



PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES PRACTICUM – OVERVIEW

Physical Therapy Services offers a credited practicum each term (summer term excluded). This is a collaborative program between the Human Physiology Department and PT Services at University Health Services, which entails a 30-hour commitment to the department over the course of 1 term, resulting in the accrual of 1 credit through the Human Physiology Department. Students who are accepted into the program are paired with a physical therapist and observe all aspects of care, including the opportunity to interact with patients, ask/answer questions, and assist with non-treatment related tasks. In addition, each student will be responsible for identifying an area of interest to research and will prepare a short presentation for the treatment staff during their final week.

Requirements:

To be eligible for consideration, students must have completed the following courses:

- HPHY 321 (Anatomy)
- HPHY 322 (Physiology)
- HPHY 323 (Anatomy)
- HPHY 324 (Physiology)

Students who are selected to participate must comply with all UHS policies regarding confidentiality, flu shots, TB test, and proof of immunizations.

Process:

- Interested students must complete an application (available in PT Services) and return it to the PT Services Manager no later than Friday of week 7 in the preceding term.
- All students who complete an application and meet the basic requirements will be scheduled for a brief meeting with the PT Services Manager to review expectations and answer a few questions.
- Students who are selected to participate are then scheduled with a physical therapist who will supervise them.
- The student must select a research article of interest by the end of week 3, with guidance from the clinician.
- All students will work on a brief (5-10 minute) presentation of their research article to be done for the treatment staff during a continuing education meeting.

General Guidelines:

Dress Code: Our dress code is casual professional. Unacceptable attire includes offensive images/language, rumpled or ripped clothing, revealing clothing (such as low necklines, bare midriffs, or bare backsides), mini-skirts, flip flops and shorts. Also, we ask that students refrain from the use of heavy perfumes or colognes.

Confidentiality: The maintenance of patient confidentiality is of the utmost importance. Students may NOT discuss patients or their conditions with anyone other than their supervising clinician(s).

Patient Interactions: It is acceptable to converse with patients and ask questions; however this must be done in a professional manner, being sensitive to patients' condition and medical history. If a student is unsure of the appropriateness of a question, they are advised to wait until they are alone with their supervising clinician.

Other Tasks: Students are encouraged to help with non-treatment tasks, such as switching used linens for fresh ones, putting equipment away, and generally assisting with clinic up keep.

Research Article: Students will be responsible for reading and analyzing their research article, following which they will give a short presentation on their article for the treatment staff and listen to the other students' presentations. During the week of presentations, students will not be required to come in for their observation hours. They will have 2 hours of at home preparation time and 1 hour in clinic for the presentation.