Course Description: An introduction to the medical specialty of physical therapy as a discipline within the health care system, including the history and development, philosophy, purposes, and legal and ethical aspects of physical therapy. The role of the physical therapist assistant is defined, and the relationship of physical therapy to other health services is explored. Additionally, students will receive a basic understanding of communication and documentation as it applies to physical therapy. Laboratory procedures related to activities of daily living, proper body alignment, balance and movement, and medical asepsis, etc. are emphasized. Laboratory Fee.

Credit: 4 semester hours (3 lec and 4 lab) 112 contact hours

Purpose: This course is intended for beginning students in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. It will provide an introduction to the field of physical therapy. Basic treatment techniques and principles of patient care will also be included. All skills and knowledge gained in this course will be required entry level knowledge for those students admitted into the PTA Program.

Textbook: Pierson, Frank M. Principles and Techniques of Patient Care, Mosby, 4th ed; Pagliarulo, Michael Introduction to Physical Therapy

Course Time/Location:

Instructors:
Office Hours/Location
Phone:
Email
Website:
Arranging conferences/appointments

Program student learning outcomes

1. Upon completion of the second clinical course, the student will demonstrate completion of all 12 entry level skills in the professional behaviors section of the PTA MACS (Mastery Assessment of Clinical Skills)

2. Upon completion of the third and final clinical course, the student will demonstrate completion of the entry level skills in the data collection section of the PTA MACS (Mastery Assessment of Clinical Skills)

3. Upon completion of the third and final clinical course, the student will demonstrate completion of the entry level skills in the intervention section of the PTA MACS (Mastery Assessment of Clinical Skills)

4. Upon completion of the third and final clinical course, the student will be assigned a score of entry level or better on the final progress report of the PTA MACS (Mastery Assessment of Clinical Skills).

5. Upon completion of the third and final clinical course, the student will demonstrate the skills necessary to synthesize research literature and present an inservice to clinical faculty following evidence-based practice guidelines

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of physical therapy as well as the role of the PTA.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of legal terminology and an understanding of the legal implications of practice.
3. Exhibit a professional attitude following the guidelines provided in the Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant and Core Values (American Physical Therapy Association).
4. Identify the role of other health care providers in the multidisciplinary team approach.
5. Identify the various types of health care facilities and how they are funded.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of quality assurance and how it affects physical therapy services.
7. Exhibit an understanding of non-verbal, verbal, and written communication skills through effective communication with peers, patients and supervisors while demonstrating cultural sensitivity.
8. Demonstrates an understanding of the organization of physical therapy services.
9. Demonstrate proper body mechanics when performing patient care activities.
10. Identify the parts of a wheelchair and demonstrate its proper use.
11. Demonstrate the proper technique for fitting a wheelchair and for verification of the fit.
12. Demonstrate the proper technique for basic patient lifts/transfers as shown in class.
14. Participate in community service activities related to the profession and begin a professional portfolio.
15. Exhibit an understanding of the importance of medical asepsis through proper procedure including use of standard precautions at all times.
17. Differentiate between the common rehabilitation problems of patients with hemiparesis, Spinal Cord Injury, Parkinson’s Disease, Traumatic Brain Injury, arthritis, and general musculoskeletal conditions.
18. Discuss and demonstrate the basic concepts of range of motion exercises and active exercise.
19. Identify and display professional behaviors using the Generic Abilities.
20. Demonstrate ability to locate and evaluate information on the web and use approved citations in written work.
21. Display ability to complete appropriate patient documentation within an identified time frame.
22. Recognize normal and abnormal vital signs.
23. Demonstrate ability to correctly monitor and document vital signs.
24. Recognize signs of stress and develop strategies to reduce professional stress.
25. Read and discuss healthcare related materials.
26. Become familiar with college services including counseling, financial aid, test taking and time management and library services.
27. Recognize safety precautions in the lab and with patients and caregivers.
28. Properly fits assistive devices for gait training.
29. Demonstrates correct technique and provides for patient safety when teaching gait patterns.
30. Demonstrates safe and accurate use of equipment used in patient care environments.
31. Discusses common conditions in which physical therapy interventions are indicated.

