Course Description
PTH 252 Clinical Practice
Lec. 0 Lab. 6 Cr. 2
Prerequisites: PTH 202, PTH 205, BIO 211, ENG 102.
Corequisites: PTH 240, PTH 242

Course Focus
This course introduces elementary clinical procedures involved in the patient care setting.

Course Outline and Purpose
This course is the first formal, fulltime Clinical Education experience for TCL PTA students. It is an eighty hour a experience, occurring 2 days a week for 5 weeks, designed to introduce the student to elementary clinical procedures in the patient care setting. All patient care activities performed by students in Clinical Education courses are directed by the plan of care developed by the licensed physical therapist and are supervised by a licensed physical therapist or licensed physical therapist assistant.

Text and References
Clinical Education Information Packets as Required for Specified Clinical Sites

Clinical Site Information
Information regarding the different clinical sites is located in the file cabinet in the PTA laboratory (room 122).

Course Objectives
At the completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the role of a physical therapist assistant.*
2. Demonstrate safe, ethical, and legal patient care practices. *
3. Demonstrate appropriate professional behaviors and conduct in the clinical setting. *
4. Demonstrate effective verbal communication with patients and staff.
5. Respond appropriately to individual and cultural differences of others.
6. Educate patients and caregivers on various aspects of therapeutic exercise, modalities and/or patient care.
7. Perform select physical therapy interventions (listed on the PTH 252 Clinical Performance Tool) as established in the plan of care developed by a licensed physical therapist.
8. Demonstrate the following data collection techniques: vital signs, goniometry, MMT, pain, joint end feel.
9. Respond appropriately to changes in patient status.
10. Accurately document patient treatment sessions.

**Student Contributions**
Each student is required to actively participate in all aspects of clinical education as directed by their CI. Appropriate and professional behavior is expected at all times in the clinical setting. Students demonstrating inappropriate behaviors in a patient care setting will be dismissed from the learning situation, undergo disciplinary procedures including possible dismissal from the program and will be assessed grading penalties related to the behavior.

When in the clinical setting, students’ apparel and grooming must conform to health, sanitation, and safety standards. Students thus must adhere to the following requirements unless otherwise directed by the faculty or clinical instructor:
1. The required clinic attire for students includes wearing student ID badge or other student ID badge as required by the clinical facility.
2. Students must have with them a black ink pen and a notebook.
3. If the clinical site does not provide a dress code, students will follow these guidelines: khaki, black or navy pants with a belt and a collared shirt with sleeves. Clothing should not be transparent or see-through in any way. Clothing must be clean and free of stains and wrinkles, and must be of a type that does not limit the ability to perform patient care activities. Shoes must be worn with socks and must have closed toes and flat heels. Rubber soles are recommended for comfort in the clinic. Hair must be maintained off the collar and away from the face. Ornate hair fasteners are not appropriate. Students with a beard or mustache must keep it neat, clean and well-trimmed. Fingernails must be clean and no longer than ¼ inch in length. Only clear or neutral colored nail polish is permitted and artificial nails of any type are not allowed. Jeans, mini-skirts, T-shirts and sandals are not acceptable clinical attire.
4. If the clinical site requires, students will comply with the clinical site policy of wearing scrubs.
5. Only the following items of jewelry are permitted: wedding bands, medical identification bracelets, and one small, plain stud earring in each ear; other visible forms of body jewelry may not be worn in the clinical setting. A watch with a second hand must be worn.
6. Tattoos and other forms of body art must be covered.
7. The close physical contact that is necessary in the clinic requires consistent attention to personal hygiene. To prevent offending patients, students should use deodorant and maintain proper oral hygiene at all times.
8. Perfume or strong after-shave lotions are not appropriate in clinical settings.
9. Gum chewing and tobacco chewing are not permitted in clinical settings.
10. Failure to comply with the dress code will result in dismissal from the clinical area resulting in an unexcused absence.
11. Students may not use cell phones except during scheduled breaks.

**Course Schedule**
As posted by clinical site.
Preclinical Meeting TBA
Course Evaluation
Unlike other courses in the TCL PTA curriculum, this Clinical Education course is graded on a PASS/FAIL basis. Grades are assigned by the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education.

