



Physical Therapy Department

Course Title and Number: Clinical Education Experience I, DPT 631

Catalog Description: A supervised, concentrated period of study in clinical education. Students are given the opportunity to develop clinical skills in planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of patient care services. Students are assigned to a variety of settings including but not limited to hospital acute care, outpatient orthopedics, neurologic rehabilitation, and specialty areas (geriatrics, pediatrics, pelvic health, sports medicine, home care, other) to ensure breadth and depth of exposure to patients. This approach will prepare physical therapists to practice in a variety of settings across a variety of patient conditions.

Students on this initial full-time clinical education experience will work under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist, serving as a voluntary Clinical Instructor (CI), and will require frequent cues and guidance with examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention and outcome components of the patient/client management process for patients with uncomplicated conditions.

Credit Hours: 8

Contact Hours: Total Contact Hours: 320

Academic Credit Hour Policy:

The Academic Credit Hour Policy is found in the Academic Policies section of the [Academic Catalog](#). In brief, undergraduate students should expect a minimum of 9 hours of student work (instruction and homework) each week for a 3-credit, semester-long course. Graduate students should expect a minimum of 12 hours of student work (instruction and homework) each week for a 3-credit, semester-long course.

At Clarke practicums, clinicals, and field experiences courses follow the Clarke University, departmental, programmatic, accrediting body, and/or affiliated site's guidelines and policies as applicable.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of the first two semesters of the DPT program.

Semester: Summer

Time and Place: 8 hours/day, 5 days/week, 8 weeks; hours as assigned by facility, on-site at clinical facility

Placement in

Curriculum: Summer Semester following the 1st year in the Physical Therapy Program

Instructors: Dr. Alecia Thiele, BSPT, DPT, MEd, ATC/LAT, DCE
Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Education (DCE)

And
On Site Clinical Instructor

Office: Alecia CBH 115A

Contact: Alecia Office Phone: 563-588-8179
MS Box: #1712

E-mail: alecia.thiele@clarke.edu

Office Hours: Appointments available upon telephone or email request. The office hours are subject to change due to onsite clinical site visits, clinical site meetings and/or clinical time, etc.

Required Text/s: Not applicable

Required Materials/Equipment:

Students will be required to be proficient with internet usage, e-mail, Moodle and various other technologies for teaching and learning for this course. Students will be required to provide their own transportation to and from clinical site and their own housing during clinical time.

Equipment needed (computers, video cameras, etc) will be available upon request through the university computer lab and/or available for check out from library to assist with projects.

Access to Online Materials

Course content, assignments, and activities are available online through Moodle, Clarke's course management system. The following steps will help you access your course:

1. Access the [Moodle login page](#).
2. Enter your Clarke username and password. (e.g., username = jane_doe@clarke.edu).
3. Click on the **Log in** button. After logging in, you will see a list of your current courses.
To access a particular class, simply click on the course title. The Moodle course title for this clinical education experience is Physical Therapy Clinical Information.
4. Every graduate Moodle course provides the following links:
 - a. [Graduate Student Resources](#)
 - b. [Library Research Guides](#)
 - c. [Clarke Help Desk](#)
 - d. [Writing Center](#)

5. Instructor-Authorized AI Use

- a. Clarke University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#)'s statement on AI is: "Generative AI tools should not be used to complete course assignments unless specifically authorized by the course instructor" and places responsibility on the student for understanding and abiding by the expectations and policies regarding AI use for each course in which they are enrolled
- b. AI should not be used for clinical education experiences. AI will only be permitted with the expressed written consent of all instructors including: the DCE, the onsite SCCE(s) and the onsite Clinical Instructor(s) *prior to use*. Students will be expected to conform to all HIPAA university and clinical site policies so that no identifying patient/client information is utilized within AI.

Clarke University Mission:

Clarke University is a Catholic academic community that believes learning is lifelong and life changing. We inspire intellectual curiosity, cultural engagement, professional preparedness, spiritual exploration, and a commitment to contributing to the common good in a global society.