Course outline:

- Student services and the library
- Safety
- Development of Physical Therapy
  - History
  - Role of the PTA
  - Philosophy
  - Purpose
  - APTA
  - TPTA
  - CAD
- Medico-legal Aspects of Practice
  - Legal Terminology
  - Texas Physical Therapy Practice Act and Rules
  - Texas State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners
- Professionalism and Professional Ethics
  - Professional Behaviors
  - Professional Ethics
  - APTA Guidelines for the PTA
  - APTA Standards of Practice
  - Core Values

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- Multidisciplinary Team Approach
  - Roles of Other Health Care Providers
  - Health Care Facilities (Types & Funding)
- Organization of Physical Therapy Services
  - Lines of Authority and Responsibility
  - Job Descriptions
  - Policies and Procedures
  - Performance Evaluations
  - Grievance Procedures
  - Fiscal Considerations
  - APTA Standards
- Quality Assurance and Risk management
- Communication Skills
  - Non-verbal
  - Verbal
  - Written/Documentation
  - Cultural competence
- Physical Therapy for a variety of conditions
- Common Disabilities
  - Hemiplegia
  - Spinal Cord Injury
  - Parkinson's Disease
  - TBI
  - Arthritis
  - Other
- Principles of Patient Care
  - Medical Asepsis
  - Body Mechanics
  - Wheelchairs
  - Transfers/Lifts
  - Tilt Table
  - Management and prevention of pressure ulcers
  - Positioning and Draping
  - Passive ROM and active exercise
  - Vital signs
  - Assistive devices and gait patterns
  - Equipment in the patient care environment

SCANS: The following SCANS competencies will be addressed in this course (See PTA Student Handbook for clarification):

Students will have multiple opportunities to: identify, organize, plan and allocate resources (Resources); exercise leadership, participate as a team, teach others and develop skills in cultural competency (Interpersonal) acquire and use information using oral, written and multi-media methods (Information); work with a variety of technologies (Technology); read, write, perform mathematical operations, listen and speak to groups (Basic Skills); think creatively, make decisions, solve problems, visualize, use varied learning techniques, analyze underlying principles of relationships and ethics (Thinking Skills); display responsibility, self-esteem, sociability, self-management, integrity and honesty (Personal Qualities).

Course Time/Assignments: EVC PTA classroom 9307 or 9301; See handout provided on first class date and posted to Blackboard

Facilities: Class will be held in Building 9000, rooms 9301 and 9307.
**Instructional classroom methods:** Lecture and lab, audiovisuals and power point, discussion, scenarios and guest speakers

**Didactic assignments**
Students must complete all reading assignments, as outlined in the course schedule or assigned by the instructor, prior to class time. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Ten points will be subtracted for each day an assignment is late. Homework assignments are counted as ALEs. Homework assignments are given in class and not listed on the class calendar. This course is supported by internet based activities which require access to ACC email and the internet.

**Laboratory**
After practicing each laboratory skill, the student presents a return demonstration to the instructor. A faculty member or other person in the role of clinical instructor reviews each skill before laboratory examinations. Students report to lab wearing the appropriate lab attire. Laboratory uniforms consist of shorts and a T-shirt for men and shorts and a halter-top for women. Suitable shorts are not excessively short but are loose enough to allow palpation of hip musculature. Halters will have back closures to allow ease of exposure for palpation and treatment. Students will wear shoes appropriate for the scheduled lab activities. Students who are not prepared will receive one verbal warning; following incidences will result in two points subtracted from their final average for each infraction. Students follow professional clinical attire guidelines during lab exams in their role as the therapist.

