



COURSE OUTLINE: OPA226 - FIELDWORK PRACT IV

Prepared: Joanna MacDougall

Approved: Rebecca Keown - Dean

Course Code: Title	OPA226: FIELDWORK PRACTICUM IV
Program Number: Name	3022: OCCUP/PHYSIO/ASSIST
Department:	OTA/PTA ASSISTANT
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course will provide the student with a Physiotherapy fieldwork placement which is required as partial fulfillment of the OTA & PTA Diploma. During fieldwork placement, the student will consolidate prior learning, under the supervision of a Physiotherapist. The student will be encouraged to refine and practice role enhancing skills and demonstrate effective interpersonal skills, competent clinical skills and professionalism. Reflective practice will be emphasized to enhance the learning opportunity and promote lifelong learning. The goal is to provide the student opportunities to reliably demonstrate the ability to perform within the scope of practice of an entry level Physiotherapist Assistant.
Total Credits:	10
Hours/Week:	40
Total Hours:	200
Prerequisites:	OPA203, OPA204, OPA214, OPA217, OPA219
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	3022 - OCCUP/PHYSIO/ASSIST
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	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 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.				
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<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 3 Execute mathematical operations accurately.</p> <p>EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.</p> <p>EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.</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 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.</p> <p>EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.</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>				
Course Evaluation:	<p>Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory & A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.</p>				
Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:	<p>Evaluation will be based on successful completion of the assigned placement hours and timely submission of relevant documents: Learning Contract S/U (Course Outcome 1) Fieldwork Placement Evaluation S/U (Course Outcome 2-12) Placement Feedback Form S/U (Course Outcome 1) Reflection Journal S/U (Course Outcome 1) Attendance 200 hrs. (or as assigned)</p> <p>Evaluation will be based on successful completion of ALL placement hours as assigned and submission of relevant documents by the due dates. In the event a placement is terminated early by the preceptor due to student performance issues an Unsatisfactory grade in the course will be assigned.</p>				
Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the CICE student, with the assistance of a Learning Specialist will acquire varying levels of skill development relevant to the following learning outcomes:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 1</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Initiate and demonstrate reflective practice and a self-directed approach to</td> <td>1.1 Develop and implement an effective learning contract. 1.2 Selection of appropriate learning goals and objectives based on individual learning needs and opportunities of the</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1	1. Initiate and demonstrate reflective practice and a self-directed approach to	1.1 Develop and implement an effective learning contract. 1.2 Selection of appropriate learning goals and objectives based on individual learning needs and opportunities of the
Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1				
1. Initiate and demonstrate reflective practice and a self-directed approach to	1.1 Develop and implement an effective learning contract. 1.2 Selection of appropriate learning goals and objectives based on individual learning needs and opportunities of the				

ongoing learning experiences and the development of lifelong learning skills.	clinical placement 1.3 Demonstrates anticipatory reflection, reflection in practice and retrospective reflection during fieldwork placement 1.4 Incorporates learning resources and learning strategies applicable to the individual learning style (as per Learning Style Questionnaire in professional portfolio)
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively within the role of a PTA in a Physiotherapy setting.	2.1 Assists with clerical and administration duties as requested by the fieldwork supervisor or administrative staff (i.e. telephone skills, filing) 2.2 Assists with maintenance duties as requested by the fieldwork supervisor (i.e. cleaning equipment, preparing treatment areas, inventory and ordering of supplies) 2.3 Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests 2.4 Produces documentation/records and or educational material concisely, as requested by the fieldwork supervisor 2.5 Assists the health care team with continuous quality improvement process as appropriate (time management of patient activity, data collection, program development, chart audits) 2.6 Participates in the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the Reg. PT (i.e. modalities, functional activities, ADL training) 2.7 Ensures behaviours and skills are within the scope of practice of an OTA/PTA student
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Demonstrate skill in assisting and reporting appropriately to contribute to the Physiotherapist's assessments in order to determine a clients need for treatment.	3.1 Assists in gathering of referral information 3.2 Contributes to the functional assessment and administration of standardized tests 3.3 Participates in the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the PT 3.4 Listens attentively and actively 3.5 Demonstrates effective clinical observation skills 3.6 Assists in recording and reporting of assessment results as indicated by the PT
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Demonstrate observations skills of monitoring treatment plans outlined by a Physiotherapist and identify, report and record when changes/modifications may be appropriate.	4.1 Becomes familiar with report formats including: initial assessment, progress notes and discharge summary 4.2 Discusses the role of the PTA regarding documentation/reporting 4.3 Applies clinical observation skills, monitor and report any changes in a clients functional performance/status 4.4 Effectively communicates, both verbally and through documentation any observations regarding the clients functional performance
Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
5. Demonstrate safe and	5.1 Reflects on theory based knowledge gained through



