



## COURSE OUTLINE: OPA110 - PT CLINICAL SKILLS I

Prepared: Joanna MacDougall

Approved: Rebecca Keown - Dean

<b>Course Code: Title</b>	OPA110: PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINICAL SKILLS I
<b>Program Number: Name</b>	3022: OCCUP/PHYSIO/ASSIST
<b>Department:</b>	OTA/PTA ASSISTANT
<b>Academic Year:</b>	2025-2026
<b>Course Description:</b>	The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the ability to perform basic skills performed by a Physiotherapist Assistant. The student is introduced to essential competencies related to handling skills, therapeutic exercise, measurement of joint motion, bed mobility, transfers and assistive ambulation. The student will be expected to demonstrated competence in areas of safety, guarding, handling skills, set up and fit of assistive devices, as well as effective instruction, cuing and providing feedback to the client.
<b>Total Credits:</b>	3
<b>Hours/Week:</b>	3
<b>Total Hours:</b>	45
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	OPA101, OPA119, OPA120
<b>Corequisites:</b>	There are no co-requisites for this course.
<b>This course is a pre-requisite for:</b>	OPA203, OPA209, OPA217, OPA228
<b>Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:</b>	<b>3022 - OCCUP/PHYSIO/ASSIST</b>
<b>Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.</b>	VLO 1 Communicate appropriately and effectively, through verbal, nonverbal, written and electronic means, with clients, their significant others, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and members of the interdisciplinary health care team and others.
	VLO 2 Participate in the effective functioning of interdisciplinary health care teams to optimize client physical and occupational functions.
	VLO 3 Establish, develop, maintain, and conclude client-centred, therapeutic relationships.
	VLO 4 Promote a safe environment that prevents or minimizes potential physical or mental harm to the client, therapist assistant and others.
	VLO 5 Practice in a legal, ethical, and professional manner within the role of a therapist assistant.
	VLO 6 Document client records in a thorough, objective, accurate, and timely manner within the role of the therapist assistant.
	VLO 7 Engage in reflective practice and ongoing professional development activities to maintain and enhance competence.
	VLO 8 Perform the roles and responsibilities of the therapist assistant effectively through the application of relevant knowledge of health sciences, psychosocial sciences, health conditions, resource management, and clinical procedures.
	VLO 9 Contribute to the occupational therapist's or physiotherapist's assessment of the



	client and the development, implementation and modification of intervention/treatment plans.								
	VLO 10 Maximize the client's occupational performance by accurately and safely implementing the interventions, and related tasks under the direction and supervision of the occupational therapist.								
	VLO 11 Maximize the client's physical function by accurately and safely implementing the interventions, and related tasks under the direction and supervision of the physiotherapist.								
<b>Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:</b>	<p>EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.</p> <p>EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.</p> <p>EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.</p> <p>EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.</p> <p>EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.</p> <p>EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.</p>								
<b>Course Evaluation:</b>	<p>Passing Grade: 60%, C</p> <p>A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.</p>								
<b>Other Course Evaluation &amp; Assessment Requirements:</b>	As partial fulfillment of the OTA & PTA diploma, Performance Based Evaluations require a minimum of 60% in each category of performance.								
<b>Books and Required Resources:</b>	OER provided by Professor								
<b>Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 1</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the PT and PTA in the development and implementation of the treatment plan.</td> <td>           1.1. Identify the role of the Registered Physiotherapist in the initial and ongoing assessment of a clients condition and the implementation and monitoring of a treatment plan.            1.2 Identify the role of the Physiotherapist Assistant in assisting the Registered Physiotherapist to implement and monitor the treatment plan.         </td> </tr> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 2</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic physiological effects of different types of exercise.</td> <td>           2.1 Define Therapeutic Exercise and describe aspects of Physical Function (balance, cardiopulmonary fitness, coordination, flexibility, mobility, muscle performance, neuromuscular control, postural control and stability).            2.2 Define and classify different types of therapeutic exercise: passive, active, active assisted, resistive (isometric, isotonic, eccentric and concentric), endurance, aerobic etc.            2.3 Identify and describe different therapeutic exercise interventions to address aerobic conditioning, muscle performance (strength, power, endurance), range of motion         </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1	1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the PT and PTA in the development and implementation of the treatment plan.	1.1. Identify the role of the Registered Physiotherapist in the initial and ongoing assessment of a clients condition and the implementation and monitoring of a treatment plan. 1.2 Identify the role of the Physiotherapist Assistant in assisting the Registered Physiotherapist to implement and monitor the treatment plan.	Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2	2. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic physiological effects of different types of exercise.	2.1 Define Therapeutic Exercise and describe aspects of Physical Function (balance, cardiopulmonary fitness, coordination, flexibility, mobility, muscle performance, neuromuscular control, postural control and stability). 2.2 Define and classify different types of therapeutic exercise: passive, active, active assisted, resistive (isometric, isotonic, eccentric and concentric), endurance, aerobic etc. 2.3 Identify and describe different therapeutic exercise interventions to address aerobic conditioning, muscle performance (strength, power, endurance), range of motion
Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1								
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the PT and PTA in the development and implementation of the treatment plan.	1.1. Identify the role of the Registered Physiotherapist in the initial and ongoing assessment of a clients condition and the implementation and monitoring of a treatment plan. 1.2 Identify the role of the Physiotherapist Assistant in assisting the Registered Physiotherapist to implement and monitor the treatment plan.								
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2								
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic physiological effects of different types of exercise.	2.1 Define Therapeutic Exercise and describe aspects of Physical Function (balance, cardiopulmonary fitness, coordination, flexibility, mobility, muscle performance, neuromuscular control, postural control and stability). 2.2 Define and classify different types of therapeutic exercise: passive, active, active assisted, resistive (isometric, isotonic, eccentric and concentric), endurance, aerobic etc. 2.3 Identify and describe different therapeutic exercise interventions to address aerobic conditioning, muscle performance (strength, power, endurance), range of motion								