**Human subject policy**
Students allow faculty and other students to apply commonly accepted physical therapy interventions during role-playing scenarios. All students are instructed in proper technique for the protection of a patient’s modesty and dignity. Students have close faculty supervision during the laboratory sessions. Students practice application of these techniques on other students only with appropriate supervision. Students sign the Human Subject Policy at the beginning of their first year. Only currently enrolled students may participate in laboratory activities.

**Videotaping**
To enhance the student’s educational process, video recording may be utilized in lecture, demonstration, and during laboratory activities or laboratory examinations. Videos assist the student and faculty with evaluation of student performance. Your signature on the Human Subjects Release form grants permission for video recording.

**Electronic devices**
While it is recognized that students may need electronic devices for their job or family responsibilities, it is also noted that these sounds are disruptive to the educational process. Students are required to utilize the silent feature on any electronic device during lecture and laboratory sessions. Breaks are regularly scheduled and should be used for returning calls or text messages. Absolutely no electronic devices will be available to the student during examinations.

**Grade reporting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%–100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%–92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%–82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%–72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 63%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

It is strongly recommended that students earning less than an 80 on any unit exam or lab exam attend open lab sessions or plan time to spend with a tutor.

A student must have a “C” (73%) or above on written exam and laboratory exam averages for the course at the time of completion. Projects, class participation and homework will not be included for a course grade calculation if either exam average is less than a 73.
Grade compilation:
Written exams 44%
Midterm lab exam 11%
Final written exam 11%
Final lab exam 11%
Interview, Project and Presentation 11%
Homework/ALES 8%
Professional Development Assessment 4%

Make-up exams will only be allowed for excused absences, as defined by the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to make all arrangements with the instructor.

ALE’s (alternate learning experiences), class participation, and professionalism will be evaluated for possible bonus points.

Completion of assignments policy
Students must complete all assignments including homework and ALEs in order to complete the course. If assignments are not completed by the day that grades are due, the student will receive an incomplete. If the late assignments are not completed within the timeline given, a grade of F will be assigned.

Students may not take mid-term and or final lab exams until all required check-offs have been successfully mastered. All unit exams must be completed in order for the student to take the mid-term or final exam respectively.

Lab practical retake policy
In order to have a successful completion of a lab practical, a score of 73 is required and no zeros may be scored in essential criteria. If this is not achieved, the student has one opportunity to retake the examination for successful completion.

Regardless of the lab practical score, if a student scores a zero in any of the essential criteria categories, the lab grade assigned will not be higher than a 72. If the overall score is lower than a 72, that score will be taken for the initial attempt. The score issued on the first attempt and the score on the retake lab practical will be averaged together to give the student their recorded lab practical grade.

The grading instructor and the student determine scheduling of the retake lab practical.

Review of exams
The student has five days to discuss any grade discrepancy with the instructor.

Exam security policy
The Physical Therapist Assistant program faculty supports the students in being able to identify any deficiencies in their mastery of course material by allowing them to review unit exams. These exams may be reused in future courses and for this reason students will only be permitted to review exams in the presence of a faculty member or tutor. The program faculty is committed to protecting the integrity of the program for the benefit of all students, employers, and prospective patients. Removing exams from the department, for any reason, is strictly prohibited. Students are allowed to review any exam within five days of receiving the graded exam. This can be done by scheduling an appointment with the respective instructor or tutor or through any other remediation deemed appropriate by the course instructor. In addition, an instructor may set an appointment with a student to review exams at any time over the course of the semester.

Removal of the exams from the department is considered scholastic dishonesty and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken.

Classroom/laboratory attendance policy
Attendance is essential for the attainment of course objectives. Repeated tardies or unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action. The instructor may choose to withdraw a student who has repeated tardies or unexcused
absences greater than one class period in the two day format and two class periods in the four day format.

