

# Physical Therapist Assistant



## Clinical Education Handbook 2026-2027

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## Welcome

The PTA Clinical Education Handbook is intended to aid students, clinical instructors, faculty, and staff of IECC who will be monitoring students in the clinical agency. Clinical education is a crucial component of the Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum. It allows the student to fully integrate the skills learned during didactic and laboratory college courses.

The PTA program's mission is "to develop knowledgeable and competent physical therapist assistant professionals to go out and positively influence the community's health under the supervision of a physical therapist in a safe, legal, and ethical manner. IECC will seek to provide students educational and collaborative opportunities to develop a racially, socially, and culturally sensitive professional, who seeks life-long learning and a fulfilling career."

Please familiarize yourself with the information throughout the PTA Program Clinical Education Handbook. Students will be expected to follow the policies outlined in this manual and the Program Handbook.

Questions or concerns regarding any item related to the Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Education should be directed to:

### **Kinsey Whitaker PT, DPT, GCS**

Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education

WVC PTA Program

2200 College Drive

Mt. Carmel, IL 62863

Email: [whitakerk@iecc.edu](mailto:whitakerk@iecc.edu)

Phone: (618) 263-5107 Fax: (618) 262-7541

## Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; phone; 703-706-3245; [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org) is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Wabash Valley College Physical Therapist Assistant Program at IECC Wabash Valley College Campus is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call (618) 393-3356 or email [fredericka@iecc.edu](mailto:fredericka@iecc.edu).

## Disability Support Services

### **Contact the Director of Learning Commons for Assistance**

Support is available in the form of accessible facilities, individualized plans, and reasonable accommodations to students who meet the requirements of a person with a disability. A disability requiring additional staff or funding, contractual arrangements through an outside vendor, or structural modifications (such as adaptive or assistive technology) may require several weeks to be arranged. Additional information is available at [www.iecc.edu/ada](http://www.iecc.edu/ada).

## **Appeals and Grievances**

The Americans with Disabilities Act Procedure describes the process for appealing a denied request for reasonable accommodations; contact the Director of Learning Commons if an appeal is desired. Students who believe IECC has not met its obligations under the ADA should refer to IECC's [Policy to Address a Complaint \(100.16\)](#).

## **Nondiscrimination**

Illinois Eastern Community College District No. 529 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, parental status, religious affiliation, veteran status, national origin, ancestry, order of protection status, conviction record, physical or mental disability, genetic information, or any other protected category.

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges adheres to the Federal Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers appropriate services or activities with reasonable accommodations to any qualified disabled individual upon request.

IECC does not discriminate in any of its education programs and offerings, activities, and services provided or operated by IECC. Visit [www.iecc.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.iecc.edu/nondiscrimination) to learn more.

To report a discrimination complaint or to inquire for more information, contact:

Libby McVicker

Title IX/ADA Coordinator

305 N. West Street

Olney, IL 62450

Ph. 618-393-3491

[mcvickero@iecc.edu](mailto:mcvickero@iecc.edu)

Inquiries may also be made directly to the U. S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights:

Office for Civil Rights, Chicago Office

U.S. Department of Education

Citigroup Center

500 W. Madison St., Suite 1475

Chicago, IL 60661-4544

312-730-1560

[OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov)

## **Student Competency Skills**

The following competencies represent critical elements related to patient safety that have been successfully completed by the student prior to participation in clinical education.

Competencies and skills check that have been successfully completed by each student prior to beginning PTA 1211 Clinical I:

### **PTA 1203 PTA Clinical Processes**

Handwashing, Mental Function, Vital Signs

Movements of the Body

Bony Landmark and Palpation

Passive ROM Routine, Positioning and Joint ROM Norms

Assistive Device Fitting / Gait

Wheelchair Fitting  
ADA Accessibility  
Therapeutic Exercise and Pain  
Sterile Technique and Basic Wound Care  
Final Practical (Cumulative)

**PTA 1205 Patient Care Interventions**

Massage and Myofascial Release Skills Check  
Superficial Heat Competency  
Cryotherapy Competency  
Ultrasound Competency  
Pelvic and Cervical Motorized Traction Competency  
ESTM/NMES Competency

**PTA 1206: Functional Anatomy & Biomechanics**

UE Goniometry Competency  
LE Goniometry Competency  
Palpation of Joints and Muscles Competency  
UE Manual Muscle Testing Competency  
LE Manual Muscle Testing Competency  
Movement Analysis Competency

**PTA 1210 Field Experience for the PTA**

ICF Mapping/Chart Review/Audit/ Ther Exercise  
Direction of PT/ Adhere to legal practice standards/Patient Interview/Documentation/  
Ther Exercise.  
Guide for Conduct of PTA/ Ethical Conduct/VBB/Report Abuse/Report Fraud and abuse  
of therapy/ Implement Plan of Action/Ther Exercise  
Patient/Client Interaction Considerations/Communications and  
Knowledge/Theory/Clinical Judgment  
Evidence Based Practice and integration into Treatment/ Report to PT/ PTA Scope  
Initiation of Treatment and Plan of Care Progression/ Goals /Intervention Clinical  
Indications / Reporting to PT  
Midterm Practical  
Final Practical

