



**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will provide the student with a five-week physiotherapy fieldwork placement. The goals of this experience are to provide the student with the opportunity to practice and refine interpersonal skills, professionalism and clinical skills as required for the Physiotherapist Assistant. Opportunity will be provided for the student to refine role enhancing skills and to prepare the student for the level of independence required for entry level in the role of a Physiotherapist Assistant. During fieldwork placement, the student will consolidate prior learning in a physiotherapy setting, under the supervision of a Physiotherapist.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

In general, this course addresses Learning Outcomes of the MTCU Program Standards in: communication skills (1, 2, 3, 6, 8P, 8O, 9P, 10P, 11P, 12P), interpersonal skills (1, 2, 3, 7, 9P, 10P, 11P, 12P), safety (1, 2, 4, 8P, 8O, 9P, 10P, 11P, 12P), professional competence (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 8P, 8O, 9P, 10P, 11P, 12P), documentation skills (1, 4, 5, 6), and application skills (1, 2, 4, 6, 8P, 8O, 9P, 10P, 11P, 12P). It addresses all of the Generic Skills Learning.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

**1. Initiate and demonstrate a self-directed approach to ongoing learning experiences and the development of lifelong learning skills.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Develop and implement an effective learning contract.
- Selection of appropriate learning goals and objectives based on individual learning needs and opportunities of the clinical placement
- Specification of available learning resources and learning strategies applicable to the student's learning style (based on the results of the student's individual "Learning Style Questionnaire" – in professional portfolio)

**2. Demonstrate the ability to work within the role of a PTA in a Physiotherapy setting.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Completion of clerical and administration duties as requested by the Reg. PT or administrative staff (i.e. telephone skills, filing)
- Completion of maintenance duties as indicated by the Reg. PT (i.e. cleaning equipment, preparing treatment areas, inventory and ordering of supplies)
- Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests
- Participates in the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the Reg. PT (i.e. modalities, functional activities, ADL training)
- Ensures behaviours and skills are within the scope of practice of an OTA/PTA student

3. **Demonstrate skill in assisting and reporting appropriately to contribute to the Physiotherapist's assessments in order to determine a client's need for treatment.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Assists in gathering of referral information
- Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests
- Participates in the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the OT
- Listens attentively and actively
- Demonstrates effective clinical observation skills
- Assists in recording and reporting of assessment results as indicated by the OT

4. **Demonstrate observations skills of monitoring treatment plans outlined by a Physiotherapist and identify, report and record when changes/modifications may be appropriate.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Becomes familiar with report formats including: initial assessment, progress notes and discharge summary
- Discusses the role of the PTA regarding documentation/reporting
- Applies clinical observation skills, monitor and report any changes in a client's functional performance/status
- Effectively communicates, both verbally and through documentation any observations regarding the client's functional performance

5. **Demonstrate safe and effective application of physical agents (eg. Thermal agents, hydrotherapy, ultrasound, electrotherapy etc.) as prescribed by a Physiotherapist.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Efficiently and effectively prepares treatment areas using appropriate positioning and draping techniques
- Demonstrates safe, efficient and effective application of physical agents as indicated by Reg. PT
- Demonstrates awareness of precautions, contraindications and side effects when providing interventions
- Explains the effects of the physical agent to patients

6. **Demonstrate skill in the application and education of the use of assistive devices prescribe by a Physiotherapist and identify and report when changes/modifications may be appropriate.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrates general knowledge regarding the use of mobility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and canes
- Explains and demonstrate appropriate selection, fit and adjustment of wheelchairs, crutches, canes, and walkers
- Makes basic modifications and adjustments to mobility aids, as instructed by the Reg. PT to ensure proper use by the client
- Ensures that client is able to safely and effectively use assistive device provided

**7. Demonstrate the appropriate selection and implementation of therapeutic exercise programs, for individuals and groups, as prescribed by a Physiotherapist.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests
- Assists in gathering of referral information
- Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests
- Participates in the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the Reg. PT
- Listens attentively and actively
- Demonstrates effective clinical observation skills
- Assists in recording and reporting of assessment results as indicated by the Reg. PT

