



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number PTA 227	Course Title PTA Seminar	Credits 3
Hours: Lecture/Lab/Other 3/0/0	Co- or Pre-requisite Pre = PTA 105 Co = PTA 107	Implementation Semester & Year Fall 2023

Catalog description:

This course provides the learners with an overview of the healthcare system and the specific roles of professionals in healthcare fields. Topics include medical terminology, psychosocial aspects of disability; medical documentation; professional growth and development; evidence based practice; and communication skills.

General Education Category:
Not GenEd

Course coordinator: ([Holly Kaiser, 609-570-3478, KaiserH@mccc.edu](mailto:Holly.Kaiser@mccc.edu))

Required texts & Other materials:

Recommended:	Clynch, HM, (2012) <i>The Role of the Physical Therapist Assistant, Regulations and Responsibilities</i> , Philadelphia, PA: FA Davis Co. ISBN 978-0-8036-2562-4
Recommended:	Davis, C.M., (2011), <i>Patient Practitioner Interaction</i> 5 th ed., SLACK Inc: Thorofare NJ. ISBN 978-1-5564-2294-1

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Following the successful completion of this course with a grade of C+ or higher, the learner will be able to:

1. Describe effective, therapeutic communication with patients and members of the health care team, and techniques for conflict resolution within the clinical setting
2. Compare the stages of patient psychosocial adjustment to disability
3. Use the SOAP note format to document physical therapy intervention within the physical therapist's plan of care
4. Define the components involved in provision of physical therapy services within a clinical setting including HIPPA, reimbursement, quality assurance, and regulatory issues

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Institutional Learning Goal 4. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Cognitive/Knowledge

The learner will be able to successfully:

C1. Knows specific facts (Remember)

- C1.1 Describe the principles of time management and quality assurance*
- C1.2 Outline career ladders in physical therapy*
- C1.3 Recall which parts of Medicare cover various services*
- C1.4 Determine the documentation responsibilities that differ between PTs and PTAs*
- C1.5 Relate quality assurance methods to physical therapy practice*
- C1.6 Describe the necessary components for patient documentation*
- C1.7 Understand the many types of plagiarism and the consequences of plagiarism
- C1.8 Describe the attributes of a professional that differentiate a professional from other workers
- C1.9 Discuss methods of demonstrating professional and academic integrity*
- C1.10 Recognize how to protect Protected Health Information*
- C1.11 Describe issues relating to reimbursement*
- C1.12 Describe the members of the health care team and their roles in rehabilitation*
- C1.13 Describe the roles of the State Board of Physical Therapy and the American Physical Therapy Association*
- C1.14 Describe situations when the direction to perform an intervention is beyond the scope of practice for a PTA*
- C1.15 Review and discuss local state practice acts to recognize when the direction to perform an intervention is beyond the scope of a PTA*
- C1.16 Describe the diversity of physical therapy practice settings and various professional designators*
- C1.17 Recognize the stages of psychosocial adjustment to disability
- C1.18 Discuss the differences between verbal and nonverbal communication*
- C1.19 Describe communication strategies to open discussion with the PT regarding patient status or changes in treatment progression*
- C1.20 Discuss the process for reporting to the appropriate authorities suspected cases of abuse of vulnerable populations*
- C1.21 Outline the appropriate steps to report suspected cases of fraud and abuse related to the utilization of and payment for PT services*
- C1.22 Describe appropriate use of social media use as a PTA student and licensed PTA
- C1.23 Understand how PT treatment fits into an episode of care and the medical model, as well as the operation and organization of physical therapy services*
- C1.24 Identify regulatory bodies that impact the delivery of physical therapy services*
- C1.25 Discuss current issues in healthcare policy as it relates to the field of physical therapy

C2. Comprehends basic concepts and principles (Understand)

- C2.1 Discuss the differences between verbal and nonverbal communication*
- C2.2 Differentiate between reimbursement terms*
- C2.3 Relate medical documentation to state law*
- C2.4 Differentiate between personal and professional relationships
- C2.5 Demonstrate an understanding of medical terminology by using it appropriately in submitted assignments and discussions for class work*