Clarke University Vision:

Clarke University will be distinguished as a compassionate and inclusive community. We educate and inspire through our core values of Freedom, Education, Charity and Justice, which we share with our founding order, the Sisters of Charity, BVM. Together, we thrive through our Catholic, BVM, and liberal arts traditions, graduating leaders who make a positive difference in the world.

Course Goals and Statement connecting goals to the Clarke University Mission and Vision:

The primary goal of this course is to explore issues confronting physical therapists and other health care professionals. Ethical, legal, educational, resource, access, and quality considerations of patient care and health care delivery will be investigated. Through active course participation students develop knowledge, skills, and values aligned with Clarke's mission to: inspire intellectual curiosity, cultural engagement, professional preparedness, spiritual exploration, and a commitment to contributing to the common good in a global society.

Alignment with the Mission and Vision of Clarke University:

The primary goal of this course is to experience physical therapy practice. Ethical, legal, educational, resource, access, and quality considerations of patient care and health care delivery will be practiced. Through active involvement in health care students develop knowledge, skills, and values aligned with Clarke's mission to: provide a caring and supportive health care learning environment, encourage intellectual curiosity, inspire cultural engagement, practice professional preparedness, support spiritual exploration, engage in lifelong learning and demonstrate a commitment to the common good in a global society.

Outcomes for the Physical Therapy Program: Clarke University Physical Therapy Graduates Will:

1. Demonstrate competency and safe practice of physical therapy in a variety of practice settings.
2. Utilize evidence-based clinical decision-making skills as the foundation for their physical therapy practice.
3. Act as ethical practitioners and practice within the scope of the law.
4. Display attitudes and clinical skills to optimize their role as a physical therapist member of the health care team and the community.
5. Value, promote and improve the quality of health care through the unique and cooperative contributions of physical therapy.
6. Critically interpret research related to the field of physical therapy.
7. Advocate for patient rights within the current and evolving health care environment (from political, economic and cultural perspectives).
8. Accept responsibility for personal and professional growth, and to participate in the development of the physical therapy profession.
9. Continue as life-long learners.

General Course Outcomes: At the completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate growth in physical therapy professional skills.
2. Communicate thoughts and ideas in a verbal and written format.
3. Demonstrate physical therapy skills for success in contemporary practice.
4. Demonstrate the ability to respect individual rights, privacy and diversity.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking and informed decision making.

More Specific Course Outcomes/Objectives: For the Clinical Education Experience I rotation, the student will:

1. Formulate, write, and achieve a minimum of three personal goals for each rotation.
2. Perform in the performance level of beginning performance and advanced beginner performance for APTA PT CPI 3.0 © # 1-12 (APTA PT CPI 3.0 description of grading and CPI 3.0 definitions of performance outlined on APTA PT CPI 3.0 (<https://cpi.apta.org/login>) and available on password protected learning management system).
3. Show progress from midterm to final for all clinical performance criteria in the Clinical Performance Instrument.
4. The “significant concerns” box will not be marked referencing safety or any clinical performance criteria in the Clinical Performance Instrument.
5. Complete a self-evaluation with the Clinical Performance Instrument.
6. Complete Clinical Education Experience Log on a weekly basis to encourage professional development, reflection, critical thinking, and synthesis of information.
7. Attend a group and individual clinical debriefing session.
8. Follow all policies and procedures for clinical education experiences as outlined in the Clinical Education Policies Section of the Physical Therapy Graduate Program Student Handbook.