	and stretching (passive, active, active-assisted), neuromuscular control, postural control, stabilization, balance, relaxation, breathing.
<b>Course Outcome 3</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3</b>
3. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in the implementation, maintenance and monitoring of physiotherapy programs involving therapeutic exercise.	3.1 Recognize progression in exercise routines and explain the risks of over-loading or under-loading the clients exercises. 3.2 Describe and demonstrate functional activities that may be used to maintain or improve aspects of Physical Function. 3.3 Demonstrate to ability to implement and monitor a therapeutic exercise program (ie. range of motion) established by a Registered Physiotherapist. 3.4 Demonstrate the ability to instruct, cue and provide feedback to a client thereby reinforcing the Physiotherapists initial instructions to the client. 3.5 Describe and demonstrate competence in the operation, care and maintenance of equipment such as mobility aids, exercise equipment, assessment tools etc.
<b>Course Outcome 4</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4</b>
4. Demonstrate skill in the safe application of therapeutic exercise.	4.1 Describe and explain grading versus progression in exercise routines. 4.2 Recognize changes in behaviour patterns: describe signs of distress and identify the actions to be taken (for example, changes in colour, breathing patterns, incontinence). 4.3 Identify variances from expected patient performance in exercise completion and ambulation and report these accurately to the supervising Physiotherapist (respiratory distress, complaints of pain, non-compliance, difficult patients). 4.4 Describe common data measurement methods used in gathering and reporting to the Physiotherapist.
<b>Course Outcome 5</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5</b>
5. Demonstrate knowledge of and describe contraindications, precautions, and safety issues in the application of therapeutic exercise.	5.1 Identify precautions/contraindications to therapeutic exercise. 5.2 Demonstrate the ability to safely implement patient transfers, assistive ambulation and range of motion exercise.
<b>Course Outcome 6</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 6</b>
6. Demonstrate skill in the safe use of assistive ambulation devices, transfer techniques and bed mobility in clinical situations.	6.1 Identify and demonstrate levels of assistance and strategies to improve safety during therapeutic activities, transfers and ambulation. 6.2 Identify assistive ambulation devices and varying levels of weight bearing. 6.3 Demonstrate the ability to appropriately select, fit and adjust of crutches, canes and walkers. 6.4 Demonstrate the ability to instruct a client to employ a variety of assistive ambulation patterns (including ascending and descending stairs), depending on the assistive device, weight bearing status and level of assistance required.

	<p>6.5 Identify environmental and architectural risk factors to ambulation as well as strategies to prevent falls and decrease the risk of injury in a fall.</p> <p>6.6 Observe and recognize client response, including significant departures from the expected patterns in patient response to therapeutic activities, mobility and ambulation, and report them accurately to the Physiotherapist.</p> <p>6.7 Explain the benefits and purpose of mobility and the consequence of immobilization (pressure ulcers, edema, DVT, contractures).</p> <p>6.8 Describe the management and consequences of short term and long term positioning.</p> <p>6.9 Explain and demonstrate preventative exercises (ie. For DVT).</p> <p>6.10 Demonstrate clinical reasoning and skill with respect to patient positioning and bed mobility.</p>				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 7</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 7</th> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Demonstrate knowledge and skill related to the assessment of joint motion.</td> <td> <p>7.1 Define and describe goniometry.</p> <p>7.2 Explain the essential components of reliable, valid goniometry.</p> <p>7.3 Identify normal ranges of movement and the concepts of end-feel for most synovial joints.</p> <p>7.4 Demonstrate the ability to measure joint range of motion using a goniometer.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Course Outcome 7	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 7	7. Demonstrate knowledge and skill related to the assessment of joint motion.	<p>7.1 Define and describe goniometry.</p> <p>7.2 Explain the essential components of reliable, valid goniometry.</p> <p>7.3 Identify normal ranges of movement and the concepts of end-feel for most synovial joints.</p> <p>7.4 Demonstrate the ability to measure joint range of motion using a goniometer.</p>
Course Outcome 7	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 7				
7. Demonstrate knowledge and skill related to the assessment of joint motion.	<p>7.1 Define and describe goniometry.</p> <p>7.2 Explain the essential components of reliable, valid goniometry.</p> <p>7.3 Identify normal ranges of movement and the concepts of end-feel for most synovial joints.</p> <p>7.4 Demonstrate the ability to measure joint range of motion using a goniometer.</p>				

**Evaluation Process and Grading System:**

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Final Test	20%
Midterm Test	20%
Practical Evaluation (Midterm and Final)	40%
Quizzes	20%

**Date:** December 15, 2025

**Addendum:** Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.