

**Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley-HSI**  
**Physical Therapist Assistant Program**  
**Philosophy of Clinical Education**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program values clinical education as an indispensable component of a quality education program. The program design is structured to allow students to apply techniques clinically on a graduated basis after first having demonstrated competency in the classroom. The clinical experience strengthens the educational experience through further skill development and exposure to the clinical environment.

The goal of clinical education is to prepare competent physical therapist assistants for entry level practice in physical therapy. As such, the program requires each student to perform one clinical rotation in an acute/rehab environment and another in an outpatient orthopedic clinic. The additional clinical rotations are assigned based on student needs or expressed interests where possible.