Departmental Outcome (number only, the outcomes are earlier in the syllabus)	General Course Outcome	More Specific Outcomes/objectives if Applicable (number only, the more specific outcomes/objectives are earlier in the syllabus)	Product/Project	Assessments
1-4	1. Demonstrate growth in physical therapy professional skills.	Specific Outcomes/Objectives 2-6,8	Goal setting, Clinical Performance Instrument, Student Evaluation of Clinical Site Form, Clinical Education Experience Log	Goal achievement, Self and Clinical Instructor Evaluation of the Clinical Performance Instrument, Completed Clinical Practice and Site Evaluation, Completed Clinical Education Experience log, Follow all Clinical Education Policies and Procedures
2-6,8-9	2. Communicate thoughts and ideas in verbal and written format	Specific Course Outcomes/Objectives 1-8	Goal setting, Clinical Performance Instrument, Student Evaluation of Clinical Site Form, Clinical Debriefing Participation, Clinical Education Experience Log	Goal achievement, Self and Clinical Instructor Evaluation of the Clinical Performance Instrument, Completed Clinical Practice and Site Evaluation, Completed Clinical Education Experience log, Clinical

				Debriefing Attendance, Follow all Clinical Education Policies and Procedures
1-6,8-9	3. Demonstrate physical therapy skills for success in contemporary practice	Specific Course Outcomes/Objectives 1-8	Goal setting, Clinical Performance Instrument, Student Evaluation of Clinical Site Form, Clinical Education Experience Log	Goal setting and achievement, Self and Clinical Instructor Evaluation of the Clinical Performance Instrument, Clinical Practice and Site Evaluation, Clinical Education Experience log, Follow all Clinical Education Policies and Procedures
4,5,7,8	4. Demonstrate the ability to respect individual rights, privacy and diversity	Specific Course Outcomes/Objectives 1-8	Goal setting, Clinical Performance Instrument, Student Evaluation of Clinical Site Form, Clinical Debriefing Participation, Clinical Education Experience Log	Self and Clinical Instructor Evaluation of the Clinical Performance Instrument, Clinical Practice and Site Evaluation, Clinical Education Experience log, Clinical Debriefing Attendance, Follow all Clinical Education Policies and Procedures

2-6,8-9	5. Demonstrate critical thinking and informed decision making	Specific Course Outcomes/Objectives 1-8	Goal setting, Clinical Performance Instrument, Student Evaluation of Clinical Site Form, Clinical Debriefing Participation, Clinical Education Experience Log	Goal setting and achievement, Self and Clinical Instructor Evaluation of the Clinical Performance Instrument, Clinical Practice and Site Evaluation, Clinical Education Experience log, Clinical Debriefing, Follow all Clinical Education Policies and Procedures
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Course Modality During COVID:

Students in this course are studying to be essential workers in health care and need to work in the clinic to further develop clinical skills. CAPTE requires clinical education as part of degree requirements. Furthermore, Clarke has noted that "for experiential learning opportunities that primarily take place off campus such as clinical education and rotations, internships, student teaching, etc. (unless the organization, host, or instructor says otherwise), students should expect to participate in-person as normal."

Teaching Methods:

The format for this course is supervised clinical instruction. Students are placed in facilities that meet the essential requirements of Clarke University. In these facilities, students are assigned to a specific person or persons as clinical instructor(s). As the student is not yet a licensed professional, the student performs under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The specific content of the clinical experience varies with the clinical site to which the student is assigned.

Evaluation Methods:

- I. The clinical instructor formally evaluates students at a minimum of two times: midterm and final points of the clinical experience.

To successfully complete this rotation, students must meet the following criteria:

- A. Complete all pre-Clinical Education Experience requirements including completion of Student Information Form, letter contact with the site, and medical testing.
- B. Complete the Clinical Education Experience logs weekly and have them signed by clinical instructor(s).

