



Western Technical College

10524140 PTA Professional Issues 1

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description	Introduces the history and development of the physical therapy profession, legal and ethical issues, the interdisciplinary health care team, and professional communication skills.
Career Cluster	Health Science
Instructional Level	A.A.S. - Associate in Applied Science
Total Credits	2
Total Hours	36

Textbooks

The Role of the Physical Therapist Assistant. 3rd Edition. Copyright 2023. Clynch, Holly M. Publisher: F.A. Davis Co. **ISBN-13**: 978-1-71964-316-0. Required.

Physical Therapy Clinical Handbook for PTAs. 4th Edition. Copyright 2023. Wedge, Frances M. Publisher: Jones & Bartlett Publishers. **ISBN-13**: 978-1-284-22615-7. Required.

Success Abilities

1. Cultivate Passion: Enhance Personal Connections
2. Cultivate Passion: Expand a Growth-Mindset
3. Cultivate Passion: Increase Self-Awareness
4. Live Responsibly: Develop Resilience
5. Live Responsibly: Embrace Sustainability
6. Live Responsibly: Foster Accountability

7. Refine Professionalism: Act Ethically
8. Refine Professionalism: Practice Effective Communication

High Impact Practices

1. Community Based Learning Project: a key learning outcome of this course is to connect academic learning and civic development while simultaneously addressing a community partner's needs, interests, or problems.

Program Outcomes

1. Function under the supervision of a physical therapist in a safe, legal, professional, and ethical manner to ensure the safety of patients, self, and others throughout the clinical interaction
2. Demonstrate clear and collaborative communication with patients, families, and health care team
3. Exhibit behaviors and conduct that reflect respect and sensitivity according to physical therapy practice standards
4. Produce documentation to support the delivery of physical therapy services
5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills to implement and modify treatment within a plan of care under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist
6. Integrate components of operational and fiscal practices of physical therapy service in a variety of settings
7. Implement a self-directed plan for career development, credentialing, and lifelong learning

Course Competencies

1. Apply ethical standards to physical therapy issues

Assessment Strategies

- 1.1. in responding to scenarios that present ethical dilemmas that may be encountered in physical therapy
- 1.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 1.1. response accurately identifies ethical issue
- 1.2. response explains why it is an ethical issue
- 1.3. response proposes a course of action
- 1.4. response predicts impact of proposed course of action
- 1.5. response logically defends choice

Learning Objectives

- 1.a. Define morals and ethics.
- 1.b. Describe the APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant and the Guidelines for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant.
- 1.c. Identify possible ethical dilemmas in the clinical setting.
- 1.d. Describe key characteristics of ethical behavior including "Value Based Behaviors for the Physical Therapist Assistant".
- 1.e. Define non-maleficence, beneficence, justice, autonomy, veracity, duty, professional ethics, medical ethics and other related terms.
- 1.f. Describe possible Standards that can be used as guides for resolution including possible course of action in case scenarios.
- 1.g. Explain rationale for course(s) of action including potential impact.

2. Apply legal standards to physical therapy issues

Assessment Strategies

- 2.1. in written or oral responses to scenarios describing situations in which you need to make professional choices that could have legal ramifications
- 2.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

You will meet performance expectations when:

- 2.1. responses accurately identify the state and/or federal laws that apply to each scenario
- 2.2. responses describe the legal issues present in each scenario
- 2.3. responses propose, for each scenario, a course of action that complies with state and federal laws
- 2.4. responses explain logic of the proposed courses of action
- 2.5. responses predict the ramifications of failure to comply with federal and/or state laws in the context of each scenario

Learning Objectives

- 2.a. Contrast civil law, criminal law, administrative law, regulations, policies and position statements including how they are made.
- 2.b. Analyze how various laws, regulations, policies and position statements affect physical therapy practice.
- 2.c. Identify resources that Physical Therapist Assistants may use to find out more about laws, regulations, policies and position statements that affect physical therapy practice.
- 2.d. Identify the responsibility of the physical therapist assistant in reporting fraud and abuse related to utilization of and payment for physical therapy services.
- 2.e. Describe the legal liability that a Physical Therapist Assistant has in the care provided.
- 2.f. Identify legal process for a complaint against a PT or PTA in the state of Wisconsin.
- 2.g. Examine the Physical Therapy Practice Act in WI, including PT Rules and other applicable statute.
- 2.h. Identify applicable law in case scenarios.

