

**Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley-HSI**  
**Physical Therapist Assistant Program**  
**Clinical Faculty Responsibilities**

Clinical faculty are licensed physical therapists or physical therapists assistants who volunteer to provide clinical education experience for physical therapist assistant students. Clinical faculty should have a minimum of 1 year clinical experience, competency in the clinical area, and a desire to teach.

**Responsibilities**

Clinical faculty have the responsibility to serve as a positive role model to the students they teach. Specific duties of the clinical faculty member include:

1. Provide information to the ACCE about the clinical site and staff including periodic update of the CSIF(Clinical Site Information Form-downloaded from APTA's web site)
2. Provide information to the ACCE about the availability of clinical rotations and any changes that may occur in a timely manner.
3. Maintain competency in the clinical area they teach.
4. Maintain familiarity with program information related to clinical education including the Clinical Education Manual.
5. Observe the policies set out in the Clinical Education Manual
6. Provide an orientation to the clinical site. At minimum, this should include:
  - a. facility policies and procedures, including safety orientation
  - b. introduction to appropriate staff
  - c. clarification of lines of communication, including supervision issues
  - d. orientation to resources, paperwork.
  - e. clinical expectations of students
  - f. clarification of the clinical's objective with the student
    1. review of the clinical's objectives, evaluation tools, etc.
    2. review of student portfolio and student profile information
    3. review of student clinical diagnosis log
    4. discussion with student about goals for clinical
7. Provide students with experiences that meet the educational objectives outlined in the syllabus, considering past experiences and experience with various clinical diagnoses.
8. Assure a student's competency in a particular task prior to performing on a patient.
9. Provide appropriate level of supervision according to the objectives of the clinical and the needs of the student.

10. Give honest, ongoing feedback to student about performance, including areas of strengths and weakness.
11. Solicit early feedback from the student early about any suggestions the student may have to strengthen the clinical experience.
12. Communicate in a non-threatening manner.
13. Document any critical errors and contact the ACCE early if performance issues are noted.
14. Complete the mid-term evaluation on 7 ½ week clinical rotations providing specific examples of need for improvement and examples of effective treatment where warranted. Be honest in your evaluation. Have the student sign the form.
15. Complete other paperwork related to clinicals as outlined in the syllabus.
16. Communicate with the ACCE about the progress of the student either through email, phone calls or site visits.
17. Participate in plans for remediation of students when performance is below expectations. Work with ACCE to establish specific goals for student performance and plan for achieving those goals.
18. Provide information to the program about adequacy of the clinical education program through surveys, etc.
19. Participate in efforts to improve the quality of clinical education including making changes related to evaluative criterion. Clinical faculty are encouraged to use APTA's *Guidelines and Self-Assessments for Clinical Education*. APTA members can download the information at <http://www.apta.org> and click on Clinical Education, then *Guidelines and Self-Assessments for Clinical Education*.