**8. Demonstrate skill in the application of safety precautions regarding the client and self during therapeutic activities, mobility and positioning procedures.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Follows health and safety regulations of the clinical facility and is aware of emergency procedures (ie. Isolation precautions, code red)
- Ensures proper body mechanics of self and the client at all times
- Keeps working area safe and clean
- Recognizes changes in client's status and notifies appropriate medical staff
- Demonstrates awareness of precautions, contraindications and side effects when providing interventions
- Demonstrates safe handling techniques during positioning and transferring of clients

**9. Demonstrate effective time management skills and problem-solving skills**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrates punctuality (for work, meetings, treatment sessions)
- Demonstrates initiative and self direction
- Ensures that tasks are completed in an effective and timely manner
- Begins to apply clinical reasoning skills and problem solving strategies

**10. Contribute and participate in team meetings both within the department and the agency when appropriate.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrates the ability to establish rapport with other members of the health care team
- Initiates conversations with other members of the health care team
- Listens attentively and actively to others during team meetings
- Uses appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication during team meetings (ensuring that message sent is consistent with the intended message)

**11. Demonstrate appropriate professional and ethical behaviour while participating in both direct and indirect client care activities.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Uses appropriate communication skills that support therapeutic relationships
- Ensures that others (clients and staff) are treated with respect and dignity
- Maintains behaviours consistent with the policies and procedures of the clinical setting (dress code, punctuality, absences)
- Maintains confidentiality
- Manages conflict and accepts feedback in a constructive manner

**12. Demonstrate appropriate communication/listening skills with client/staff, professional personnel and groups.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrates the ability to use professional terminology when communicating verbally
- Demonstrates awareness of non-verbal communication, such as body language, and ensures professionalism at all times
- Demonstrates the ability to interpret non-verbal communication of clients and respond appropriately
- Demonstrates the ability to modify communication style to meet the individual needs of the client
- Demonstrates effective listening skills and follows through with information obtained
- Asks for clarification when necessary, to ensure accuracy and understanding of information

**III. TOPICS:**

1. Role of the OTA/PTA – Professional Behaviours and Communication
2. Clinical Observations and Reporting
3. Selection and Implementation of Therapeutic Interventions
4. Application of Physical Agent Modalities
5. Assistive Devices and Mobility Aids
6. Ensuring Safety During Rehabilitation

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

*All previous materials used during program of study to date.  
Alternate resources may be assigned by the supervising therapist.*

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**

Will be based on successful completion of the assigned placement hours and relevant assignments:

<b>Placement Evaluation</b>	<b>S/U</b>
<b>Learning Contract</b>	<b>S/U</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>187.5 hours - mandatory</b>
<b>Log Book</b>	<b>S/U</b>

1. For assignments to be handed in, the policies of the program will be followed. For assignments not handed in by the due date, the mark received will be zero. Extensions will be granted if requested in writing at least 24 hours before the due date. There will be a deduction of one percent per day for every school day late with the permission of an extension. For example if a written extension was requested, and an extension for 5 school days (1 week) was granted, 5 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade.
2. Supplemental Exams/Assignments are generally not provided in the OTA/PTA program. In the event of a failing grade in the course, however, there may be exceptional circumstances where a supplemental exam/assignment may be considered. In all circumstances, this decision remains at the discretion of the professor and/or coordinator.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

***Mid Term grades are provided in theory classes and clinical/field placement experiences. Students are notified that the midterm grade is an interim grade and is subject to change.***

**VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**

Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session. *It is the departmental policy that once the classroom door has been closed, the learning process has begun. Late arrivals will not be guaranteed admission to the room.*

Substitute course: information is available in the Registrar's office.

**VII. COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDUM:**

The provisions contained in the addendum located on the portal form part of this course outline.