**PTA 2202: Musculoskeletal Therapy**

Posture Analysis Competency  
Gait Training Competency  
UE Therapeutic Exercise and Intervention Competency  
LE Therapeutic Exercise and Intervention Competency  
Spine Therapeutic Exercise and Intervention Competency  
Documentation Competency  
Goniometry Competency  
Manual Muscle Testing Competency

**PTA 2210 Multi-System Rehabilitation**

Transfer Training  
Gait Training

Percussion / Pulmonary Treatments / Patient Ed/ Communication  
Cardiopulmonary Rehab / Patient Ed / Communication  
Compression Treatments for Vascular / Arterial Management/ Patient Ed/  
Communication  
Wound Care / Patient Ed/ Communication  
Amputation / Prosthetic Treatment / Patient Education/ Communication  
Home Evaluation / Discharge Planning/ Patient Education/ Communication  
Lab Final / Case Management/ Patient Education / Communication

Additional Competencies and skills check that have been successfully completed by each student prior to beginning PTA 2249 Clinical II.

**PTA 2211 Neuromuscular Rehabilitation:**

Pediatric and Adult Handling and Positioning Competencies  
Neurological Gait Training Competencies  
Functional Mobility for Pediatric and Adult Competencies  
Biophysical Agents for Neuromuscular Retraining Competency

## **Clinical Education Student Outcomes**

The clinical instructors (CI) have access to the PTA course syllabi which articulate standards of progression, competency checkoffs, and course content. This information is available in the Program Resources Page on [www.exxat.com](http://www.exxat.com) as well as online on the WVC PTA CI Resource webpage.

## **Responsibilities of the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE)**

One member of the PTA faculty is responsible for coordinating the clinical education portion of the curriculum. The ACCE works directly with other program faculty, clinical instructor, and students to provide quality learning experiences which will help the student develop his or her clinical skills.

The ACCE is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Approve use of clinical agencies.
2. Coordinate and provide clinical instructor development.
3. Assess student readiness for clinical experience.
4. Coordination and assignment of clinical sites for student education.
5. Review and update clinical affiliation agreements in coordination with support staff.
6. Assure that students are provided a copy of current syllabi. Written syllabi will be made available to clinical instructors upon their request.
7. Provide clinical education packets to students and clinical instructors.
8. Contact clinical agencies to determine the number of clinical education positions available for students for clinical education.
9. Schedule clinical agency visits.
10. Serve as a resource for students, faculty, and clinical educators.
11. Confer with students and clinical instructors regarding student progress in the clinical education setting.
12. Assess students' clinical education performance based on the guidelines for each clinical syllabus.

13. Secure new clinical agencies as needed.
14. Ensure CPR certification, immunization records, and any other requirements of the clinical agency are accurate and on file.
15. Assign final grades for each clinical experience utilizing input from clinical instructors.

## **Responsibilities of the Clinical Instructor (CI)**

All clinical agencies will designate a clinical instructor responsible for supervising students assigned to their facility. This person must be a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant and possess the criteria for selection described later within this document. Responsibilities of the CI are to assist the student in achieving the appropriate clinical education objectives, including the following.

1. Provide student with appropriate facility information prior to affiliation period.
2. Inform/introduce student to their immediate supervisor.
3. Schedule a formal on-site orientation to include appropriate introductions, hospital geography and review of hospital/department policies and procedures. Complete orientation checklist that will be provided to the clinical instructor in the week 1 Goals Sheet.
4. Review Wabash Valley College's Clinical Education Handbook to be familiar with students' academic exposure and expected competency level.
5. Discuss your expectations of the student.
6. Determine which areas of treatment exposure would be most beneficial to the student, i.e., is there a need for more exposure to therapeutic exercise than to modalities.
7. Offer the student exposure to other departments such as Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitative Nursing, Speech Therapy, etc.
8. Review new or unusual equipment and/or procedures with student.
9. Ensure that student is provided with responsible on-going supervision and direction.
10. Complete formal evaluation conference at mid-point and completion of clinical affiliation; submit completed forms within one week to the ACCE and return completed evaluation form to the College within one week of clinical affiliation.
11. Make every effort to offer the student a clinical experience, as one in which they will perceive as both personally and professionally rewarding.
12. Assume ultimate care for the patient.
13. Ensure that the PTA student introduces themselves as a "student" to the patient.
14. Inform the patient of their right to refuse treatment by a student without any type of consequences.
15. Report any public complaints or concerns regarding the PTA Program and/or a PTA student to the PTA Program Director or Dean of Health Professions.

## **Responsibilities of the Clinical Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCCE)**

1. Coordinate and schedule clinical experiences in coordination with the ACCE of the Wabash Valley College PTA Program.
2. Provide orientation materials on the day of student arrival
3. Assign a clinical instructor (CI) to the PTA student.
4. Serve as a resource for the CI for establishing goals and objectives, arranging learning experiences, and evaluating student performance.
5. Keep the CI informed of pertinent information regarding the PTA Program.

6. Monitor the supervision and learning experiences of the PTA students, while keeping in contact with the CI.
7. Notify PTA Program Director or Dean of Health Professions any complaints that involve the PTA Program.
8. Program Information and Expectations.