3. Explain the elements of professional socialization for the PTA student

Assessment Strategies

- 3.1. in an oral, written or graphic explanation
- 3.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 3.1. you explain the student role
- 3.2. you describe the role and function of the APTA
- 3.3. you explain the student clinical role
- 3.4. you explain the PTA role

Learning Objectives

- 3.a. Describe the student role in the educational setting.
- 3.b. Describe the student role in the clinical setting.
- 3.c. Identify the role and function of the APTA.
- 3.d. Define the role of the licensed Physical Therapist Assistant.
- 3.e. Discuss the importance of lifelong learning in the provision of evidence based, contemporary, quality patient care.
- 3.f. Identify career development and continuing education opportunities.
- 3.g. Describe the importance of involvement in professional and community organizations to career development.

4. Describe the profession of physical therapy

Assessment Strategies

- 4.1. in a description (format may be oral, written, or graphic)
- 4.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 4.1. you trace the history of the physical therapy profession
- 4.2. you identify specialties within physical therapy
- 4.3. you describe provision of physical therapy in various practice settings

- 4.4. you describe the profession of physical therapy within the healthcare system
- 4.5. you examine evidence-based practice in physical therapy

Learning Objectives

- 4.a. Describe a brief history of the profession of physical therapy in the US including major factors that influenced its growth and development.
- 4.b. Differentiate between the role of the Physical Therapist and the Physical Therapist Assistant in the clinical setting.
- 4.c. Explain how the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health model is used as a tool for individualized patient care, goals, and interventions.
- 4.d. Explain the role of the Physical Therapist Assistant in the patient/ client management model.
- 4.e. Describe various settings in which physical therapy is provided.
- 4.f. Examine the components of research (validity, reliability, etc) including resources for evidence based data to assist in clinical decision making.
- 4.g. Examine the history of the healthcare system in the US, including public and private providers and insurers.
- 4.h. Explore coding and billing for reimbursement.

5. Summarize roles and responsibilities of interdisciplinary team members

Assessment Strategies

- 5.1. by summarizing roles and responsibilities (format may be oral, written, or graphic)
- 5.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 5.1. summary includes members of the team
- 5.2. summary includes the roles and responsibilities of each of the team members
- 5.3. summary includes how the members interact together and with the PTA
- 5.4. summary includes the role of the PTA within the healthcare team

Learning Objectives

- 5.a. Explore the roles and responsibilities of other health care providers involved in patient care.
- 5.b. List other possible members of the healthcare team for a patient.
- 5.c. Describe interaction between members of the healthcare team.
- 5.d. Examine the role of the Physical Therapist Assistant within the healthcare team.

6. Differentiate the roles and responsibilities of the physical therapy staff

Assessment Strategies

- 6.1. by responding to case scenarios (format may be oral, written or graphic)
- 6.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 6.1. you identify the role of each of the people on the physical therapy team
- 6.2. you identify the responsibilities of each of the people on the physical therapy team
- 6.3. you compare and contrast roles and responsibilities
- 6.4. you identify duties and responsibilities of a PTA
- 6.5. you describe the PTA's scope of work
- 6.6. you explain the role of the PT and PTA within the patient management model

Learning Objectives

- 6.a. Identify members of the rehabilitation team/ physical therapy staff.
- 6.b. Explore roles and responsibilities of each member of the rehabilitation team/ physical therapy staff.
- 6.c. Compare the education and expertise of each team member.
- 6.d. Examine algorithms created by the APTA regarding delegation and supervision of the PTA and clinical decision making by the PTA.

7. Identify psycho-social aspects of care

Assessment Strategies

- 7.1. in a reflection (format may be oral, written, or graphic)

- 7.2. in a discussion of scenarios
- 7.3. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 7.1. you determine social factors affecting health care
- 7.2. you determine psychological factors affecting health care
- 7.3. you examine the impact of the factors on your treatment approach

Learning Objectives

- 7.a. Explain stages of grief related to chronic illness, disability or death and dying.
- 7.b. Explore socio-economic factors that affect healthcare.
- 7.c. Explore incidence of common mental illnesses such as depression in the US.
- 7.d. Define situational depression including its relationship to injury or illness.
- 7.e. Identify resources available for psychological or social assistance.
- 7.f. Examine types of domestic abuse, including signs and expected provider response/ reporting.
- 7.g. Explore suicide including signs and expected provider response.