Grading Methodology: A Grade of "PASS" must be achieved in order to pass the course and progress in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. This includes progressing to any scheduled clinical experiences. In order to achieve a grade of "PASS", the following criteria must be met:

- The student must successfully complete the required number of Clinical hours (80) as assigned.
- The student must satisfactorily complete and submit a weekly soap note and Performance Evaluation. Late paperwork will not be accepted.
- The student must achieve a satisfactory rating on the PTH 252 Clinical Performance Tool.
- Student must complete pre-clinical assignment due 1:00pm May 24th, review questions and application problems of Chapter 4 and 5 in Clynch text.

Pre-clinical education activities will be conducted to prepare the student for the clinical education experience. Students are required to attend all such pre-Clinical Education activities in order to be eligible to attend clinical assignment. In order to maximize learning, students will be required to complete any assignments from the clinical education faculty and complete any indicated study and review outside of the clinical schedule. If a student is falling behind in clinical performance or achievement, it is imperative to seek immediate assistance from the PTA Program faculty and the clinical instructor (CI). Required post-clinical education activities will be conducted at the college to assist students in fully processing the depth of the clinical education experience.

ADA STATEMENT

The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ATTENDANCE

The College’s statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

1. Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
2. Students taking an online/internet class must sign in and communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
3. Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.
4. In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.
5. When a student exceeds the allowed absences, the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor MUST withdrawal the student with a grade of “W”, “WP”, or “WF”
depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student’s progress up to the last date of attendance or under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.

6. Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.

7. A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.

8. Students are expected to be in class on time. Arrival to class after the scheduled start time or leaving class prior to dismissal counts as a tardy. Three tardies and/or early departures are considered as one absence unless stated otherwise.

9. It is the student's responsibility to sign the roll/verify attendance with instructor upon entering the classroom. Failure to sign the roll/verify attendance results in a recorded absence. In the event of tardiness, it is the student’s responsibility to insure that attendance is marked. The student is responsible for all material/announcements presented, whether present or absent.

10. Continuity of classroom and laboratory (which includes clinical experiences) is essential to the student’s progress in providing safe and competent patient care. Students are expected to use appropriate judgment for participating in clinical activities. To evaluate the student’s knowledge and skills, it is necessary for the student to be present for all clinical experiences. If absence does occur, the designated clinical site, in addition to the Division of Health Sciences Administrative Assistant, must be notified by telephone no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the clinical experience. The Division of Health Sciences telephone number is 843-525-8267.

11. Absences from the clinical area are strongly discouraged. The attendance policy applies to clinical activities. “No call, no show” for clinical is unprofessional conduct and the student will be withdrawn from the program with a WF.

A copy of TCL’s STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL) is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVV 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGRZ 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WA 97.3, WTCV, WTGS TV, WJW TV, and WASV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student’s responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification. The College adheres to the Student

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Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the TCL Student Handbook, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.

Health care professionals hold the public trust. Academic misconduct by health science students calls that trust into question and academic integrity is expected. It is a fundamental requirement that any work presented by students will be their own. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to):

1. copying the work of another student or allowing another student to copy working papers, printed output, electronic files, quizzes, tests, or assignments.
2. completing the work of another student or allowing another student to complete or contribute to working papers, printed output, electronic files, quizzes, tests, or assignments.
3. viewing another student’s computer screen during a quiz or examinations.
4. talking or communicating with another student during a test.
5. violating procedures prescribed by the instructor to protect the integrity of a quiz, test, or assignment.
6. plagiarism in any form, including, but not limited to: copying/pasting from a website, textbook, previously submitted student work, or any instructor-prepared class material; obvious violation of any copyright-protected materials.
7. knowingly aiding a person involved in academic misconduct.
8. providing false information to staff and/or faculty.
9. entering an office unaccompanied by faculty or staff.
10. misuse of electronic devices.

Course Coordinator: Jennifer Culbreth, ACCE, PTA
OFFICE LOCATION: Building 4 Room 125
PHONE NUMBER: 843-470-5956
Email: jculbreth@tcl.edu