## **Clinical Agencies**

### **Affiliation Agreements**

Students will only be assigned to clinical agencies that have a current properly executed clinical affiliation agreement on file. These agreements will be reviewed on an average of every two years by the ACCE and/or support staff to ensure the agreement is not expired. A list of Clinical Affiliation Agencies can be found [here](#).

### **Clinical Assignments**

The ACCE will contact clinical agencies via mail approximately six to twelve months in advance to determine the number of agencies willing to participate with any clinical rotation. Communication is typically sent in the Spring and will request slots for the following Fall, Spring, and Summer. Agencies that confirm their participation will be notified via email those student(s) assigned to their agency for a particular period of time.

Students will be asked for location preferences and the ACCE will strive to accommodate requests; however, students should expect to be assigned to any clinical agency in which the program participates. Students may be required to travel to clinical agencies that require a 90 minute drive (one way). Students are not permitted to arrange their own clinical assignment or contact clinical agencies regarding clinical placement. Students are expected to attend clinical as assigned by the ACCE. Students that do not attend clinical as assigned (including the assigned dates) will be dismissed from the PTA Program.

### **Clinical Site Visitation by the ACCE**

Each student will receive a minimum of one on-site clinical visit by the ACCE while in the PTA Program. Additional visits may be scheduled if deemed necessary by the ACCE. The ACCE will schedule clinical site visits in coordination with the CI and /or SCCE.

### **Criteria for selection of clinical agencies:**

1. The clinical agency's clinical philosophy is compatible with the WVC PTA Program philosophy.
2. The clinical agency is able to meet the objectives of the PTA Program.
3. The staff of the clinical agency practices with legal and ethical responsibility.
4. The clinical agency has appropriate administrative support for the education of PTA students.
5. The clinical agency has a variety of learning opportunities in an appropriate setting that are made available to students.
6. There is adequate physical therapy staff to accommodate the learning needs of the PTA student.
7. The clinical agency employs a minimum of one full-time physical therapist who is able to provide on-site supervision.
8. The clinical agency adheres to Federal law regarding equal opportunity and non-discrimination laws.

## **Clinical Instructors**

Criteria for selection of a CI will include the following:

1. The CI will be a PTA or a PT that graduated from an accredited program and has licensure in the state where applicable.
2. The CI has a minimum of one year of experience in the clinical setting.
3. The CI performs in a professional, ethical, and competent manner.
4. The CI demonstrates effective communication and instructional skills.
5. The CI demonstrates adequate skills in the ability to evaluate and supervise PTA students.

The ACCE will send resources for each student assigned to a clinical agency. The clinical instructor should review this information prior to the start of the clinical. It is recommended that the clinical instructor meet with the student frequently to discuss the student's progress and any concerns.

The IECC-WVC Physical Therapist Assistant Program appreciates the time and dedication required of clinical instructors. To help provide professional development needs, the PTA program implements professional development continuing education seminars. Please complete the surveys sent to Clinical Affiliates regarding professional development needs. We hope to be able to offer rewarding educational workshops that will meet the needs of professional development for our clinical instructors.

If any clinical instructor is interested in attending a Clinical Instructor Credentialing Course, they are encouraged to contact the Program ACCE.

## **Clinical Agency Requirements**

Students in the PTA Program must comply with clinical affiliate requirements. These include up-to-date proof of student health insurance, immunizations (requirements may vary per Clinical Site Requirements), current health physical, CPR and First Aid certification, satisfactory background check, drug screening, HIPAA Training Completion, and complete skills competency checks. (Immunizations typically required: Hepatitis B, MMR, Varicella, Influenza, TDAP; additional vaccinations may be required depending on clinical site requirements.) Students must meet the criteria of each clinical site used by the program. Students who do not meet the criteria of assigned clinical facilities may be dismissed from the program.

The Clinical Agencies will have access to or be provided all necessary student records prior to the student's clinical rotation.

## **Facility Safety**

All clinical agencies should have policies concerning safety regulations regarding the use of equipment and hazardous materials. These policies should be provided to students in orientation to the affiliate clinic. Equipment should be inspected on a regular basis and safety regulations should be posted.

## Evaluation of Student Progress

PTA 1211, 2249, 2250 Paperwork Requirements per each syllabus. See syllabus for course assignments.

Midterm and Final Assessments will utilize the Physical Therapist Assessment Manual for the Assessment of Clinical Skills (PTA MACS):

*The PT MACS will be used by your clinical instructor to assess your clinical performance. You will assess your own performance using the PTA MACS. You will be given an orientation on the use of this tool by the ACCE prior to your first clinical experience.*

**Upon completion of PTA 1211 Clinical Education I**, it is expected that the student will have achieved the following minimal expectations using the PTA MACS as rated by the student's CI:

1. Achieve Beginners or Advanced Beginners Level as deemed by achieving "Entry Level or Needs Experience" performance on all selected items on the web-based PTA MACS by the end of the four weeks.
2. No significant concerns in selected criteria.
3. CI comments provide objective information to quantify rating as appropriate.

