

## PT 636: Clinical Education I

### I. Course Name, Number, & Description:

PT 636: Clinical Education I

One five-week full-time clinical experience in physical therapy practice settings followed by weekly discussion. Emphasis is on managing patients/clients with musculoskeletal impairments and related functional limitations.

### II. Department:

Physical Therapy and Athletic Training

### III. Instructor(s):

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Affiliating Site Coordinators of Clinical Education & Clinical Instructors

### IV. Credit Hours and Meeting Times:

4 credit hours

Clinical: 40 hours per week for 5 weeks in the clinic (schedule determined by clinical site)

Post-Clinical Discussion: 2 hours per week for 8 weeks in the classroom

### V. Clock Hours (Lecture and Laboratory) and Schedule:

40 hours per week for 5 weeks in the clinic and 2 hours per week for 8 weeks in the classroom (Total: 216 hours)

### VI. Course Prerequisites:

Successful completion of all previously required courses in the DPT curricular sequence.  
Physical therapy faculty recommendation.

### VII. Course Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is to improve clinical skills and facilitate integration of previously presented classroom and laboratory information into rational and competent clinical reasoning and patient management.

Objectives for Clinical Education I are taken from the American Physical Therapy Association Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) and are broadly written to apply to a variety of clinical settings. Each affiliating clinical education site is encouraged to further define specific objectives unique to their site that fulfill the purposes of these broader objectives. In some cases, the clinical facility may establish their own criteria for defining satisfactory performance of a specific objective. These criteria should be consistent with the academic background and level of the student and should be discussed with each student prior to observation and measurement on that objective by the clinical instructor.

At the completion of this clinical experience, the student will demonstrate **advanced beginner performance** as defined on the CPI for the following clinical performance criteria. Refer to the CPI for sample behaviors for each of the following performance criteria.

A. Given patients with musculoskeletal disorders in the clinical setting, the student:

1. Practices in a safe manner that minimizes the risk to patient, self, and others. **7D24, 7D33, 7D37**
2. Demonstrates professional behavior in all situations. **7D4, 7D5**
3. Practices in a manner consistent with established legal and professional standards and ethical guidelines. **7B, 7D1, 7D4, 7D5, 7D6**
4. Communicates in ways that are congruent with situational needs. **7B, 7D7, 7D12**
5. Adapts delivery of physical therapy services with consideration for patients' differences, values, preferences, and needs. **7B, 7D4, 7D5, 7D8**
6. Participates in self-assessment to improve clinical and professional performance.
7. Applies current knowledge, theory, clinical judgment, and the patient's values and perspective in patient management. **7B, 7D10, 7D11**
8. Determines with each patient encounter the patient's need for further examination or consultation by a physical therapist or referral to another health care professional. **7D16**
9. Performs a physical therapy patient examination using evidenced-based tests and measures. **7D17, 7D18, 7D19(all)**
10. Evaluates data from the patient examination (history, systems review, and tests and measures) to make clinical judgments. **7D20**
11. Determines a diagnosis and prognosis that guides future patient management. **7C, 7D22, 7D23**
12. Establishes a physical therapy plan of care that is safe, effective, patient-centered, and evidence-based. **7D24, 7D26**
13. Performs physical therapy interventions in a competent manner. **7D27(all), 7D30, 7D34**
14. Educates others (patients, caregivers, staff, students, other health care providers, business and industry representatives, school systems) using relevant and effective teaching methods. **7B, 7D7, 7D12**
15. Produces quality documentation in a timely manner to support the delivery of physical therapy services. **7D32**
16. Collects and analyzes data from selected outcome measures in a manner that supports accurate analysis of individual patient and group outcomes. **7D31**
17. Participates in the financial management (budgeting, billing and reimbursement, time, space, equipment, marketing, public relations) of the physical therapy service consistent with regulatory, legal, and facility guidelines. **7B, 7D1, 7D42, 7D43**
18. Directs and supervises personnel to meet patient's goals and expected outcomes according to legal standards and ethical guidelines. **7D1, 7D4, 7D5, 7D25, 7D29**

B. Through the clinical journal assignment, the student demonstrates developing competence in reflective thinking and writing. **7D5**

C. In the context of the post-clinical discussion sessions, the student:

1. Identifies new information or challenging situations encountered during clinical experiences. **7D5, 7D33**
2. Shares experiences through individual case presentations and class discussions. **7D7, 7D12, 7D21**
3. Actively and effectively participates in a group process. **7D5, 7D7**
4. Recognizes the value of self and peer knowledge and experience in contributing to the professional development of the class. **7D5**
5. Demonstrates beginning reflective and analytic thought in regard to work on a case by discussing the rationale for, and alternatives to, case management. **7D10, 7D11, 7D36**
6. Incorporates available evidence from the literature in reflecting on a case and completing a case presentation. **7D4, 7D5, 7D9, 7D10, 7D11**
7. Discusses ways to improve their knowledge, skills, or affect in a future encounter based on work with a case. **7D4, 7D5, 7D10, 7D11**
8. Provides constructive feedback to classmates on group work and case presentations. **7D7, 7D12**

**VIII. Teaching/Learning Methods:**

1. Professional practice to include safety, professional behavior, accountability, communication, cultural competence, and professional development
2. Patient management to include clinical reasoning, screening, examination, evaluation, diagnosis and prognosis, plan of care, procedural interventions, educational interventions, documentation, outcomes assessment, financial resources, and direction and supervision of personnel
3. Reflective practice through the Physical Therapist Student Evaluation, journal posts, case presentation, and post-clinical discussion sessions
4. Communication and diversity skills in clinical practice