- C2.6 Describe the use of evidence-based decision making in patient care*
- C2.7 Discuss the qualities of a culturally competent healthcare provider and the effects of cultural competence on patient outcomes*
- C2.8 Describe Medicare and Medicaid regulations that impact physical therapy practice and reimbursement*
- C2.9 Describe reimbursement issues related to the post-acute physical therapy setting*
- C2.10 Differentiate between the role of the Physical Therapist (PT) and the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) in written assignments and in discussions*
- C2.11 Distinguish between various types of therapeutic boundaries*
- C2.12 Differentiate between disabilities, impairments, activity and participation limitations*
- C2.13 Differentiate between the terms mechanism of injury, medical diagnosis, physical therapy diagnosis, and procedure

C3. Applies basic concepts and principles to new situations (Apply)

- C3.1 Predict how Medicare rules impact physical therapy treatment interventions and services
- C3.2 Recognize personal biases that may impact role as healthcare provider
- C3.3 Relate PTA 227 course material to prior knowledge or knowledge gained in previous courses
- C3.4 Differentiate between the three learning domains and categorize various clinical scenarios into the appropriate learning domain
- C3.5 Relate the importance of the generic abilities assessment to the qualities of a professional physical therapist assistant
- C3.6 Define and compare CPT (current procedural terminology) codes often used in physical therapy*
- C3.7 Relate advances in technology to current physical therapy practice
- C3.8 Compare "Vision 2020" with "Beyond Vision 2020" and discuss the use of these documents in the PT profession
- C3.9 Relate Medicare's 8 Minute Rule to patient scheduling
- C3.10 Relate the triple aim with value-based healthcare
- C3.11 Contribute to efforts to increase subject and clinician safety through the following means: developing the ability to clearly, accurately and thoroughly communicate verbally and in medical documentation, becoming familiar with the state practice act and importance of understanding the PTA's legal scope of practice in the state where s/he practices, identifying and reporting cases of abuse and/or fraud*
- C3.12 During classroom discussions, review case scenarios and develop a personal plan of action that aligns with the profession's ethics and values*

C4. Demonstrates the ability to analyze procedures to determine if organizational principles are being followed (Analyze)

- C4.1 Determine HIPAA violations based on provided clinical scenarios*
- C4.2 Relate medical documentation with professional ethics by reading and discussing case studies*
- C4.3 Relate medical documentation to evidence-based clinical practice*
- C4.4 Use case studies to identify the aspects of care and communication that may be influenced by culture*

C5. Applies thinking skills when judging data and performance (Evaluate)

- C5.1 Utilize the Paul Elder critical thinking framework to challenge common PT beliefs
- C5.2 Utilize case studies to identify relevant HIPAA titles, protected health information, covered entities and potential improvement
- C5.3 Utilize decision making algorithms to determine when interventions would and would not be delegated by a PT to a PTA*
- C5.4 Utilize the state practice act to determine appropriate tasks for unlicensed personnel

C6. Uses knowledge to create new methods necessary to gather data (Create)

- C6.1 Create a self-assessment using information from regulatory body documents

Psychomotor

The learner will be able to successfully:

P1. Observe professional skills performed by the instructor (Observe)

- P1.1 Observe the course instructor use patient-sensitive language*
- P1.2 Observe an information specialist utilize an electronic database to identify a peer reviewed article
- P1.3 Observe examples of medical documentation in a SOAP note format*

P2. Copy professional skills during learning activities, with feedback provided by the course instructor (Imitate)

- P2.1 Utilize patient-sensitive language in verbal and written communication*
- P2.2 Utilize an electronic database to identify a peer reviewed article related to a given topic in class
- P2.3 Write portions of a SOAP note using provided patient information*

P3. Perform professional skills repeatedly to make the movements more automatic and smooth (Practice)

- P3.1 Utilize patient-sensitive language in verbal and written communication*
- P3.2 Utilize an electronic database to identify peer reviewed articles for assignments
- P3.3 Read a case study from a peer reviewed journal and provide an analysis of the format and information in preparation for the case study assignment for the first clinical affiliation
- P3.4 Practice self-assessment techniques to maximize personal and professional growth
- P3.5 Practice giving and receiving feedback in a professional manner

