Clinical Education

Director of Clinical Education

Clinics interested in taking our students should contact the Director of Clinical Education:

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Handbook, Resources & Forms

Policies and requirements related to clinical education are fully outlined in the Clinical Education Handbook:


Additional resources and helpful forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UCSF-SFSU 2019 Commitment Agreement.docx</td>
<td>This is the form used to indicate available slots for our students in calendar year 2018.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Education Overview

Clinical education is a vital component of the basic curriculum of the DPT program, as are the basic, medical, and applied sciences. As the goal of the DPT program is to graduate competent generalist practitioners, the goal of the clinical experience is to provide the student with a broad exposure to multiple aspects and settings of physical therapy practice. This spectrum includes the opportunity to experience team care and the interdisciplinary approach
to health services. Within the clinical environment, the student is provided the opportunity to learn to apply didactic knowledge, develop professional attitudes, and practice skills. This aspect of the educational experience is essential, as these opportunities are difficult to duplicate within the academic classroom. It is only within the clinical setting that higher levels of integration and application of skills and behaviors may be learned or acquired.

### Structure of Program

The DPT program consists of two part-time integrated clinical experiences (ICE) and three full-time clinical experiences spaced throughout the curriculum. The two ICEs occur during the first year. Students spend four full days at multiple local clinical sites. The first full-time clinical experience occurs during the summer of students' second year for ten (10) weeks, followed by the second full-time clinical experience in the winter of the second year for twelve (12) weeks. In the spring of the third year, students participate in the final twelve (12) week experience. Students are required to complete a clinical experience in at least one inpatient and one outpatient setting. The program expects the first full-time experience to be in an acute or musculoskeletal practice setting, and subsequent experiences will be in a different setting than the first summer.

The DPT program consists of the following experiences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Experience</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT 410 Integrated Clinical Experience</td>
<td>Four full days in first year</td>
<td>Local San Francisco Clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 801 Clinical Experience I</td>
<td>Summer of second year (full-time, 10 weeks)</td>
<td>Sample List of Clinics [14]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 802 Clinical Experience II</td>
<td>Winter of second year (full-time, 12 weeks)</td>
<td>See sample list of clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT 418 Clinical Internship</td>
<td>Spring of third year (full-time, 12 weeks)</td>
<td>See sample list of clinics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a more detailed view of how the clinical education program fits into the curriculum, please see the Curriculum page [15].
Clinical Settings & Patient Populations

Clinical settings of interest to the program include:

- Acute Care/Inpatient Hospital Facility/Acute Rehabilitation
- ECF/Nursing Home/SNF/Sub-acute Rehabilitation
- Home Health
- Industrial/Occupational Health Facility
- Outpatient Hospital
- Outpatient Private Practice
- Rehabilitation/Sub-acute Rehabilitation
- School/Preschool Program

Patient populations of interest to the program include:

- Patients/clients across the lifespan (pediatric, adult, geriatric)
- Patients/clients with a variety of diagnoses, including the neuromuscular, cardiovascular/pulmonary, musculoskeletal, and integumentary systems

Goals of Clinical Experiences

Part-time Integrated Clinical Experience

The main purpose of the part-time integrated clinical experiences (ICE) is to introduce students to the clinical environment and to develop clinical and professional skills. Specifically, the goals are to:

- Allow students the opportunity to relate academic materials to patients.
- Permit students to integrate didactic information in the clinical situation through observing, examining, and treating patients under close supervision of the clinical instructor.
- Allow students to develop documentation and clinical skills by beginning the process of patient care through supervised examination and treatment of patients.
- Encourage students to develop interpersonal skills with patients, staff, and other members of the health care team.
- Facilitate the integration of academic information with the clinical information gained from working with individual patients.

Full-time Experiences

- Students submit reflections and case reports, present inservices, and attend clinic inservices.
- In a clinical setting, students treat patients and work with experienced clinicians who provide mentoring and consultation for case reviews, physical therapy techniques, and review of specialty.

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