

**University of Colorado
Physical Therapy Program**

Course Title: Clinical Education I

Credit Hours: 5

Course Number: DPTR 6931

Contact Hours:

Clinic: 8 weeks full time in clinic

Lecture: 10 hours preparation/debrief seminars

Semester: Summer II

Year: 2026

Course Coordinators: Jenny Logan, PT, DPT, NCS
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Office Hours: By appointment- requests should be made by email

Course instructors: Joe Palmer, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS
Becca Keefer, PT, DPT, CCS
Becca Dehne, PT, DPT
Community Clinical Instructors (CIs)

Course communication: **Email:** Announcements of course information and other communication within this course will be sent using student's University of Colorado e-mail address; however, Canvas is the primary method for assignments. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas and e-mail on a regular basis. Email will be the main form of communication to communicate directly with individual students.

Clinic Check-in: All students and CIs will be contacted at the beginning of the clinical experience and again around the midterm of the experience for a more formal discussion with the student's CE Faculty Advisor or another member of the CE Team. The CE Team is available throughout CE I if needed. **It is the student's responsibility to request more frequent communication if needed.**

Course Description: Eight-week, full-time supervised clinical experience with emphasis on appreciating the roles of the physical therapist, beginning to manage a case load, and participating in the inter-professional team.

Course Mission:

CE I is designed to develop key foundational knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to both patient care and life-long learning. We strive to enhance the learner's use of strategies for effective experiential learning and establish the skill base for critical reflection and self-assessment.

Course Outcomes: Upon the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Fink's Taxonomy of Significant Learning	Course Objectives Students will:
Learning How to Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe elements that contribute to a positive clinical education experience. • Identify new strategies which support one's experiential learning • Begin to demonstrate self-directed learning in the clinical setting • Practice critical reflection to enhance professional growth.
Foundational Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage patients from initial examination through discharge with guidance from CI. • Comply with HIPAA regulations at all times. • Recognize principles of health care delivery in the clinical setting.
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply knowledge, psychomotor skills, and professional behaviors in the clinical setting. • Apply correct use of standard precautions for infection control. • Seek evidence in making clinical decisions. • Utilize evidence in making clinical decisions with CI guidance
Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate effective use of time and resources by managing a partial caseload. • Use clinical decision-making frameworks in patient management (e.g., ICF, The Guide to PT Practice, etc.) • Examine relationships between health condition, impairments in body structure and function, functional limitations, and participation restrictions. • Demonstrate "Intermediate" performance on all CPI skills.
Human Dimension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realize potential legal/ethical issues that may arise in the clinical setting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the physical therapist’s role within the healthcare team in the clinical setting. • Illustrate appropriate behaviors to reinforce the physical therapist’s role within the team.
Caring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept responsibility for patients. • Display effective communication and interpersonal skills in all interactions.

Course Prerequisites: Successful completion of all previous course work.

Other prerequisites (on-boarding) to participate in clinical education:

1. Current CPR Certification:

This is a requirement of all clinical sites. The PT Program requires that students maintain current American Heart Association BLS CPR certification throughout the 2.5-year curriculum.

2. OSHA Requirements related to Blood-borne Pathogens

Many states require documentation that students have had OSHA training related to blood-borne pathogens/universal precautions. In addition, our clinical affiliation contract states that students will have completed this training prior to participating in clinical education. Therefore, the PT Program requires that students complete training in blood-borne pathogens prior to participating in ICE I. This training was provided during a preparation seminar in Summer 1.

3. HIPAA Compliance:

The PT Program requires that students successfully complete the online HIPAA training prior to participating in ICE I. It is in the best interest of patients and clients for students to understand and comply with HIPAA standards throughout their clinical experiences.