**Upon completion of PTA 2249 Clinical Education II**, it is expected that the student will have achieved the following minimal expectations using the PTA MACS Assessment Tool as rated by the student's CI:

1. Achieve Intermediate Level as deemed by achieving "Entry Level or Needs Experience" performance on all selected items on the web-based PTA MACS by the end of the six weeks.
2. No significant concerns in selected criteria.
3. CI comments provide objective information to quantify ranking as appropriate

**Upon completion of PTA 2250 Clinical Education III**, it is expected that the student will have achieved the following minimal expectations using the PTA MACS as rated by the student's CI:

1. Achieve Entry-level performance as deemed by achieving "Entry Level or Beyond Entry Level" performance on all selected items on web-based PTA MACS.
2. No significant concerns in selected criteria
3. CI comments provide objective information to quantify ranking

### Criteria for Grading for PTA 1211, 2249, 2250

- A:** Obtain the minimal PTA MACS course requirement + receive 92% of the possible points
- B:** Obtain the minimal PTA MACS course requirements + receive 85% of the possible points
- C:** Obtain the minimal PTA MACS course requirements + receive 78% of the possible points
- D:** Obtain the minimal PTA MACS course requirements and receive 70-77% of the possible points for required paperwork. **OR**  
Obtain below the minimal PTA MACS course requirements and 70-100% of the possible points
- F:** Obtain the minimal PTA MACS course requirements and receive 0-69% of the possible points for required paperwork. **OR**  
Obtain below the minimal PTA MACS course requirements and receive 0-69% of the possible points **OR**

Obtain 0-100% possible points and any performance of PTA MAC with an Unsatisfactory Rating in Patient Safety

**Visual Representation of Grade Calculation:**

| Grade    | PTA MACS met (+) /not met (-)                                                                                                                        | Points from Paperwork |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>A</b> | PTA MACS met (+)                                                                                                                                     | 92% and above         |
| <b>B</b> | PTA MACS met (+)                                                                                                                                     | 85% and above         |
| <b>C</b> | PTA MACS met (+)                                                                                                                                     | 78% and above         |
| <b>D</b> | PTA MACS met (+)                                                                                                                                     | 70-77%                |
| <b>D</b> | PTA MACS not met (-)                                                                                                                                 | 70-100%               |
| <b>F</b> | PTA MACS met (+)                                                                                                                                     | 0-69%                 |
| <b>F</b> | PTA Macs not met (-)                                                                                                                                 | 0-69%                 |
| <b>F</b> | Unsatisfactory Rating on Patient Safety in PTA MACS will result in Automatic Failure of Clinical and Dismissal from Program regardless of percentage | 0-100%                |

Students will be evaluated by their respective CI, who will present the final evaluative report to both the student and the ACCE. The evaluative process is expected to be an on-going one, with the student and his/her CI meeting on a regular basis to discuss the student's actions and reactions to the clinical environment. The ACCE will be in close communication with both the student and the CI via clinical visits and/or telephone communications.

**Upon completion of the clinical period, the student will be assigned a letter grade by the ACCE.** If the student's clinical performance is unsatisfactory, i.e., fails to abide by institutional policy, or demonstrates unsatisfactory ability to apply knowledge of theory and learned skills to the clinical environment, they will receive a failing grade for the course.

**\*Failure to follow patient safety guidelines will result in immediate dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.**

Although it is not required, the CI is encouraged to recommend a letter grade that best reflects the student's overall performance. The ultimate responsibility for final grades does rest with the ACCE, who will consider all elements, including visit information, written evaluations, and student input/reports.

## **Clinical Attendance**

Clinical attendance, punctuality, attitude, and participation are all evidence of professional behavior and commitment to learning the essentials of giving quality health care. Students are expected to attend **all** scheduled days of **each** affiliation regardless of the number of hours accrued. **Scheduled 10-hour days or week-end days may occur due to CI schedules. The student is required to work the schedule of their clinical instructor.** When the student is informed of this schedule, the student is to receive consent of the ACCE. The ACCE will be the faculty member on-call when the college office is closed unless otherwise notified.

On the Attendance Record, do not count lunch breaks as part of your attendance. Consider the Clinic's full workday as 8 hours, unless otherwise designated by the administrator of the department of physical therapy. College holidays will be observed, and make-up will not be

expected for these days only. Any variation in normal clinic hours worked or scheduled should be documented and approved by the CI and ACCE. Full attendance is required during the affiliation. Any time missed due to absence **must** be made up. The time may be made up in partial or full days. The CI and ACCE must approve the make-up time in advance. Points are deducted for **ALL** missed days, even though the day is made up.

In the event of an occurrence that a day in the clinic will be missed, the student **must directly notify and speak with his/her CI or facility as well as notify the ACCE by email/phone/text** prior to scheduled report time. The student **must** provide a **reason** for the absence to **both** the CI and ACCE prior to the scheduled report time.

- The CI of the facility must be notified **in advance** of the student's expected return to the Clinic. Absences are cumulative; 5 days of absence that are not made up over the 3 affiliations is the maximum number of days missed allowed.
- After the second consecutive day of absence a physician/physician's office note is required.
- After the 3rd cumulative absence that is not made up, a written plan of action is required.
- The sixth day of absence, that is not made up will result in an automatic failure of that Practicum and the course will need to be repeated.
- Three tardies (more than 15 min. late or leaving early) will constitute one absence.
- Attendance is required for all other scheduled class activities (orientation days, seminar days, or days scheduled by ACCE to be on campus)
- Absences due to catastrophic medical and personal emergencies will be reviewed by faculty and will require appropriate official documentation upon return to class (example: Doctor's note, police report).