- C. Formulate, write, and achieve a minimum of three personal goals for the rotation.
 - D. Perform in the performance level of beginning performance and advanced beginner performance for APTA PT CPI 3.0 © # 1-12 (APTA PT CPI 3.0 description of grading and CPI 3.0 definitions of performance outlined on APTA PT CPI 3.0 (<https://cpi.apta.org/login>) and available on password protected learning management system).
 - E. Show progress from midterm to final for all Clinical Performance Criteria on the Clinical Performance Instrument. Students should notify the DCE/Asst DCE if there is failure to progress from midterm to final on any CPI criteria (student or CI evaluations) on the date of the final evaluation assessment while at the clinical site.
 - F. The “significant concerns” box should not be marked referencing any clinical performance criteria in the Clinical Performance Instrument. Notification to the DCE/Asst DCE is required if a “significant concerns” box is marked referencing safety or any clinical performance criteria.
 - G. Complete a self-evaluation with the Clinical Performance Instrument.
 - H. Complete APTA Physical Therapist Student Evaluation: Clinical Experience and Clinical Instruction Form.
 - I. Attend a group and individual clinical debriefing session
 - J. Follow all policies and procedures for clinical education experiences as outlined in the Clinical Education Section of the Physical Therapy Graduate Program Student Handbook. Please pay careful attention to **attendance and dress code policies** as outlined in the handbook.
- II. Students are assigned pass or fail grades for the Clinical Education Experience I course by the DCE based on the standards previously described.
- III. Clinical Education Experience Log:
- A. The Clinical Education Experience Log is used to keep a weekly record of the student's growth in professional behavior, communication, evaluation, program planning and treatment. The Log is used to promote reflection and to assist the students in assessing their own clinical competence.
 - B. Procedure:
 - 1. The physical therapy student is responsible for the following:
 - a) Completing the Clinical Education Experience Log on a weekly basis on 3-hole punched paper and bound in your Clinical Education Experience binder. Each log entry should be written in ink or typed and be legible. It should include at minimum:
 - (1) Record of diagnoses of new patients seen; treatments performed; any other experiences.
 - (2) Student’s personal response/reflection to experiences during the week.
 - (3) Discussion of strengths/weakness, successes/failures during the week.
 - (4) Goals for next week.
 - b) Sharing the Log with the clinical instructor and requesting signed feedback on a weekly basis.
 - c) Submitting the Log to the DCE at the end of the Clinical Education Experience.

- d) Make the entire Log available to the SCCE and CI on an as needed basis.
2. The CI is responsible for:
 - a) Reviewing the student's Log on a weekly basis.
 - b) Offering comments within the Log regarding appropriateness of note and student direction.
 - c) Sign and date note following review of student's weekly note.
3. The DCE is responsible for:
 - a) Reviewing the log at the end of the Clinical Education Experience to assess the completion and quality of the log.
 - b) Offering feedback to the student, CI, and SCCE as appropriate.

Campus Climate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement

Clarke University is committed to fostering a welcoming campus community that is free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation and that promotes an inclusive learning environment. The university's full Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement can be found [here](#).

Behavior that undermines or contradicts these commitments can be reported through the [Speak Out](#) form. Reports of sexual violence or misconduct can be made to the Title IX Coordinator, Kate Zanger, kate.zanger@clarke.edu

In alignment with the American Physical Therapy Association as well as our Code of Ethics, we support diversity, equality, and inclusion to better serve the profession and society. If you experience challenges or concerns related to diversity, equity, and/or inclusion in the clinical environment, please reach out to the course instructors listed on this syllabus. Instructors are available to provide guidance and help you navigate these challenges/concerns.

Academic Honesty and Professional Ethics:

Students are expected to conduct themselves and their clinical work in a fair and honest manner. Although clinical participation encourages collaboration and shared learning, acknowledging others for their contribution is crucial. Do not copy words, ideas, papers or parts of papers from any source without giving credit through acceptable forms of documentation. Do not lend out your ideas, papers, or parts of papers to others. Passing off someone else's work as your own or allowing your work to be used this way is a serious break in the academic integrity of this class and the university.

Academic Integrity Policy

Students and faculty are expected to be aware of and abide by specific principles of academic integrity. In general, academic misconduct is defined as any action, intentional or not, which gains, attempts to gain, or assists others in gaining or attempting to gain, unfair academic advantage. Clarke University's full Academic Integrity Policy, and process for reporting academic dishonesty can be found [here](#).

Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Center offers academic support for all students by appointment, online, or drop in. Resources provided include:

- Academic Coaching (tutoring) for learning and writing
- Guided group study

- Mentorship from professional staff

These offices for these resources are located in the lower level of the library in the space adjacent to the Lingen Technology Commons.

