DPT 895 CLINICAL INTERNSHIP
Units: 10, Clock Hours: Supervision 640
Fall 2014, Spring 2015
TIME: Arranged
LOCATION: Various

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Course Prerequisites
Successful completion of all didactic coursework in the Physical Therapy curriculum and DPT 701 Clerkship.

Course Materials
Required text and Readings
There are no required texts for this course; however, the CI may provide the student with assigned readings as needed to enhance clinical skills. Students may find it useful to access the APTA Guide to Physical Therapist Practice and bring Guide to Evidence-based Physical Therapy Practice (Jewell DV) to internships as clinical references.

Purpose/Course Overview
This course is designed to incorporate knowledge and skills obtained during the first short term Clerkship, and synthesize information and skills developed in the final didactic portion of the curriculum.

Teaching Methods and Learning Experiences
The principal learning experience in each of the internships will be the student’s direct performance of patient care under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist Clinical Instructor (CI). The CI and the student will work together to develop additional teaching strategies to enhance the student’s clinical skills in each assigned setting. These may include observation, supervised treatment, and team treatment with the CI along with tutorials, and review of the literature. While having the student prepare and present an in-service education program is strongly encouraged as an opportunity to develop teaching skills, the CI or CCCE may find it more appropriate to involve the student in other educational activities according to the needs of the facility.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Practice effectively as an adult learner in a clinical environment; displaying such attributes as self-directed learning, self-evaluation, problem solving, time management, and the ability to use constructive feedback to improve performance.
2. Practice effectively as a team member in the assigned practice setting. This practice may include participation in patient conferences, rounds, and other activities designed to enhance the quality of patient care in the assigned setting.
3. Demonstrate the safe, effective and independent application of clinical skills on all Performance Criteria between the level of “Intermediate Performance” and “Entry-Level Performance” as measured on the Clinical Performance Instrument (PT CPI Web) at the final evaluation of the Intermediate (Fall) Internship.
4. Demonstrate the safe, effective and independent application of clinical skills on all Performance Criteria at the level of “Entry-Level Performance” as measured on the Clinical Performance Instrument (PT CPI Web) at the final evaluation of the Final (Spring) Internship.
5. Demonstrate effective skills in the area of education and teaching through the presentation of an educational program/in-service at the discretion of the CI.
7. Assess the Clinical Education experience effectively to facilitate future learning and give constructive feedback to clinical instructors and facilities.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of participation in professional organizations and their impact on practice patterns and standards.
9. Effectively utilize on-line resources to critically reflect on pertinent topics for patient evaluation and care, and for in-service presentation.
10. Apply current knowledge, theory, clinical judgment, and the patient’s values and perspective in patient management.
11. Cooperates, collaborates, communicates, and integrates care with other health care practitioners as necessary to meet the patient’s/client’s needs.
Course Outline

1. Internships are coordinated with the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) while taking the following into account: student desire and need for a particular experience, and availability of clinical sites. The student is being prepared as a “general practitioner of physical therapy”, and therefore is expected to have clinical education in a variety of settings. Students are generally required to participate in clinical education in both outpatient and in-patient settings. Examples of settings that may assist in accomplishing these goals may include at least two or more of the following:
   - A hospital setting (inpatient acute, inpatient rehab, sub-acute, or long term acute care)
   - An outpatient setting (with primary caseload of orthopedic diagnoses)
   - A rehabilitation setting (acute, skilled nursing facilities-considered to be inpatient or sub-acute, or other similar types of facilities)
   - A specialty area (pediatrics, geriatrics, sports medicine, aquatics, women’s health, wound care, etc.)

Grading Criteria

The DPT program uses the APTA Clinical Performance Instrument (PT CPI Web) for all full-time clinical experiences. Several methods of evaluation will be used during each of the internships:

1. **Evaluation of the Student by the CI**: There are two methods of evaluation which will be used to determine the quality of performance during the clerkship:
   a. Formative Evaluation: Student’s performance will be observed continually throughout the internship. The CI will provide the student with feedback as needed, either through written or verbal means. The student and the CI will work together to determine an optimal schedule of exchanging feedback throughout the internship. Formative feedback is important to determine the student’s progression of performance throughout the internship.
   b. Summative Evaluation: Student’s performance evaluation will be provided by the CI at mid-term and at the end of the internship on the PT CPI Web. Summative feedback should truly be a “summary” of the formative feedback given all along. Students are expected to participate in the summative evaluation process by completing self-evaluations on the CPI and sharing these with their CI at mid-term and final.