4. Health-related Compliance:

Standard requirements include remaining up to date on the following items:

- Program Required Immunizations (HepB, TDAP, MMR, Varicella, annual flu)
- Proof of negative TB test annually
- *Individual clinical sites may have additional special requirements for participation (i.e. drug screening, additional background check, COVID-19 proof of immunization, submission of immunization documents, proof of recent physical, etc.) It is the students’ responsibility to identify and meet these special requirements.*

***All onboarding must be completed by April 10, 2026 to avoid a possible suspension from the experience (this includes UCHHealth Drug Screens when required)**

Required Reading:

- 1) American Physical Therapy Association Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument (PT CPI): Review Web CPI prior to start of clinical education experience.
- 2) Plack MM. The Learning Triad: Potential Barriers and Supports to Learning in the Physical Therapy Clinical Environment. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 2008;22(3):7-18.

Teaching Methods: The main focus is experiential learning, through an 8-week clinician-supervised clinical education experience. Additional teaching methods used in the preparatory and debrief classroom sessions include recorded and in-person lecture, discussion, small group activities, reflection, and self-directed learning.

Clinic Time: refers to activities that are to be completed within the context of clinic and/or with the supervision of your clinical instructor.

Course Technology Tools and Support:

To optimize learning, please be sure you are familiar with all technology used, as described below.

Canvas: Canvas is the LMS that will be used to provide necessary information about CE I prior to the start of the experience, during the experience, and post-experience. General clinical education resources are also included.

Exxat: This clinical education management software platform is used extensively for all CU PT clinical education courses. Students will utilize Exxat to create and send their personal profile to their assigned SCCE/CI, explore and create a Wishlist for site placement, and to complete post-

experience evaluations. Please refer to the Exxat module in Canvas for additional information and tutorial video links.

CPI 3.0: The Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) 3.0 is completed via an on-line platform hosted by the APTA. Please refer to the CPI 3.0 module in Canvas for additional information and help-guides.

Zoom: Zoom web conferencing may be used for virtual classroom sessions as well as for Advisor check-in conversations during the clinical experience.

Evaluation Methods:

Grades and Grading Policy:

This course is graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Criteria to achieve a "Satisfactory":

1. Complete all onboarding and assignments by due dates (see below for more details).
2. Demonstrate "Intermediate performance" on all performance criteria in the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI).
3. No "Significant Concerns" box checked on the CPI on the final evaluation.
4. Summative comments from CI indicate progress from midterm to final evaluation on CPI.

The grading policy and scale used in this course is described in detail in the CU Physical Therapy Program Student Policies and Procedures Manual. If a student does not meet ALL CRITERIA required for passing this clinical experience, the student will receive an "IP" grade for the course. In addition, the CE team in conjunction with the Physical Therapy Student Promotions Committee will determine an individual plan of action.

Assignments:

1. Complete Exxat Student Profile

All sections of the Exxat student profile need to be completed by February 25th. Refer to the Exxat module in Canvas for video tutorials.

2. Send introductory email and Exxat student profile to SCCE and CI (if known)

Refer to Canvas for more information about what should be included in this email. This should be sent by February 25th.

3. CPI 3.0 Training Certificate Upload

Complete CPI 3.0 training and upload certificate of completion to Canvas by March 18th.

4. Documentation Assignment

Submit your SOAP note completed in class on April 7th.

5. Create goals for CE I experience

Students will create objective CE I goals, based on PULSE performance, feedback, and reflections. Submit goals on Canvas by April 10.

6. Writing Assignment

Learners will be able to:

1. Write a thesis statement that forecasts the contents of an academic essay.

2. Write multiple, consecutive academic paragraphs employing topic sentences, cited evidence, analysis, and linking elements.
3. Explain the fundamentals of concision and write clear, efficient academic sentences.

Core Requirements:

- All assignment details are in the Canvas Assignment (in the writing center) – **follow the instructions carefully**
- Following the review of 2 journal articles related to clinical education, students will be asked to write a short, formal academic essay of 500-800 words answering a specific prompt, due
- Students will receive feedback from the Writing Center
 - If you are asked to revise your paper, you will be required to meet with a Writing Center representative during CE I. **You may ask for time out of your clinic schedule for this one-time meeting.** If a meeting is necessary, the course coordinator will inform your CI of the need for this time, to support your learning and writing development.

