COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number          Course Title                       Credits
PTA 240                PTA Clinical Education III            5

Hours: lecture/Lab/Other
40 hours per week for 6 weeks = 240 clinical hours

Pre-requisite
PTA 235
Co-requisite
None

Implementation
Spring

Catalog description:

Supervised full-time clinical experience allows students to practice all of the techniques and procedures taught in the program, performing all that is normally expected of a physical therapist assistant.

Recommended texts/other materials:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bottomley</th>
<th>Quick Response Dictionary for Physical Therapy</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>SLACK</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>978-1-61711-070-2</th>
<th>rec</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taber's</td>
<td>Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>FA Davis</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>978-0-8036-2977-6</td>
<td>rec</td>
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</table>

Revision date: Fall 2023

Course coordinator: Holly Kaiser, 609-570-3478, KaiserH@mccc.edu

Information resources:

This course makes use of the recommended texts for the course and clinical knowledge and experience of supervising clinical faculty.

Course Competencies/Goals:

At a minimum, each learner will achieve the following goal by the end of the final clinical affiliation (Clinical Affiliation III):

1. By the end of the final clinical affiliation, the learner will handle a patient case load equivalent to that of an entry-level PTA in that particular setting, which includes both direct patient care and non-patient care responsibilities.

Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills:

General Education Knowledge Goals

Goal 1. Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
**Goal 2. Mathematics.** Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.

**Goal 3. Science.** Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.

**Goal 4. Technology.** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

**Goal 5. Social Science.** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

**Goal 8. Diversity.** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

**Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action.** Students will understand ethical issues and situations.

**MCCC Core Skills**

**Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English.** Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.

**Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving.** Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

**Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making.** Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.

**Goal D. Information Literacy.** Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

**Goal E. Computer Literacy.** Students will use computers to access, analyze or present information, solve problems, and communicate with others.

**Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation.** Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

**Goal G. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility.** Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

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**Units of Study in Detail**

**PTA 240**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Orientation to the clinical setting 1,2,3,8,9 B, C, D, C, F, G</td>
<td>C1-5, A1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Integration into the clinical setting 1,2,3,4,5,8,9 A,B,C,D,E,F,G</td>
<td>C1-5, P1-25, A1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Integration into the clinical setting 1,2,3,4,5,8,9 A,B,C,D,E,F,G</td>
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<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Integration into the clinical setting 1,2,3,4,5,8,9 A,B,C,D,E,F,G</td>
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<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Integration into the clinical setting 1,2,3,4,5,8,9 A,B,C,D,E,F,G</td>
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<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Integration into the clinical setting 1,2,3,4,5,8,9 A,B,C,D,E,F,G</td>
<td>C1-5, P1-25, A1-8</td>
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**Course Outline: Clinical Education III**

**Week 1: Days 1 & 2**

Orientation and integration to the clinical setting:
The learner is expected to observe the physical therapy department and personnel utilization until the learner and the clinical instructor (CI) determine that the learner is sufficiently acclimated to this setting. The CI will be interacting with the learner and working with him or her to set up observations as needed. The learner needs to initiate interaction with patients, and seek out the components of departmental organization and documentation style. During this week the learner should gain an understanding of the role and responsibilities of all staff in the PT department. An introduction to who handles patient scheduling and how effectiveness is maximized via appropriate scheduling should also occur during the first week.

**Week 1: Day 3 through the end of Week 6**

Integration into the clinical setting:
The learner is expected to perform all duties that would normally be expected of a PTA at entry level.
The learner is also expected to participate in departmental “in-service” presentations. The learner is also required to present an “in-service” to the department.

**Learning Objectives have been identified in each of the following domains of learning:**

**Cognitive/Knowledge Learning Domain:**
The learner will be able to successfully:

**Remember Knowledge**
1. answer questions regarding and verbalize adequate knowledge of foundational anatomy and physical therapy coursework
2. answer questions regarding and verbalize adequate knowledge of techniques used to gather objective patient data
3. answer questions regarding and verbalize adequate knowledge of treatment intervention techniques
4. verbally identify methods of maximizing patient safety during treatment

**Apply Knowledge**
5. verbalize an understanding of the interventions provided by reporting why interventions are chosen, how they are properly performed, when it would be appropriate to use them and when it would not be appropriate to use them
6. verbalize an understanding of how each intervention relates to the patient’s short and long term goals
7. contribute to treatment session and planning by applying knowledge and clinical judgment, while considering patient goals and the environment, within the established plan of care

**Communicate**
8. approach the CI with observations regarding which interventions should be progressed with a patient, why progression is indicated, and how the progression should take place
9. discuss the process for reporting to the appropriate authorities suspected cases of abuse of vulnerable populations with a practicing PT or PTA
10. discuss the process for reporting to the appropriate authorities suspected cases of fraud and abuse related to utilizing and payment for PT services with a practicing PT or PTA
11. prepare a written case study, utilizing appropriate evidence based resources to determine if clinical decisions made for a chosen patient are supported by evidence