P4. Make adjustments in the performance of professional skills in order to perfect these skills (Adapt)

- P4.1 Utilize patient-sensitive language in verbal and written communication*
- P4.2 Create an honesty pledge
- P4.3 Debate topics related to health care costs and health services
- P4.4 Demonstrate improvisation and role-play the contrast between effective and ineffective communication and conflict resolution, both verbal and non-verbal*
- P4.5 Improve medical documentation to ensure it is complete, meaningful and reproducible
- P4.6 Create a pamphlet for use by PTs and PTAs to understand portions of the state practice act *

Affective

The learner will be able to successfully:

A1. Receive Phenomenon

- A1.1 Listen to others with respect
- A1.2 Receive feedback professionally
- A1.3 Attend class consistently
- A1.4 Arrive to all classes and clinicals prior to the start time

A2. Respond to Phenomenon

- A2.1 Participate in class
- A2.2 Know the safety rules and practice them
- A2.3 Respond to feedback in a professional manner
- A2.4 Prepare for lectures, labs and clinicals ahead of time

A3. Value

- A3.1 Demonstrate sensitivity to individual and cultural differences
- A3.2 Show an ability to solve problems
- A3.3 Inform PTAP faculty of matters one feels strongly about

A4. Organize

- A4.1 Recognize the need for balance between educational and personal priorities
- A4.2 Accept professional ethical standards, as evidenced by following them
- A4.3 Prioritize times effectively to meet educational and personal needs
- A4.4 Complete and submit all assignments, assessments, and required documents on time

A5. Internalize

- A5.1 Show self-reliance when working independently
- A5.2 Cooperate in group activities
- A5.3 Revise judgments and changes behavior in light of new evidence and feedback
- A5.4 Value people for who they are, not how they look
- A5.5 Identify sources of stress and implement effective coping behaviors
- A5.6 Demonstrate a commitment to the physical therapy profession

x = documented in CAPTE Standards

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

		ILGs:	Learning Objectives
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Unit 1	Medical Documentation for the PTA	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.1, C1.4, C1.6, C1.23, C1.26, C2.3, C2.10, C2.12, C3.7, C4.2-4.3, C4.5, P1.3, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 2	The Qualities of a PTA Student (Generic Abilities, Professional & Academic Integrity, Self-Assessment, Giving and Receiving Feedback)	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.27, C2.6, C4.3, C5.1, P1.2, P2.2, P3.3, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 3	HIPAA & Cultural Competence	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.7-1.9, C2.13, C3.4-3.5, C6.1, P2.3, P3.4-3.5, P4.2, P4.5, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 4	Reimbursement in Healthcare (Medicare, Medicaid, Insurance and Billing)	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.10, C2.7, C3.8, C4.4, C5.2, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 5	Diversity of Practice Settings, Professional Designators and Regulatory Issues	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.3, C1.11, C1.21, C2.2, C2.8-2.9, C2.14, C3.1, C3.6, C4.1, C4.6, C4.3, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 6	Psychosocial Aspects of Illness & Adjustment to Disability	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.1-1.2, C1.5, C1.7, C1.12-1.15, C1.24, C1.28, C3.9, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 7	Types of Communication, Effective Communication	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.17, C2.4, C2.11, C3.10, C4.7, C5.4, P4.6, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 8	Conflict Resolution, Active Listening and Assertiveness	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.18-1.19, C1.22, C2.1, C3.2, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9
Unit 9	Maximizing Effectiveness as a PTA (Research, Evidence-Based Practice, Case Studies)	1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11	C1.19-1.21, C5.3, P4.4, C1.25, C2.5, C3.3, P1.1, P2.1, P3.1-3.2, P4.1, A1.1-1.9

Evaluation of student learning:

% of grade	Activity	# within course
45	Written Exams	3

20	Quizzes	2
30	Assignments	3
5	Generic Abilities Assessment	Continuous
NA	Practical Exam	0
NA	Competency Tests	0