Make-up work will be required for absences or tardies in order to ensure that students acquire information and skills presented during their absence. Students must notify the lead PTA Instructor in advance whenever tardiness or absence is unavoidable. The student is responsible for meeting with the lead instructor regarding missed work.

**Professional behavior**

In preparation for entering the workforce, it is expected that students wear clothing that is appropriate for the learning environment. Please come to class in neat, clean, modest attire. Professional grooming includes hair that is clean and away from the face and fingernails that are clean and neatly filed. The fingernails should not extend beyond the fingertips and for safety, do not wear artificial nails. Only clear or pale nail polish is acceptable. Students are expected to wear professional clinical attire for all field activities and during the lab exam when the student is in the role of the SPTA. Students are expected to turn in assignments in a timely manner. Please demonstrate appropriate and professional interactions with faculty, staff, and peers.

Students are expected to assist in lab maintenance each lab period.

**Mid-term grade report**

The lead instructor for each course provides a mid-term grade report to each student in the class including exam, project and homework grades. The instructor will meet with any student prior to that time that is not meeting course objectives.

**Students with disabilities**

Anyone with special needs requiring accommodations should notify the Department Chair immediately. If you have not contacted Special Services, please do so as soon as possible. It is of utmost importance that you follow this procedure for us to provide you with a quality educational process.

**Scholastic dishonesty**

Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to, exams, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects either individual or in groups; classroom presentations; and homework. See the ACC Student Handbook for a full discussion of the college’s scholastic dishonesty policy.

**Academic freedom**

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a search for truth and upon free expression. In this course the professor and students shall strive to protect free inquiry and the open exchange of facts, ideas and opinions. Students are free to take exception to views offered in this course and to reserve judgment about debatable issues. Grades will not be affected by personal views. With this freedom comes the responsibility of civility and respect for a diversity of ideas and opinions. This means that students must take turns speaking, listen to others speak without interruption and refrain from name calling or other personal attacks.

**Withdrawal:** It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the roll should he or she decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is submitted before the Final Withdrawal Date. The student is also strongly encouraged to retain their copy of the withdrawal form for their records.

Students who enroll for the third or subsequent time in a course taken since Fall, 2002, may be charged a higher tuition rate, for that course.

State law permits students to withdraw from no more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career at Texas public colleges or universities. With certain exceptions, all course withdrawals automatically count towards this limit. Details regarding this policy can be found in the ACC college catalog.
Incompletes: An instructor may award a grade of “I” (Incomplete) if a student was unable to complete all of the objectives for the passing grade in a course. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor but may not be later than the final deadline for withdrawal in the subsequent semester.

Statement on scholastic dishonesty: A student attending ACC assumes responsibility for conduct compatible with the mission of the college as an educational institution. Students have the responsibility to submit coursework that is the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, and falsifying documents.

Penalties for scholastic dishonesty will depend upon the nature of the violation and may range from lowering a grade on one assignment to an “F” in the course and/or expulsion from the college. See the Student Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Process and other policies at: http://www.austincc.edu/current/needtoknow

Student rights and responsibilities: Students at the college have the rights accorded by the U.S. Constitution to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility to accord the same rights to others in the college community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. Opportunity for students to examine and question pertinent data and assumptions of a given discipline, guided by the evidence of scholarly research, is appropriate in a learning environment. This concept is accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility on the part of the student. As willing partners in learning, students must comply with college rules and procedures.

Safety Statement: Austin Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. You are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Additional information on these can be found at http://www.austincc.edu/ehs. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the Emergency Procedures poster and Campus Safety Plan map in each classroom. Additional information about emergency procedures and how to sign up for ACC Emergency Alerts to be notified in the event of a serious emergency can be found at http://www.austincc.edu/emergency/.

Please note, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be dismissed from the day’s activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities.

You are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be immediately dismissed from the day’s activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities.

Use of ACC Email: All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student’s ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify you of any college related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Instructions for activating an ACCmail account can be found at http://www.austincc.edu/accmail/index.php