**Psychomotor Learning Domain:**
The learner will be able to successfully:

**Communicate & Educate**
1. communicate to the Clinical Instructor patient safety concerns, patient response to treatment interventions, changes in patient status, and patient progression or regression
2. communicate to the Clinical Instructor an understanding of the plan of care, including the treatment plan and how it will achieve short and long term goals
3. provide patient related instruction to patients, family members, and caregivers to achieve patient outcomes, based on the plan of care established by the Physical Therapist
4. prepare and perform an in-service for colleagues

**Maintain Safety**
5. ensure patient safety by the use of universal precautions, proper body mechanics, proper guarding techniques, maintaining a safe environment, and utilizing proper intervention techniques
6. take appropriate action in an emergency situation (or discuss the steps to take during an emergency situation)
7. recognize when the performance of an intervention is beyond the scope of practice for a PTA learner
8. demonstrate an awareness of one’s own limits by asking for assistance when necessary and asking appropriate questions

Manage Patients
9. recognize when an intervention should not be provided due to changes in the patient’s status and report this back to the Clinical Instructor
10. review patient data prior to treatment interventions, demonstrating the ability to identify data which is pertinent to the therapy session and its importance for that patient
11. competently gather subjective information from patients before, during, and after treatment sessions, which may include pain information
12. recognize individual and cultural differences and respond appropriately in all aspects of physical therapy services
13. maintain patient confidentiality, dignity, and modesty in the clinical environment
14. identify situations in which patient assessment is indicated and then competently and safely perform manual muscle tests (MMT), range of motion (ROM) using a goniometer, and vital signs measurements on patients
15. modify ROM & MMT techniques based on varying patient circumstances, while utilizing sound foundational concepts
16. Interpret the results of changes in patients’ objective measures and identify their impact on the treatment plan
17. determine safety and status of patients during all mobility training, including gait, balance, and wheelchair mobility
18. recognize skin integrity status, including sensation, changes to skin, and positioning needs
19. adjust interventions within the plan of care in response to patient clinical indications and report this to the Clinical Instructor
20. Participate in inter-professional care, if available
21. Observe an initial PT examination performed by a Physical Therapist, and participate in the development of an initial treatment session for that patient
22. Contribute to discharge planning with the assistance of a supervising PT
23. Indicate when a patient should be re-evaluated by a physical therapist or when the patient should receive a progress note, and complete said progress note (or weekly summative note)
24. Coordinate the physical therapy care for more than one patient at a time

Administer Interventions
25. perform physical therapy interventions in a competent and safe manner including passive range of motion, therapeutic exercise, therapeutic activities, neuromuscular re-education, gait training, stair training, transfers, bed mobility, and biophysical agents as appropriate for the clinical site
26. instruct a patient in a therapeutic exercise program that is new to the patient
27. Independently operate physical therapy equipment and modalities within the department, safely and correctly

Manage Practice
28. document all relevant information in the format used in the facility, in a method that is accurate, concise, legible, grammatically correct and timely
29. identify accurate billing codes (CPT codes) and the number of units for each patient treatment session in a timely manner
30. establish realistic weekly goals in an effort to improve clinical skills
31. arrive prepared to the midterm and final assessment meetings with a fully completed Self-Performance Evaluation Instrument
32. Demonstrate preparedness to work under the direction/supervision of a PT by communicating effectively and practicing within the scope of practice of a PTA
33. contribute to efforts to increase patient and healthcare provider safety
34. delegate appropriate tasks to support staff as a demonstration of time and resource management
35. demonstrate time management skills by managing his/her daily schedule to maximize efficiency

Participate in the Health Care Environment
36. utilize patient-sensitive language in verbal and written communication
37. participate in facility performance improvement activities if available, including quality assurance

Affective Learning Domain:
The learner will be able to successfully:

Responsibility & Professionalism
1. demonstrate initiative by arriving early each day and arriving prepared
2. interact and communicate appropriately verbally and non-verbally with the patient, the physical therapist (PT), health care delivery personnel and others in an effective, appropriate and respectful manner
3. develop a strategy for maintaining an open line of communication with the supervising PT to discuss patient and practice concerns
4. demonstrate time management skills
5. use “downtime” appropriately and professionally
6. accept feedback without becoming angry or defensive and use it to strengthen future performance as a PTA in the clinical setting.

Ethics & Values
7. exhibit conduct that reflects practice standards that are legal, ethical, and safe by adhering to institutional, state and federal regulations, adhering to the APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct, and the APTA’s Values Based Behaviors for the PTA
**Evaluation of learning**

<table>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Paper(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Presentation(s)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Practical Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Clinical Affiliation(s)</td>
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