## Student Academic Responsibilities

Students must achieve a minimum grade of "C" in classroom theory as well as a satisfactory grade for professional behaviors (Reference Appendix A) and the laboratory components of each PTA course as determined by the criteria of each PTA course. Any grade of less than "C" achieved in a PTA or concurrent general education course is unacceptable for progression in the PTA Program.

## Student Appearance and Conduct

### Student Appearance

Acceptable dress and behavior are expected during all aspects of the educational program. More information is available in the PTA Program Handbook.

| Category                | Standards                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Uniform</b>          | White Lab Coat (if required by site), professional shirt/blouse, professional slacks, clean shoes. |
| <b>Name Badge</b>       | WVC PTA student ID badge must be worn at all times unless facility provides an alternative badge.  |
| <b>Cleanliness</b>      | Uniform must be clean, wrinkle-free, and well-maintained.                                          |
| <b>Personal Hygiene</b> | Students must be clean, neat, and well-groomed.                                                    |

|                          |                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fragrance</b>         | No cologne, perfume, or heavily scented products allowed.                                                      |
| <b>Cosmetics</b>         | Minimal and professional appearance.                                                                           |
| <b>Jewelry</b>           | Limited to a watch and wedding band or similar ring; small earrings acceptable.                                |
| <b>Body Art*</b>         | Must be covered completely; tattoos should not be visible in the clinical setting.                             |
| <b>Body Piercing</b>     | Piercings should be removed or covered. Some facilities may require removal of hidden piercings (e.g., navel). |
| <b>Smoking/Vaping</b>    | Not permitted during clinical hours or on facility grounds unless in designated areas.                         |
| <b>Facility Policies</b> | Students must comply with any additional dress code or appearance expectations set by the clinical site.       |

\*While we recognize an individual's right to express their individuality, body piercing and body art are not considered to be professionally accepted in the medical environment. Body art is not to be visible in the clinical setting. Students with visible body art are expected to have appropriate covering of all body art. Some clinical sites may require that you remove all non-visible body piercing such as a belly button piercing.

### **Student Conduct**

Students are expected to exhibit professional, legal, and ethical behavior at all times including during clinical experiences. Acceptable student conduct includes the following:

- Attend and be punctual for clinical.
- Cell Phones, or other electronic communication devices are to remain OFF in the clinical setting. Students should not cause interruptions during clinical.
- Refrain from using inappropriate language or engaging in disorderly conduct.

Professional behavior is ALWAYS expected of students. These may include but are not limited to the following:

- Show initiative.
- Treat others with positive regard/respect.
- Exhibit sensitivity to individual differences.
- Adhere to APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant. (A copy of the standards is in the PTA Program Handbook.)
- Seek guidance as necessary to address limitations.
- Accept constructive criticism from faculty, students, and clinical instructors without defensiveness.

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges is committed to the personal growth, integrity, freedom of civility, respect, compassion, health and safety of its students, employees, and community. To accomplish this commitment, IECC is dedicated to providing an environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and harmful behavior that hinders students, employees, or community members from pursuing IECC education or services. IECC's Student Conduct Policy 500.8 establishes the Student Code of Conduct to communicate its expectations of students and to ensure a fair process for determining responsibility and appropriate sanctions when a student's behavior deviates from those expectations. IECC sanctions are independent

of other sanctions that may be imposed by other agencies as a result of civil or criminal prosecution. View the Student Code of Conduct at [www.iecc.edu/studentconduct](http://www.iecc.edu/studentconduct).

Students in the PTA Program are expected to demonstrate interest, ability, and aptitude for responsibilities in physical therapy. Disregard for patients' or other persons' welfare, disinterest in studies as shown by frequent tardiness or unexcused absence, failure to cooperate in class/clinic assignments and discussion, and dishonesty in written assignments or examinations are examples of behaviors that may be interpreted as lack of interest. Any student showing lack of interest or exhibiting behaviors that may be judged to be unsatisfactory conduct according to the PTA professional conduct will be dismissed from the program.

## **Clinical Incidents**

If an accidental injury occurs at the clinical site, such as sustaining a needle stick or a physical injury, the procedures of the clinical agency should be followed.

Standard procedure would include:

1. Student to follow emergency procedure of Clinical Agency.
2. Report the injury immediately to the CI and ACCE.
3. Thoroughly wash the area and apply antiseptic.
4. Some clinical agencies may have you go to their Emergency Room, depending on how severe the injury and/or the policy.
5. Report this to the PTA Program Director as soon as possible and obtain a copy of the incident report from the clinical.
6. The hospital/clinic may ask the patient for permission to obtain an HIV test or other blood tests.
7. All costs incurred are the responsibility of the student.
8. Completing an incident form at the clinical agency and the College may be necessary.

## **Health Information Privacy and Accountability Act (HIPAA)**

Students must demonstrate comprehension of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) prior to participation in any off-campus experiential learning activity or clinical course.