7. CI Details Form AND First Day Checklist:

These documents can be found in Exxat with instructions on how to access them in Canvas. These will need to be completed by May 1.

8. Weekly Planning Forms – Weeks 1, 2, 5, and 7:

Templates are available in Canvas. Students are asked to complete and review with their CI on a weekly basis. These are **NOT** turned in but rather used to ensure communication and consensus between student and CI regarding progress and goals.

9. **Contribution to the Clinic:** Students are expected to contribute in some way to the clinic during CE I. Examples include providing an in-service, contributing to an ongoing project in the facility, facilitating a journal club discussion, presenting a case, etc. See Clinical Education Resource Module for examples/ideas.

10. **Guided Reflection:** Each student will submit a written reflection by June 21. Reflections should be written in first-person language and be at least one page double-spaced. This guided reflection will focus on how you incorporated your defined goals following your first PULSE into this clinical experience:

- Define and then reflect on how you were able to incorporate your PULSE goal(s) into CE I. In what ways were you successful in meeting the established goals? How were you challenged?
- How did your CI and other members of the health care team assist you or provide mentorship to help achieve the established goal(s)?
- How will you carry this work forward into your clinical experiences for year 2 (CE II)?

11. **Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) – Weeks 4 and 8:** The CPI will be completed by each student and CI at midterm and final. Students and CIs will meet to discuss the CPI and performance/progress at both midterm and final.

12. **Exxat Site/CI Assessments:** In the last week of CE I and no later than June 21, the “PT Student Evaluation of the Site” and “PT Student Evaluation of the Instructor” will be completed within Exxat. Ideally, these assessments will be completed prior to the last Friday of the clinical experience and shared with your CI for review and discussion (can be done at final CPI review). However, CIs and Sites are not able to access these Exxat evaluations and do not have to be shared if it is uncomfortable for the student to do so. Please note, we encourage the professional development skill of providing constructive feedback. Work with your CE Advisor if you would like mentoring in this area or have specific questions.

Course Policies:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: The CU PT Program, School of Medicine, and Anschutz Medical Campus are committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and respectful learning environment. To create and preserve an atmosphere that optimizes learning for all, students, staff, and faculty share the responsibility of working to ensure that program participants feel valued and supported.

CUPT Course Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools: Written communication is a powerful and essential reality of professional PT practice. For students, writing is a process of thinking, developing ideas, and negotiating meaning – not just the means for creating a product. CU Physical Therapy Program faculty recognizes the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) such as citation generators, grammar checkers, and chatbots to support student learning and production of written communication.

Therefore, the following policy will guide the use of AI in the Program:

Part 1) Students are required to originally compose all written assignments.

Part 2) Students may use AI to plan and revise their original work

Part 3) Students who use AI to help them in their writing must explain specifically how AI was used to plan or revise their work in an Acknowledgements section at the beginning of the paper.

- Violation of this policy or failure to adequately cite the details of the use of AI is considered a violation of the honor code and therefore will result in a referral to the Student Promotions Committee for review.

Professional Behaviors: Each student enrolled in this course is expected to conduct him/herself in a respectful and professional manner. This includes, but is not limited to, being punctual and prepared for each day in clinic; respecting patients, staff and colleagues; respecting classmates and faculty during class discussions; working in a positive and productive manner; respecting oneself by presenting own ideas and opinions in a positive and thoughtful manner that promotes the attention and respect of patients, colleagues, classmates, and faculty; taking responsibility for one's own learning; and being committed to a positive learning experience.

Time in Clinic/Attendance: *Students are expected to work the hours and schedule of their individual Clinical Instructors.* Students will follow the clinical site's holiday schedule, not that of the University. Please refer to the Time in Clinic Policy in the student handbook, and posted as a separate document in Canvas. **The Program considers time in clinic to be mandatory.** Therefore, a CE Absence Request must be made prior to making any travel plans. You can find this form on Canvas.