effective application of physical agents (eg. Thermal agents, hydrotherapy, ultrasound, electrotherapy etc.) as prescribed by a Physiotherapist.	curriculum when implementing physical agents 5.2 Efficiently and effectively prepares treatment area and patient using appropriate positioning and draping techniques 5.3 Demonstrates safe, efficient and effective application of physical agents as indicated by Reg. PT 5.4 Demonstrates awareness of precautions, contraindications and side effects when implementing physical agents 5.5 Explains the effects of the physical agent to patients
Course Outcome 6	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 6
6. Demonstrate skill in the application, monitoring and education of the use of assistive devices prescribed by a Physiotherapist and identify and report when changes/modifications may be appropriate.	6.1 Demonstrates knowledge regarding the use of mobility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and canes 6.2 Explain and demonstrate appropriate fit and adjustment of crutches, canes, and walkers 6.3 Makes basic modifications and adjustments to mobility aids to ensure safe and proper use by the client 6.4 Ensures that client is able to safely and effectively use assistive device provided 6.5 Identify and report when changes/modifications may be appropriate
Course Outcome 7	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 7
7. Demonstrate the ability to assist with the implementation of therapeutic exercise programs, for individuals and groups, as prescribed by a Physiotherapist.	7.1 Reflects on theory based knowledge gained through curriculum when selecting and implementing activity programs 7.2 Ensures contraindications, precautions and side effects are considered when selecting and implementing activity programs 7.3 Assists with the intervention of the client, based on treatment recommendations provided by the Reg. PT 7.4 Under the supervision of the PT, applies knowledge regarding grading of an exercise or an activity 7.5 Demonstrates the ability to conduct/lead a group session (where applicable) 7.6 Listens attentively and actively 7.7 Demonstrates effective clinical observation skills 7.8 Assists in recording and reporting of patient progress
Course Outcome 8	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 8
8. Demonstrate skill in the application of safety precautions regarding the client and self during therapeutic activities, mobility and positioning procedures.	8.1 Follows health and safety regulations of the clinical facility and is aware of emergency procedures (i.e., isolation precautions, code red) 8.2 Ensures proper body mechanics of self and the client at all times 8.3 Keeps working area safe and clean 8.4 Recognizes changes in clients status and notifies appropriate medical staff 8.5 Demonstrates awareness of precautions, contraindications and side effects when providing interventions 8.6 Demonstrates safe handling techniques during positioning and transferring of clients
Course Outcome 9	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 9
9. Demonstrate effective	9.1 Demonstrates punctuality (for work, meetings, treatment