8. Utilize appropriate therapeutic communication strategies

Assessment Strategies

- 8.1. through simulations and/or role plays
- 8.2. by preparing written materials in response to case study situations
- 8.3. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 8.1. you apply principles of distance and space in patient communication
- 8.2. you demonstrate assertive communication
- 8.3. you use the steps of the patient interview process
- 8.4. you adapt your communication to the level of the client or the audience
- 8.5. you adapt your communication to individual client differences
- 8.6. you demonstrate respect for confidentiality
- 8.7. you report significant client information orally and in writing

Learning Objectives

- 8.a. Evaluate your own communication style.
- 8.b. Explore the use of communication technology in healthcare.
- 8.c. Examine professional expectations for verbal and nonverbal communications.
- 8.d. Describe various personality types and communication styles.
- 8.e. Describe conflict resolution used for a breach in communication.
- 8.f. Explore cultural differences related to communication.

9. Examine the impact of cultural differences related to physical therapy

Assessment Strategies

- 9.1. through scenarios, simulations and/or role plays
- 9.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 9.1. you identify cultural differences
- 9.2. you describe the impact of the differences on delivery of physical therapy services
- 9.3. you identify your own biases
- 9.4. you describe the variables of the culturally competent practitioner

Learning Objectives

- 9.a. Identify trends in diversity in the US population, your local region and state and in the physical therapy profession.
- 9.b. Describe adjustments to delivery of care with case scenarios using different cultural issues.
- 9.c. Identify your own cultural biases, assumptions and misunderstandings.
- 9.d. Compare cultural awareness, cultural competence and cultural proficiency.

- 9.e. Identify resources for gaining knowledge on different cultures.
- 9.f. Define spirituality as a component of culture.
- 9.g. Explore options for culturally appropriate care and services with case studies.

10. Utilize medical terminology

Assessment Strategies

- 10.1. in performing procedures in the lab and classroom
- 10.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 10.1. you organize word parts appropriately
- 10.2. you define word accurately
- 10.3. you pronounce word correctly
- 10.4. you translate medical terms, abbreviations, acronyms and symbols into common language

Learning Objectives

- 10.a. Identify common pre-fixes and suffixes including what they mean when attached to a word.
- 10.b. Define words accurately as related to all systems in the body.
- 10.c. List acceptable abbreviations used in documentation in the health record.
- 10.d. Pronounce words correctly.
- 10.e. List acceptable symbols used in medical terminology.
- 10.f. Interpret healthcare documentation for meaning using case scenarios.

11. Assemble elements of documentation

Assessment Strategies

- 11.1. by assembling documentation format oral, written and graphic
- 11.2. by answering questions on one or more exams

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when:

- 11.1. you choose appropriate information for documentation
- 11.2. you prepare documentation for regulatory and legal purposes
- 11.3. you use medical terminology where appropriate
- 11.4. you differentiate the various purposes and audience s for whom the information is collected
- 11.5. you differentiate information in SOAP categories
- 11.6. you differentiate types of documentation (initial evaluation, progress note and discharge summary)
- 11.7. you identify role responsibilities relevant to physical therapy documentation
- 11.8. you examine the formats available for documentation (written, computerized, etc.)
- 11.9. you document according to ethical guidelines
- 11.10. you use correct grammar and spelling

Learning Objectives

- 11.a. Explore components of the healthcare record.
- 11.b. Explore components of a physical therapy documentation including those needed to meet reimbursement and accreditation standards.
- 11.c. Define subjective, objective, assessment and plan portions of a note.
- 11.d. Correctly identify where information is placed in a physical therapy note using examples.
- 11.e. Use correct medical terminology, directional terminology and abbreviations in a note.
- 11.f. Explain the various purposes for which documentation is used and by whom.
- 11.g. Describe legal regulations related to documentation.
- 11.h. Explore billing and coding systems and their relationship to documentation.