2. **Self-Assessment by the Student**: Development of clinical competence is strongly related to the process of self-assessment and reflection. Thus, students are expected to complete self-evaluations using the CPI and the Professional Behaviors Self-Assessment (PBSA) at the completion of their Intermediate Internship. It is also expected that the student will share and compare their CPI self-evaluation with that of their CI. The student may wish to share their PBSA with the CI.

3. **Evaluation of the Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction by the Student**: At the completion of the Internship, students will be asked to complete an assessment of the experience and instruction by completing, the Physical Therapist Student Evaluation: Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction (PTSE). This assessment is to be reviewed at the time of each final evaluation by both the CI and student. The ability to provide useful constructive feedback in a tactful manner is a critical aspect of professional behavior. Thus, this evaluation is considered to be as important as the one provided to the student by the CI.

4. **Evaluation of the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) by the Student**: The student will complete the ACCE/DCE Performance Assessment Student Survey (DPASS) to assess the DCE at the end of the Final (Spring) Internship. CI’s are also encouraged to assess the DCE by completing the ACCE/DCE Performance Assessment Clinical Instructor and Center Coordinator of Clinical Education Surveys.

5. In order for the Internship to be considered complete, and a grade to be assigned, the DCE must receive these assessment tools at the end of each designated clinical experience (CPI, PBSA, PTSE, and DPASS). The PBSA will be completed for the final time at the end of the last 8 week segment of the Intermediate (Fall) Internship. The DPASS will be completed by the student at the end of the last 8 week segment of the Final (Spring) Internship.

1. **Passing an Internship**:
   All internships are graded on a “Cr/NC” basis. The evaluation used for all clinical education experiences is the APTA Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI). There are 18 performance objectives contained in the CPI. Formal evaluations are done at mid-term and final using the CPI, which allows the student, CI and DCE to view the level of progress made on the continuum by the student. At the end of each of the internships, the CI will provide the DCE with their recommendation for CR/NC. The final responsibility of assigning a CR or NC grade for each of the internships rests with the DCE.

2. **Failing an Internship**:
   The DCE will assign a failure for an internship upon consideration of the recommendation of the CI. A failure grade is generally recommended when the student performs below entry level on performance criteria 1-4. Comments by the CI are also considered, as well as the amount of progress between the mid-term and final evaluations. In circumstances where the student’s performance is seriously deficient, (i.e. repeatedly jeopardizing patient safety or ineffective functioning at the assigned site) the CI may request that an internship be terminated before the final evaluation. The student will then be assigned a failure for that internship and withdrawn from the clinical site.
If a student fails one of the internships, a grade of “F” will be assigned for the corresponding section of DPT 895, and the student will be required to complete an additional internship in order to graduate from the SDSU DPT program. The DCE will work with the student to schedule this internship. If a student fails two internships, as per program policy, it will be recommended to the Program Director that the student be withdrawn from the DPT program.

3. **Incomplete (“I”) grades:**
If circumstances (personal/family emergency, extended illness or injury) prevent the completion of an internship, the student may petition to the DCE for a grade of an incomplete (“I”). The DCE will work with the CI and the student to determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the student resuming the internship at a later date, or the scheduling of a full additional internship.

4. **Withdrawing from an Internship:**
A student may withdraw from an internship at any time before the deadline posted by the SDSU Registrar’s Office. (These deadlines can be found in the on-line SDSU Course Schedule). For further details about withdrawing from a course, the student should refer to the SDSU Graduate Bulletin.

5. **Professional Behaviors- Please refer to the DPT Student Handbook**

**Course Policies**
As a student intern, you will be considered an unpaid staff member of your assigned site. This designation involves specific roles and responsibilities, which include:

1. **Initial Contact:** Each student will make contact with the CCCE/CI at least one month prior to the start date. This is the time to ask questions pertinent to the clinical site, such as appropriate dress, working hours, and clinic location. During the first week of the internship, you are expected to meet with the clinical instructor, and discuss mutual goals and objectives of both parties. The discussion should include each person’s expectations from the Internship, learning/teaching styles, and the proper use of the evaluation tools. You are also expected to discuss the philosophy of care of the facility with your CI, and practice with respect to that philosophy while in the clinic.

2. **Attendance:** You are expected to report to your assigned site promptly at the hour designated by your Clinical Instructor. Although it is expected that you will work about 40 hours per week, your Clinical Instructor will have the final authority and may dictate the total number of work hours dependent on patient load, documentation requirements or other factors. Being consistently late or not working the hours requested of you is considered unprofessional behavior and will be graded accordingly on the internship evaluation tool.

3. **Holidays:** In special circumstances, your Clinical Instructor may request that you work a facility-designated holiday as part of a flexible schedule (you will be given another day off instead). Otherwise, you will not be expected to report to your internship on holidays.