time management skills and problem-solving skills	<p>sessions)</p> <p>9.2 Demonstrates initiative and self direction</p> <p>9.3 Ensures that tasks are completed in an effective and timely manner</p> <p>9.4 Begins to apply clinical reasoning skills and problem solving strategies</p> <p>9.5 Completes any assignments or projects as requested by the PT, i.e. poster board, information package, presentation</p>
Course Outcome 10	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 10
10. Contribute and participate in team meetings both within the department and the agency when appropriate.	<p>10.1 Demonstrates the ability to establish rapport with other members of the interdisciplinary health care team.</p> <p>10.2 Initiates conversations with other members of the interdisciplinary health care team</p> <p>10.3 Listens attentively and actively to others during team meetings</p> <p>10.4 Uses appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication during team meetings (ensuring that message sent is consistent with the intended message)</p>
Course Outcome 11	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 11
11. Demonstrate appropriate professional and ethical behaviour while participating in both direct and indirect client care activities.	<p>11.1 Ensures that others (clients and staff) are treated with respect and dignity</p> <p>11.2 Maintains behaviours consistent with the policies and procedures of the clinical setting (dress code, punctuality, absences)</p> <p>11.3 Maintains confidentiality</p> <p>11.4 Manages conflict and accepts feedback in a constructive manner</p>
Course Outcome 12	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 12
12. Demonstrate appropriate communication/listening skills with client/staff, professional personnel and groups.	<p>12.1 Use appropriate communication skills that support therapeutic relationships</p> <p>12.2 Use professional terminology when communicating verbally</p> <p>12.3 Demonstrates awareness of non-verbal communication, such as body language, and ensures professionalism at all times</p> <p>12.4 Interprets non-verbal communication of clients and responds appropriately</p> <p>12.5 Modifies communication style to meet the individual needs of the client</p> <p>12.6 Uses effective listening skills and follows through with information obtained</p> <p>12.7 Asks for clarification when necessary, to ensure accuracy and understanding of information</p>

CICE Modifications:

Preparation and Participation

1. A Learning Specialist will attend class with the student(s) to assist with inclusion in the class and to take notes.
2. Students will receive support in and outside of the classroom (i.e. tutoring, assistance with



homework and assignments, preparation for exams, tests and quizzes.)

3. Study notes will be geared to test content and style which will match with modified learning outcomes.

4. Although the Learning Specialist may not attend all classes with the student(s), support will always be available. When the Learning Specialist does attend classes he/she will remain as inconspicuous as possible.

A. Further modifications may be required as needed as the semester progresses based on individual student(s) abilities and must be discussed with and agreed upon by the instructor.

B. Tests may be modified in the following ways:

1. Tests, which require essay answers, may be modified to short answers.
2. Short answer questions may be changed to multiple choice or the question may be simplified so the answer will reflect a basic understanding.
3. Tests, which use fill in the blank format, may be modified to include a few choices for each question, or a list of choices for all questions. This will allow the student to match or use visual clues.
4. Tests in the T/F or multiple choice format may be modified by rewording or clarifying statements into layman's or simplified terms. Multiple choice questions may have a reduced number of choices.

C. Tests will be written in CICE office with assistance from a Learning Specialist.

The Learning Specialist may:

1. Read the test question to the student.
2. Paraphrase the test question without revealing any key words or definitions.
3. Transcribe the student's verbal answer.
4. Test length may be reduced and time allowed to complete test may be increased.

D. Assignments may be modified in the following ways:

1. Assignments may be modified by reducing the amount of information required while maintaining general concepts.
2. Some assignments may be eliminated depending on the number of assignments required in the particular course.

The Learning Specialist may:

1. Use a question/answer format instead of essay/research format
2. Propose a reduction in the number of references required for an assignment
3. Assist with groups to ensure that student comprehends his/her role within the group
4. Require an extension on due dates due to the fact that some students may require additional time to process information
5. Formally summarize articles and assigned readings to isolate main points for the student
6. Use questioning techniques and paraphrasing to assist in student comprehension of an assignment

E. Evaluation:

Is reflective of modified learning outcomes.



NOTE: Due to the possibility of documented medical issues, CICE students may require alternate methods of evaluation to be able to acquire and demonstrate the modified learning outcomes

Date: December 15, 2025

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