vapocoolant), thermotherapy (hot packs, paraffin, hydrotherapy), and ultrasound.
4. Apply electrotherapeutic modalities: biofeedback, iontophoresis, electrical stimulation (for pain, strengthening, and tissue repair).

5. Apply mechanical modalities: mechanical compression, mechanical motion and continuous passive motion, mechanical spinal traction, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, superficial and deep thermal agents, and light therapies.
6. Apply assistive devices: walkers, canes, crutches, wheelchairs.
7. Apply adaptive devices: braces, splints, prosthetics, and other supportive devices.
8. Educate patients, clients, caregivers, and others regarding equipment-based therapeutic interventions.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

H. Create documentation and billing that supports the delivery of physical therapy services at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

**Objective(s):**

1. Adheres to ethical and legal standards.
2. Adhere to guidelines and documentation formats required by the practice setting, applicable state practice acts, and all relevant regulatory agencies and payers.
3. Create billing supported by accurate, timely, comprehensible, and complete documentation that supports payment for services.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

I. Participate in the administration and management of the physical therapy environment at intermediate-level performance as measured by the Performance Assessment System.

**Objective(s):**

1. Coordinate with physical therapists and other members of the clinical environment to schedule patients, equipment, space, and facilitate efficient and effective patient care.
2. Manage time and resources (equipment, information technology, personnel) legally, ethically, effectively, and safely to optimize patient and facility outcomes.
3. Contribute to the discontinuation of episode of care planning and follow-up process as directed by the supervising physical therapist.
4. Participate in performance improvement activities (quality assurance).
5. Describe aspects of organizational planning and operation of the physical therapy service.
6. Implement procedures to reduce risk of adverse events and liabilities.
7. Promote health and wellness related to physical therapy and the clinical environment.

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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Submission of all completed clinical education forms and assignments.
2. Clinical instructor assessment of student performance.
3. Program faculty clinical site visit and ongoing assessment of student performance.

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Safety issues in patient care
  - a. Environmental hazards
  - b. Patient emergencies
  - c. Safety equipment
  - d. Standard precautions
2. Professionalism
  - a. Commitment to learning
  - b. Responsibility
  - c. Follows facility policies
  - d. Critical thinking
  - e. Effective use of time and resources
  - f. Stress management

3. Ethics
  - a. Standard of conduct
  - b. Values based behaviors
4. Personal interactions
  - a. Cultural competence
  - b. Use of constructive feedback
  - c. Empathy
5. Legal standard
  - a. HIPPA
  - b. State laws
  - c. Medicare regulations
6. Communication Skills
  - a. Documentation
  - b. Verbal
  - c. Non-verbal
  - d. Billing
7. Follow plan of care
  - a. Data collection
  - b. Physical therapy interventions
  - c. Therapeutic exercise
  - d. Electrical modalities
  - e. Physical agents
  - f. Functional training
8. Patient/family/staff education
  - a. In-services
  - b. Team meetings
  - c. Patient instruction
9. Managing resources
  - a. Equipment
  - b. Lifelong learning

**Resources Other**

1. Acadaware Performance Assessment System - Online Access: <https://portal.acadaware.com/>
2. Minimum Required Skills of Physical Therapist Assistant. [https://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About\\_Us/Policies/BOD/Education/MinReqSkillsPTAGrad.pdf](https://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About_Us/Policies/BOD/Education/MinReqSkillsPTAGrad.pdf) ([https://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About\\_Us/Policies/BOD/Education/MinReqSkillsPTAGrad.pdf](https://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About_Us/Policies/BOD/Education/MinReqSkillsPTAGrad.pdf))
3. APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant [http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/Practice\\_and\\_Patient\\_Care/Ethics/GuideforConductofthePTA.pdf](http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/Practice_and_Patient_Care/Ethics/GuideforConductofthePTA.pdf)

Top of page

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