4. **Sick Time:** If you are sick during your internship, you must contact your Clinical Instructor as soon as possible to inform her/him of your absence. The Clinical Instructor has the authority to determine the number of sick days that will need to be made up, but generally more than 2 days absent will be required to be made up.

5. **Extended Absences:** If circumstances (i.e. personal or family emergency, illness, injury) make it necessary for you to be absent from your site for more than 2 days, you must inform the DCE. The DCE will work with you and your CI to determine an appropriate course of action.

6. **Personal Time:** It is expected that personal time for doctor’s appointments, job interviews etc. will be scheduled outside of internship hours. Any personal time off from your Internship must be cleared with your CI.

7. **Dress Code:** You are expected to follow the dress code of your assigned site. You should inquire about the dress code before you report for your first day of internship. Infractions of the dress code are considered unprofessional behavior and will be graded accordingly. You may also be suspended from your site until you can meet the dress code standard of that facility.

8. **CPR Certification/TB Tests:** You are expected to maintain up-to-date CPR certification and evidence of TB testing throughout the duration of all internships. Failure to do so may result in suspension from your assigned site until you can provide the DCE and your CI with copies of test results and CPR certification.

9. **MMR (measles, mumps and rubella):** Proof of MMR immunization is required. A record of this is also required for admission to SDSU and can be obtained from Student Health Services.

10. **Hepatitis B:** Proof of immunization (a series of three inoculations over six months) or a signed release form stating refusal of such is required. The Hepatitis-B series of inoculations can be acquired at Student Health Services.

11. **Fingerprinting and Criminal Background Checks:** For students enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, there is a requirement that a criminal background check be completed prior to some clinical placements. This can be ordered at the [www.sdsnsec.org](http://www.sdsnsec.org) website. Sites may also require fingerprinting. This can be completed through the University Police Department. Students are responsible for all fees associated with these procedures.
12. **Professional Liability Insurance**: As a professional student at SDSU, your liability coverage is provided by CSURMA-Student Professional Liability Insurance Program (SPLIP). A copy of the document can be found at http://bfa.sdsu.edu/prosvcs/pdf/splip.pdf

13. **Additional Information**: Your assigned site may request additional information not required by the school. These requirements may include proof of chicken pox or Varicella titer, drug testing, and/or physical examination. You should ask your CI if any additional information will be required before reporting for your first day of internship. It is also your responsibility to acquire any additional information required by the site.

14. **Student Health Insurance**: You are required to carry your own health insurance during the program and clinical experiences. As an “unpaid employee” of your assigned site, you will not be covered under Worker’s Compensation and will be expected to cover the cost of any medical care needed, even if this occurs as the direct result of internship related activities.

15. **Change in Health Status**: You must notify your CI and the DCE should you become pregnant or sustain a function-altering change in your health before or during the clinical internship experience so that appropriate personal safety precautions can be implemented.

16. **Registration for DPT 895** must be completed **before** the start of internships. Failure to register invalidates your liability insurance and will result in your removal from your assigned site until registration is completed.

17. **Cancellation of an internship by the clinical site**: Clinical sites occasionally cancel clinical placements if circumstances (staffing, caseload, facility ownership, etc.) change to the extent that they are unable to provide a learning environment for the student. In the event of cancellation by the facility, the student is notified by the DCE immediately. In most cases, the DCE is able to find an alternate placement without a significant loss of clinical clock hours or internship “continuity” for the student. In certain cases, however, depending upon the timeline of the cancellation and other specific circumstances, student placement into an alternate facility may require the re-scheduling or addition of clinical practice hours.

18. **Student requests for changes in internship assignments**: Students are NOT allowed to change their own clinical site assignments. A student wishing to appeal a placement decision should submit an appeal in writing to the DCE. The resulting decision will be based on the information provided. Situations such as weddings, employment opportunities or other circumstances that existed before the clinical site was selected usually do not warrant the DCE to change the clinical placement.

19. **Communication with the School during Internships**: The DCE will contact students and their CI by telephone or site visit during each of the internships. The purpose of this contact is to provide support to both the student and the CI towards a productive and effective learning experience. Students are also expected to check their SDSU email at least weekly for communications and announcements from the Program. Students are encouraged to initiate contacts with the DCE whenever they have questions or concerns about the internship experience. The DCE can be reached via phone or by E-mail contacts provided in this syllabus.

20. **Academic Honesty**: Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one’s grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term ‘cheating’ not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one’s own work. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from an F on a particular assignment, through an F for the course, to expulsion from the University. For more information on the University’s policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the Graduate Bulletin section 41304.

21. **Students with Disabilities**: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

*This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*