Additionally, Reference Librarians are available for research consultation and assistance with online databases & e-books, both in person and through teams. You can access them on the 3rd floor of the library during business hours, [Nicholas J. Schrup Library](#) online at via email library@clarke.edu, or via phone (563)588-6320.

Accessibility Services

Clarke is committed to an inclusive learning environment and to making classes accessible for all students. One way this commitment is practiced is through providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented learning, mental or physical health conditions that impact learning. To determine eligibility, discuss options, and arrange services, students can contact the Disability Services Coordinator (DSC) via email marianne.mauss@clarke.edu, call (563)588-8107, or stop by the Accessibility Services office in the Academic Support Center located in the lower level of the library.

AI Use – Clarke University Policy

Generative AI tools should not be used to complete course assignments unless specifically authorized by the course instructor. Some instructors may entirely prohibit the use of AI tools, while others may allow their use. It is important for students to clearly understand the expectations and policies regarding AI use for each course in which they are enrolled, and to only use AI as a learning tool when clearly and explicitly given permission to do so by the instructor. Unauthorized use of AI tools may be considered as cheating (receiving unauthorized assistance to complete academic work), plagiarism (representing the words of another as one's own without quotation marks or proper academic citation), or one of the other forms of academic misconduct, according to Clarke University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Any AI-use authorized by the instructor for this course is specified in the Access to Online Materials Section of this syllabus, under the heading 'Instructor-Authorized AI Use' (see **Access to Online Material** section above).

Clinical Education Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend clinic daily as assigned during your clinical rotation dates. Students are expected to follow all attendance policies and procedures for clinical education experiences as outlined in the Clinical Education Policies Section of the Physical Therapy Graduate Program Student Handbook.

Guidelines for Academic Success

The Clarke University [Guidelines for Academic Success](#) are a collection of practices, behaviors, and dispositions that the Clarke University faculty and administration believe are essential for every student to be academically successful at Clarke University. Every student is expected to be familiar with these guidelines and to conduct themselves accordingly.

Student Success App

When an instructor has concerns about the behavior, comportment, or attendance of a student, they should submit an alert to the [Student Support Network](#) through the [Student Success App](#). When an alert is submitted, the student will be notified of the alert through email, so students should check their email at least daily (minimum). When a student receives an alert, they should set up a time to meet with the instructor who submitted the alert to talk about their concerns. A student who has received an alert should additionally speak with their academic advisor and athletic coach to discuss strategies and resources available for resolving the concern.

Communication and Instructor Policy on Email and other Correspondence:

A major form of communication I use to contact you is email. If you do NOT know how to use email, contact the Computer Center at (563)588-6390. **You need to have a Clarke account to receive my emails.** We will also be using Moodle for this course. **It is imperative that you go to Moodle and access the Physical Therapy Clinical Information course** in order to stay current with the material for your Clinical Education Experience. **Physical Therapy Clinical Information** should automatically be activated in your **Moodle Account**.

In an effort to maintain some semblance of personal and professional balance in my life:

- I only read and respond to student emails sent to my Clarke email address. Do not message me via Facebook or other social media platforms about any course or school-related matters.
- I try to read and respond to emails only between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you email me in the evening or on a weekend, I will receive it the next business day. While there may be occasions during your clinical experience when I will check my email during the evening or on a weekend, this is the exception rather than the rule.
- For after-hours emergencies or challenging clinical education situations, I have shared my cell phone with you. Email follow up to a phone conversation will be requested for tracking. Calling my office phone number after hours will track to my email, but if the call/email is after hours, it might be missed.

Syllabus Course Schedule and Disclaimer-Dates May Change:

Due to site specific needs and requirements, Clinical Education Experience start and end dates may be altered. Schedules may also vary from clinic to clinic. Ideally students will attend a Clinical Education Experience for 8 hours a day 5 days a week for approximately 40 hours per week for a total of 8 weeks. On occasion students may work longer hours, work on weekends and work up to 50 total hours per week. Any questions or concerns about Clinical Education Experience dates and hours can be addressed with the DCE/Clinical Education Team at any time.