This shall include, but is not limited to:

- Not discussing any patient or any information pertaining to any patient with anyone (including your family) who is not directly working with patient.
- Not discussing patient or any information pertaining to any patient in any place where it can be overheard by anyone not directly working with said patient, especially other patients.
- Not mentioning any patient's name, directly or indirectly, that any person named is a patient, except those authorized to have this information.
- Not describing any behavior which you have observed or learned through your relationship as a student at any agency, except to those authorized to have this information.
- Not removing medical records from authorized areas at any time. Duplication with proper authorization from the facility is strictly prohibited.
- Not reading any chart that does not belong to the assigned patient(s).

**\*Failure to comply with HIPAA regulations will result in immediate dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.**

## **Substance Abuse Policy**

To protect the safety of other students and patients, drug and alcohol abuse is strictly prohibited. PTA students are expected to remain drug free and in appropriate physical condition for the learning and care-giving environment. A student who is under the influence, or has abused, either separately or in combination: alcohol, over-the-counter medication, illegal drugs, prescribed medications, inhalants, or synthetic designer drugs becomes an individual at risk for harming others and themselves.

"Reasonable suspicion" is a belief based on objective facts sufficient to lead to a prudent person to suspect that a student is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in a manner that the students' ability to perform satisfactorily is reduced. All students are subject to an alcohol and/or drug test whenever a supervisor has a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while at clinical. The instructors' observations of any suspected physical or behavioral manifestation of alcohol and/or drug use will determine reasonable suspicion. Examples may include, but not limited to:

- Drug count discrepancy
- Extreme and rapid mood swings
- Odors of alcohol on the breath or the body
- Slurred speech
- Dilated or pinpoint pupils or reddened eyes
- Sleeping on duty
- Excessive absence or tardiness
- Frequent disappearance from the unit
- Changes in physical appearance, which may include personal grooming, weight loss, tremors, diaphoresis

All PTA Students have completed a successful Drug Test prior to the start of the first semester, which is available for the ACCE to view on [www.exxat.com](http://www.exxat.com). If there is reasonable suspicion at any point during the program, drug and alcohol testing will be done at the student's expense. Students may be required to repeat a drug screening for specific clinical sites in order to follow the timeline of the Clinical Agencies Guidelines.

**\*Failure to meet Drug Screening will result in immediate dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.**

## **Addressing Complaints**

### **IECC Student Complaint Policy**

Students are encouraged to seek resolution for any complaints by communicating informally with the appropriate individual(s). When a resolution is not reached, students may initiate a formal complaint. IECC's Policy to Address a Complaint establishes a fair, impartial, and timely process to review and/or resolve causes of dissatisfaction in an orderly and systematic manner. The Policy is available at [www.iecc.edu/studentcomplaint](http://www.iecc.edu/studentcomplaint).

Any complaints and/or allegations relating to non-compliance with the CAPTE STANDARDS should follow the same complaint policy.

### **PTA Program Complaints**

The PTA Program encourages any individual who is not satisfied with their experience or encounter with any student, faculty, or staff member to file an informal or formal complaint. Anyone may file a complaint regarding any aspect of the program. This may include, but is not limited to, complaints from clinical education sites, prospective students, employers of graduates, and the public. Informal complaints may be directed verbally to the ACCE:

Kinsey Whitaker PT, DPT, GCS  
Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Email: [whitakerk@iecc.edu](mailto:whitakerk@iecc.edu)  
Phone: (618) 263-5107  
Fax: (618) 262-8647

Formal complaints should be in writing and addressed to the attention of the Program Director:

If the complaint involves the Program Director, the matter should be addressed directly to the Dean of Health Professions.

Alani Frederick, DNP, RN, PCCN, CNE  
Dean of Health Professions  
305 N. West Street  
Olney, IL 62450  
618-395-7777, ext. 2136  
[fredericka@iecc.edu](mailto:fredericka@iecc.edu)

Any complaints or concerns from the student regarding Clinical courses must be submitted in writing to the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE) in order to receive further consideration. All written concerns or complaints will be reviewed by the ACCE and forwarded to the Program Director.

### **Process for handling complaints that fall outside the realm of due process:**

1. When a complaint is received, the Program Director will contact the person(s) making the complaint within ten (10) business days. If the complaint is focal and may be resolved with one individual, the Program Director contacts the individual, investigates the complaint, proposes a resolution, and informs all parties of the resolution by written communication. A written record of the complaint and resolution will be kept.
2. Complaints which cannot be resolved by the process described above are referred to the Dean of Health Professions. The Dean will investigate and propose a resolution. The Dean will communicate findings to all parties via written communication. A written record tracking form will be maintained.

Complaints will be handled in an expedited manner. Complaints will be kept on file for at least five (5) years. Complaints can be filed without fear of retribution.

If a student has a grievance about any incident at a clinical facility, they should contact the Site Coordinator of Clinical Education (SCCE) and the ACCE as soon as possible regarding the details of the incident.

Complaints about the Program related to compliance with the accreditation standards must be submitted in writing to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The process for submitting a complaint to CAPTE is found here: <https://www.capteonline.org/complaints> The complaint should be addressed as follows:

Department of Accreditation, APTA  
3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22305-3085

## **IECC Policies and Procedures**

Policies and procedures of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges may be found in the current [academic catalog](#).

