DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

PT 702: CLINICAL INTERNSHIP III SYLLABUS
Fall Term

Course Instructors: Marie Hatten, PT, DPT, OCS
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Course Description: Eight weeks of supervised clinical experience in selected physical therapy settings with emphasis on developing increased independence and clinical reasoning skills.

Course Prerequisites: Successful completion of Summer/Fall 3 DPT courses.

Course Organization: Eight weeks of full-time clinical education experience (320 clinical hours, 3 credit hours). Students will achieve course objectives with on-site supervision from one or more clinical instructors (CIs) who are employed by the facility. Teaching methods and learning experiences are tailored by the opportunities available at the facility and type of clinical setting.

Required Materials: Student Clinical Educational Manual, APTA Physical Therapist Student Evaluation: Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction, APTA Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) Web. No texts are required for this course but all previous textbooks and notes from the academic curriculum are recommended. Other readings, appropriate to the patient population or clinical site, may be assigned by the clinical instructor.

Grading: Pass/Fail
The DCE determines the student’s grade for clinical internships. The grade is based on the point system, marks on the rating scale, written comments on the CPI by the CI, as well as communication with the CI via phone calls, site visits and e-mails regarding student performance. The clinical instructor evaluates the student performance at midterm and final using the CPI. In addition, students complete a self-assessment at midterm and final using the electronic version of the CPI. Students must review their self-assessment with their CI. Students complete an evaluation of the clinical internship experience and clinical instruction, and submit these documents to the DCE by the stipulated deadline. See detailed information regarding the grading process in the student Clinical Education Manual.

Pass: At the completion of this internship, all the following conditions must be met:

1) On the CPI, no Significant Concerns boxes are checked or described on “red-flag” items (1-4 & 7).
2) By the final evaluation period, overall ratings of student performance on the CPI are graded between “Intermediate Performance” and “Advanced Intermediate Performance.”
3) Student must demonstrate improved performance from midterm evaluation to final evaluation period as indicated through improved markings on the CPI rating scale and/or descriptions in the comments section.
4) The CI’s written comments must reflect satisfactory performance for student’s level of academic preparation.
5) Student has submitted all assignments, in the required manner, by the published deadlines.
6) Student will have earned at least 83% of the allotted points for CE III.

Attendance Requirements: Attendance is required in all clinical education sessions. Students are expected to follow the facility’s work schedule regarding hours worked, including holidays and weekends. Facility policy will also determine the student’s schedule in the event of inclement weather. Students who miss clinic days due to illness will need to make those days up in a way that fits the clinic’s schedule.

If an emergency or illness arises which necessitates missing a clinic day the student must notify the clinical instructor or CCCE prior to the start of the day or until phone contact can be established. In addition, the student must notify the DCE of an absence via voice mail or e-mail at the start of the day.
COURSE OBJECTIVES: Following completion of this internship, the student will:

1. Consistently demonstrate professional behavior in the clinical environment in all situations.
2. Consistently practice in a safe manner that minimizes risk to patient, self, and others in all situations.
3. Practice in a manner consistent with APTA Code of Ethics, and with legal practice standards.
4. Appropriately adapt delivery of physical therapy care with respect to individual and cultural differences.
5. Seek constructive feedback and assist the clinical instructor with planning a strategy or action plan to address performance that is in need of improvement.
6. Maintain appropriate documentation adhering to the policies of the clinical facility.
7. With guidance or occasional cueing from the CI, perform physical therapy examination procedures in a technically competent manner with simple and complex cases.
8. With supervision and occasional guidance from the CI, progress and modify a physical therapy plan of care that is patient-centered and evidence-based.
9. With supervision from the clinical instructor, evaluate effectiveness of education provided to patients, family, caregivers and other health care providers, and modify strategies appropriately.
10. With CI supervision for simple cases and occasional guidance for complex cases, evaluate clinical findings to determine physical therapy diagnoses and outcomes of care.
11. Communicate effectively verbally and nonverbally, in a professional and timely manner, and with guidance in complex/ambiguous situations.
12. With guidance from the CI, effectively manage time and resources, and adapt to situational needs.