

Clinical Education Program Curriculum

The School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science University of Montana

First Year

Fall: PT 503 – Clinical Education Program Orientation via classroom lectures.

Spring: PT 582: Clinical Clerkship I: This course introduces students to professional behaviors and other concepts/criteria that help them meet the objectives of their clinical experience and develop as a PT. Clinical Clerkship I is the first required clinical experience. In addition to classroom hours, students will independently complete 15 hours of alternative clinical experience (ACE) including a minimum of 5 hours of community outreach. Students will meet with the DCEs throughout the spring semester for up to 10 hours for lecture and discussion about enhancing clinical performance.

Summer: PT 587: Clinical Experience I: 320 hours in a full-time, 8-week experience. The student may be placed either in the first half or second half of summer session, typically in an outpatient, acute care, SNF or a more rural facility where the experience is a mix of practice settings.

Second Year

Spring: PT 583: Integrated Clinical Experience I: 75 hours in an integrated clinical experience utilizing a 4:1 collaborative model, working in teams of two. Students will be assigned a clinical schedule consisting of 10 hours per week for one block of the semester; and will work with clinical instructors in settings including orthopedic, neurologic/medically complex, and/or underserved/medically complex in the UMPT Clinic main clinic or off campus community-based clinic. An additional 15 hours of Alternative Clinical Experience (ACE) is required of each student, providing opportunities for interprofessional observation, service learning, community outreach, and diversity of clinical exposure. The student must complete at least 5 hours of ACE in each area of interprofessional experience and community outreach.

Summer: PT 589: Clinical Experience II: 320 hours of full-time 8-week experience. The student may be placed either in the first half or second half of summer session. Students will be placed in a setting that is different (in-patient vs out-patient) from their PT 587 placement.

Third Year

Fall: PT 584: Integrated Clinical Experience II: 75 hours in an integrated clinical experience utilizing a 4:1 collaborative model, working in teams of two. Students will be assigned a clinical schedule consisting of 10 hours per

week for one block of the semester; and will work with clinical instructors in settings including orthopedic, neurologic/medically complex, and/or underserved/medically complex in the UMPT Clinic main clinic or off campus community-based clinic. An additional 15 hours of Alternative Clinical Experience (ACE) is required of each student, providing opportunities for interprofessional observation, service learning, community outreach, and diversity of clinical exposure. The student must complete at least 5 hours of ACE in each area of interprofessional experience and community outreach.

Spring: PT 680: Clinical Internship: 600 hours of full-time 15-week internship done typically at one organization in one practice setting; typically starts the second Monday in January. The experience should match the student's vision for their entry into professional practice or fulfill the goals of the student and faculty to ensure adequate diversity of clinical experiences to prepare the student for general practice. Application and interview may be required. Customized learning opportunities may be available dependent on the student's needs and interests, as well as the availability and interests of potential clinical sites. Students are required to complete a special project or case study and participate in a formal poster presentation, typically scheduled the Thursday before graduation. Students are given permission to attend APTA's Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) as part of their clinical experience with approval of their CI.