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***The faculty and staff of the PTA Program welcome comments and suggestions for improvement to the Clinical Handbook or any information pertinent to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Please, do not hesitate to contact the WVC PTA Department. It is our pleasure to answer any questions and assist in any way possible. A small or big concern can always be communicated to the ACCE. If the ACCE is unavailable, you may leave a message with the PTA Department at 618-263-5164.***

## **Appendix A**

### APTA Professional Behaviors

## **APTA Professional Behaviors**

### **DEFINITIONS**

**1. Commitment to Learning**

The ability to self-assess, self-correct, and self-direct; to identify needs and sources of learning; and to continually seek new knowledge and understanding.

**2. Interpersonal Skills**

The ability to interact effectively with patients, families, colleagues, other health care professionals, and the community and to deal effectively with cultural and ethnic diversity issues.

**3. Communication Skills**

The ability to communicate effectively (i.e., speaking, body language, reading, writing, listening) for varied audiences and purposes.

**4. Effective Use of Time**

The ability to obtain the maximum benefit from a minimum and Resources investment of time and resources.

**5. Use of Constructive Feedback**

The ability to identify sources of and seek out feedback and to effectively use and provide feedback for improving personal interaction.

**6. Problem-Solving**

The ability to recognize and define problems, analyze data, develop and implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes.

**7. Professionalism**

The ability to exhibit appropriate professional conduct and to represent the profession effectively.

**8. Responsibility**

The ability to fulfill commitments and to be accountable for actions and outcomes.

**9. Critical Thinking**

The ability to question logically; to identify, generate, and evaluate elements of logical argument; to recognize and differentiate facts, illusions, assumptions, and hidden assumptions; and to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant.

**10. Stress Management**

The ability to identify sources of stress and develop effective coping behaviors.

## BEHAVIORAL CRITERIA FOR THE 10 PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS

| Professional Behavior                  | Beginning Level Behavioral Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Developing Level Behavioral Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Entry Level Behavioral Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Commitment to Learning              | Identifies problems; formulates appropriate questions; identifies and locates appropriate resources; demonstrates a positive attitude (motivation) toward learning; offers own thoughts and ideas; identifies need for further information                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Prioritizes information needs; analyzes and subdivides large questions into components; seeks out professional literature; sets personal and professional goals; identifies own learning needs based on previous experiences; plans and presents an in-service, or research or case studies; welcomes and/or seeks new learning opportunities | Applies new information and re-evaluates performance; accepts that there may be more than one answer to a problem; recognizes the need to and is able to verify solutions to problems; reads articles critically and understands the limits of application to professional practice; research and studies areas where knowledge base is lacking       |
| 2. Interpersonal Skills                | Maintains professional demeanor in all clinical interactions; demonstrates interest in patients as individuals; respects cultural and personal differences of others; is non-judgmental about patients' lifestyles; communicates with others in a respectful, confident manner; respects personal space of patients and others; maintains confidentiality in all clinical interactions; demonstrates acceptance of limited knowledge and experience | Recognizes impact of non-verbal communication and modifies; accordingly, assumes responsibility for own actions; motivates others to achieve; establishes trust; seeks to gain knowledge and input from others; respects role of support staff                                                                                                | Listens to patient but reflects back to original concern; works effectively with challenging patients; responds effectively to unexpected experiences; talks about difficult issues with sensitivity and objectivity; delegates to others as needed; approaches others to discuss differences in opinion; accommodates differences in learning styles |
| 3. Communication Skills                | Demonstrates understanding of basic English (verbal and written); uses correct grammar, accurate spelling and expression; writes legibly; recognizes impact of non-verbal communication listens actively; maintains eye contact                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Utilizes non-verbal communication to augment verbal message; restates, reflects and clarifies message; collects necessary information from the patient interview                                                                                                                                                                              | Modifies communication (verbal and written) to meet needs of different audiences; presents verbal or written messages with logical organization and sequencing; maintains open and constructive communication; utilizes communication technology effectively; dictates clearly and concisely                                                          |
| 4. Effective Use of Time and Resources | Focuses on tasks at hand without dwelling on past mistakes; recognizes own resource limitations; uses existing resources effectively; uses unscheduled time efficiently; completes assignments in timely fashion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Sets up own schedule; coordinates schedule with others; demonstrates flexibility; plans ahead                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Sets priorities and reorganizes when needed; considers patient's goals in context of patient, clinic and third-party resources; has ability to say "No"; performs multiple tasks simultaneously and delegates when appropriate; uses scheduled time with each patient efficiently                                                                     |