**IX. Methods of Evaluation:**

1. CPI evaluation by the clinical instructor followed by CPI review by the GVSU clinical education faculty for assignment of the course grade (50%)
2. Assignments during and following the clinical experience to include the Physical Therapist Student Evaluation, journal posts, and case presentation (25%)
3. Attendance, preparation, participation, and professional behaviors in the clinic and in class (25%)

A grade of credit or no credit will be assigned by the GVSU clinical education faculty. All of the following requirements must be met to receive credit:

- Course objectives are achieved.
- The student will not have any “significant concerns” boxes checked on the CPI and given the availability of related experiences, the student will demonstrate **advanced beginner performance** as defined on the CPI.
- The standards for attendance per the Clinical Education Handbook are met.
- The standards for professional conduct per the Clinical Education Handbook are met.
- Satisfactory completion of the midterm self-evaluation and the final CPI self-evaluation, the Physical Therapist Student Evaluation, journal posts, experience records, and case presentation.
- Attendance and active participation in the post-clinical discussion sessions.

## X. Grading Scale:

Please refer to the grading scale in the Physical Therapy Student Handbook.

Academic honesty is an expectation of the program. Please see the Physical Therapy Student Handbook for details.

## XI. Classroom Policies:

Attendance at all meetings is expected because learning occurs in class. If you must miss class due to illness, COVID related quarantine, or an extenuating circumstance, please notify the instructor ahead of time. Please see the PT student handbook (<https://www.gvsu.edu/pt/student-resources-99.htm>) for further detail.

**COVID-19 Vaccination: GVSU requires all faculty, staff and students to be fully vaccinated.** Please refer to this policy on the [Lakers Together](#) website to ensure you are compliant with COVID-19 requirements designed to protect us. The instructor will keep you informed if changing requirements impact the class.

Your health and your family's health should be your priority. If you are dealing with illness, sick family members, travel difficulties, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issues, please reach out and we will arrange accommodations. Mental health concerns, including overwhelming stress, excessive worry, difficulty participating in daily activities, and changes in mood, appetite, or sleep patterns can interfere with your academic performance. GVSU values your health and wellness and provides services to support your mental health. If you would like mental health support or are concerned for another member of our campus community, reach out to the [University Counseling Center](#) for free resources, self-help options, and services. Also, visit [Campus Recreation & Wellness](#) for additional health and wellness programming.

GVSU Student Code information can be found at <http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode>.

"This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>."

**Inclusion and Equity:** GVSU defines diversity broadly. It includes, but is not limited to, the following categories: race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, differently-abled, age, class, religion, geographic region. At the start of the course, please inform me of your preferred name and/or pronouns, as well as any accommodation requests due to observation of religious beliefs (GVSU Religious Inclusion Policy [PC 9.6](#)). Students, faculty, and staff may designate a name other than their legal name to be used in all areas, systems, and communications in which a legal name is not otherwise required. At GVSU, this is called *myName* and can be accessed at <https://www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc/preferred-or-use-name-208.htm>. Inclusion requires genuine actions to achieve intercultural competence and respectful engagement with people of diverse social identities. Additional information and resources, including reporting of a bias incident, can be found at <http://www.gvsu.edu/inclusion/>.

If you are a student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, visual, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations, please register at <http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr/> and contact me at the start of the semester so I can best meet your educational needs. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations

based upon disability until I have received a copy of the DSR issued memo. If you have reason to believe that you will require assistance evacuating the classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please let me know so we can develop an appropriate safety plan.

**Course Materials and Social Media Policy:** Lecture and lab materials will be posted on Blackboard or distributed in class/lab. These materials are copyright protected and may not be reproduced, distributed (including on any form of social media), publicly displayed or made into a derivative work without the express written consent of the instructor. Video recordings captured in class or lab are subject to the aforementioned prohibitions. Misuse of the intellectual property of another may subject the user to penalties up to and including dismissal. GVSU social media guidelines can be accessed at <https://www.gvsu.edu/socialmedia/social-media-guidelines-33.htm>.

**XII. Emergency Procedures:**

Fire: Immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Do not use elevators. More information on this and other emergencies is available on the University's Emergency website located at <http://www.gvsu.edu/emergency>.

**XIII. Required Texts/Equipment:**

1. As defined by the affiliating clinical site
2. Previously used texts from the professional curriculum
3. Physical Therapy Program Student Handbook
4. Physical Therapy Program Clinical Education Handbook
5. American Physical Therapy Association Clinical Performance Instrument

**XIV. Course Outline:**

Dates	Content
Weeks 1 – 5	Clinical Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• professional practice = 25%</li> <li>• patient management = 50%</li> </ul>
Weeks 6 – 14	Post-Clinical Discussion Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflection upon the clinical experience = 15%</li> <li>• development of communication and diversity skills = 10%</li> </ul>

Dates	Topics
Weeks 1 – 5	Clinical Experience
Weeks 6 – 14	Share syllabus addendum. Information about case presentations. Communication in clinical education power point presentation. Information about professional behaviors assessment. Clinical education discussion. Diversity – LGBTQ sessions. Case presentations.