- a. **Illness:** Students are expected to follow the guidelines, protocols, and policies of their specific clinical site and follow the reporting procedures in Clinical Education Handbook. Clinic guidelines, protocols, and policies will supersede campus guidelines, protocols, and policies if a discrepancy occurs. The criteria to pass the course must still be met even in the case of an extended absence. Steps to follow:
- Notify **ALL** of the following with an unanticipated absence due to illness or family emergency: CI, Clinical Education Advisor, Course Coordinator.

Accommodations for Qualified Individuals with Disabilities: The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is committed to providing equitable access to our program for qualified students with documented disability (e.g. psychological, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical). To ensure access to this class please contact the Office of Disability Resources to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom and clinical settings.

Accommodations are not provided retroactively, therefore, students are encouraged to register with Disability Resources & Services Office as soon as they begin their program. The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus encourages students to access all resources available through Office of Disability Resources for consistent access to their programs. More information can be found online at <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/disability-resources-and-services>, or by contacting the office at disabilityresources@cuanschutz.edu (303)724-5640 or (303)724-8428.

If you have qualified for accommodations, email the course coordinator prior to the start of the semester to communicate your accommodations.

CE I Dates: April 27 – June 19, 2026

Course Schedule and Format – SEE CANVAS FOR DETAILS AND DUE DATES

Date	Format	Instructor	Topic/Content
Week of Feb 23			
Wednesday, Feb 25 1:00 – 2:00	Class: In-person	Logan	CE I overview AHEC information Complete Exxat Profile Send intro email to SCCE/CI

Week of March 16			
Wednesday, March 18 1:00- 2:00	Class: In person	Logan	Introduce CPI Novice to Expert Continuum Readiness for Clinic
Wednesday, March 18 2:00- 3:00	Out of Class Time	Logan	Complete CPI 3.0 Student Training (see Canvas for link)
Week of April 6			
Tuesday, April 7 1:00 – 3:00	Class: In person	Logan, Bixby	Documentation Writing Assignment Overview
Week of April 13			
Tuesday, April 14 1:00-3:00	Class: In person	CE Team	Professional Behaviors Communication Novice Learner CE Advisor Break Out
April 27 – June 19			
Clinic Time	Mandatory Clinic Attendance	CE Team	Assignments available in Canvas
Week of June 24			
Wednesday, June 25 2:00-4:00	Class: In person	CE Team	CE I Debrief

Overview of Assignments/Requirements:

Form/Task	Due Date
<i>Before the Start of CE I</i>	
Complete Exxat Student Profile	Wednesday Feb 25
Student Email to SCCE/CI including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, questions • Completed Exxat Student Profile 	Wednesday Feb 25
Complete CPI 3.0 Training, upload certificate to Canvas	Wednesday March 18
Documentation assignment	Tuesday April 7
Complete ALL PT program AND site specific on-boarding requirements (to include drug screens)	Friday April 10
Upload Post-PULSE Coaching Feedback Goals for CE I	Friday April 10
Submit writing assignment (Canvas)	Tuesday April 21
<i>First Week of CE I</i>	
First Day Check List and CI Details Form in Exxat	Friday, May 1

<i>During CE I</i>	
Complete a Weekly Planning Form with CI and formally review (nothing to upload)	Not Turned into Program but should be completed and reviewed with CI on weeks 1,2,5,&7
Complete Contribution to the Clinic	Completed at some point during the clinical experience, usually in the second half of the experience
Complete Midterm CPI 3.0 Evaluation	Friday, May 22
Complete Final CPI Evaluation**	Friday, June 19
<i>Conclusion of CE I</i>	
Guided Reflection (Canvas)	Sunday, June 21
Exxat Site/CI Assessments	Sunday, June 21

****Grade for CE I will not be given until all Assignments/Requirements are submitted**