| <b>Professional Behavior</b>    | <b>Beginning Level Behavioral Criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Developing Level Behavioral Criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Entry Level Behavioral Criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5. Use of Constructive Feedback | Demonstrates active listening skills; actively seeks feedback and help; demonstrates a positive attitude toward feedback; critiques own performance; maintains two-way information                                                                                    | Assesses own performance accurately; utilizes feedback when establishing pre-professional goals; provides constructive and timely feedback when establishing pre-professional goals; develops plan of action in response to feedback | Seeks feedback from clients; modifies feedback given to clients according to their learning styles; reconciles differences with sensitivity; considers multiple approaches when responding to feedback |
| 6. Problem-Solving              | Recognizes problems; states problems clearly; describes known solutions to problem; identifies resources needed to develop solutions; begins to examine multiple solutions to problems                                                                                | Prioritizes problems; identifies contributors to problem; considers consequences of possible solutions; consults with others to clarify problem                                                                                      | Implements solutions; reassesses solutions; evaluates outcomes; updates solutions to problems based on current research; accepts responsibility for implementing of solutions                          |
| 7. Professionalism              | Abides by APTA Code of Ethics; demonstrates awareness of state licensure regulations; abides by facility policies and procedures; projects professional image; attends professional meetings; demonstrates honesty, compassion, courage and continuous regard for all | Identifies positive professional role models; discusses societal expectations of the profession; acts on moral commitment; involves other health care professionals in decision-making; seeks informed consent from patients         | Demonstrates accountability for professional decisions; treats patients within scope of expertise; discusses role of physical therapy in health care; keeps patient as priority                        |
| 8. Responsibility               | Demonstrates dependability; demonstrates punctuality; follows through on commitments; recognizes own limits                                                                                                                                                           | Accepts responsibility for actions and outcomes; provides safe and secure environment for patients; offers and accepts help; completes projects without prompting                                                                    | Directs patients to other health care professionals when needed; delegates as needed; encourages patient accountability                                                                                |
| 9. Critical Thinking            | Raises relevant questions; considers all available information; states the results of scientific literature; recognizes holes in knowledge base; articulates ideas                                                                                                    | Feels challenged to examine ideas; understands scientific method; formulates new ideas; seeks alternative ideas; formulates alternative hypotheses; critiques hypotheses and ideas                                                   | Exhibits openness to contradictory ideas; assess issues raised by contradictory ideas; justifies solutions selected; determines effectiveness of applied solutions                                     |
| 10. Stress Management           | Recognizes own stressors or problems; recognizes distress or problems in others; seeks assistance as needed; maintains professional demeanor in all situations                                                                                                        | Maintains balance between professional and personal life; demonstrates effective affective responses in all situations; accepts constructive feedback; establishes outlets to cope with stressors                                    | Prioritizes multiple commitments; responds calmly to urgent situations; tolerates inconsistencies in health care environment                                                                           |

## **Appendix B**

### Clinical Instructor Clinical Checklist

**WVC PTA Program  
CI Clinical Checklist**

|  | Item                                                                                    | Due                                                  |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Orientation Checklist<br>Syllabus Acknowledgement Form<br>CI Details Form<br>FERPA Form | Day 1                                                |
|  | Student Time Sheets                                                                     | Daily Submissions, CI Review at earliest convenience |
|  | Student Patient Treatment Logs                                                          | Daily Submissions, CI Review at earliest convenies   |
|  | Weekly Goal Forms                                                                       | Weekly                                               |
|  | Mid-term PTA MACS                                                                       | Midpoint of Clinical                                 |
|  | Final PTA MACS                                                                          | Final 2 Days                                         |
|  | ACCE Feedback Form                                                                      | Final Week                                           |
|  |                                                                                         |                                                      |

The PTA MACS and Surveys should be completed online via Exxat Software at [www.exxat.com](http://www.exxat.com).

## **Appendix C**

HIPPA / Confidentiality Statement Form

**Wabash Valley College  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

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**HIPAA / CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT FORM**

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I understand I will have access to confidential health information while enrolled in the Clinical Education Courses of the Physical Therapist Assistant program and/or when observing patient care in the clinical setting. I understand that this patient information is private and must be kept confidential. Furthermore, the unauthorized release of this information is punishable by law. I will abide by all policies, procedures, rules, and regulations related to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as well as any additional policies and procedures of the facility where I am assigned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

## **Appendix D**

### Notice of Patient Informed Consent Form

**Wabash Valley College  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program**

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**NOTICE OF PATIENT INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

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I understand that I must always introduce myself, as a student physical therapist assistant to patients/clients and that I must request permission to treat them. In addition, I understand that the patient/client has the right to refuse services that are provided by a student physical therapist assistant, and that I will be respectful of their choice. As a part of the Patient Informed Consent, Physical Therapist Assistant Students must always wear the school assigned or facility assigned Identification Badge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

## **Appendix E**

### Student Affirmation Form

Wabash Valley College  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program

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**STUDENT AFFIRMATION**

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Each student is responsible for being familiar with the information in this manual. Failure to read the information will not be considered an acceptable excuse for non-compliance.

The program faculty reserves the right to change policies or revise curricula as necessary to promote continued high-quality education.

I affirm that I have received a copy of the WVC PTA Clinical Education Handbook. I have been instructed that the PTA Clinical Education Handbook, Program Handbook, the [Wabash Valley College Student Handbook](#), and the [IECC Academic Catalog](#) contain policies pertaining to PTA students. I have also been instructed regarding where to obtain copies of all of these documents.

By signing below, I agree to abide by all Clinical Agency Facilities, IECC, and PTA Program policies and procedures.

---

*Signature*

*Printed Name*

*Date*

*A copy of this signed affirmation will be kept on file in the PTA Program office.*