

R. Joe Palmer III, PT, DPT, PhD  
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303-724-2878

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus  
Assistant Professor: August 1, 2022 – Present  
Senior Instructor: September 1, 2017 – July 31, 2022

Education:

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs	PhD, Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy	Fall 2023
Slippery Rock University	Doctor of Physical Therapy	August 2002
University of Northern Colorado	Bachelor of Science, Recreation, Emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation, Minors in History and Biology Emphasis in Outdoor Education	August 1997

Licensure Information:

Colorado PT: PTL 0008091

Certifications:

APTA Advanced Clinical Instructor Certification, March 2016

American Heart Association BLS and BLS for the Healthcare Provider Instructor, August 2014

APTA Clinical Instructor Certification, October 2003

Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, 1997 – 2003

Emergency Medical Technician – Basic, August 1998

Employment and Positions Held:

2024 – Present	Section Director: Clinical Education, Physical Therapy Program, Residential and Hybrid pathways. Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, School of Medicine, Aurora, CO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Clinical Education team of 6 faculty and 2 staff across both Program pathways</li> </ul>
2017-2023	Assistant Director of Clinical Education, Physical Therapy Program, Department

of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, School of Medicine, Aurora, CO

- 10-year strategic planning lead in academic-clinical partnership
- Lead in technology/data management transitions:
  - CPI 3.0
  - Exxat clinical education database
- Coordinate and supervise students in clinical education experiences
  - Develop individual learning plans when appropriate

2012—2017	Director of Clinical Education, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Health Science and Public Health, Eastern Washington University, Spokane, WA
2016 – 2017	Per Diem Staff Physical Therapist, Skilled Nursing Facility Spokane Veteran's Home, Spokane, WA
2004 – 2012	Staff Physical Therapist, acute care, sub-acute rehabilitation, and out-patient therapist, Central Washington Hospital
2002 – 2004	Staff Physical Therapist, Memorial Hospital of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, CO
1996 – 1999	Flight Medic, Colorado Army National Guard
1993 – 1996	Medical Laboratory Technician, Colorado Army National Guard
1999	Recreation Therapist, Pediatric Residential Treatment Center Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, Pueblo CO

#### Scholarly Agenda:

To identify and understand characteristics and interventions associated with enhancing and/or maximizing academic-clinical partnerships and/or clinical workplace cultures of teaching and learning.

#### Publications

1. Sawyer, E., Eigsti, H. J., Gorman, I., Reinking, M.F., Palmer, R.J., Struessel, T. DPT Student Financial Literacy: A Multicenter Cross-Sectional Study of Student Knowledge and Preparation. *J of Phys Ther Educ*. In Review.
2. Hochman, L., Silberman, N., Palmer, R.J., & Greco, J.L. Best Practices in Clinical Education: A Site Visit Decision-Making Model. *Journal of Allied Health* 53.2 (2024): 115E-124E
3. Palmer, R.J. Using the Partnership Success Theory to Explore Physical Therapy Clinical Instructor Partnership Perceptions. [Doctoral dissertation]. Colorado Springs, Colorado: University of Colorado Colorado Springs; 2023.
4. Palmer, R. J., & Rapport, M.J. Using the Partnership Success Theory to Explore Site Visits on the Academic-Clinical Partnership from the Physical Therapy Clinical Instructor Perspective. *J of Phys Ther Educ*. 2022;36(3):186-195.

5. Rodriguez, J., Davidson, W., Palmer, R. J., & Rapport, M. J. Impact of Student Debt on Decisions of Terminal Clinical Education Experiences in Physical Therapist Education. *Internet J Allied Health Sci Pract.* 2022;20(3).

#### Grants

1. University of Colorado, Doctor of Physical Therapy Education Scholarship Group Seed Grant. Award: \$3,000. 2022

#### Peer Reviewed Scientific and Professional Presentations:

1. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Education Platform Session: "PT/PTA Student Debt: Confidence in Financial Knowledge and Awareness of Apta's Financial Solutions Center" 2026
2. APTA Education Leadership Conference, Education Platform Session: "DPT Student Financial Literacy: A Multicenter Cross-Sectional Study of Student Knowledge and Preparation" 2025
3. APTA Education Leadership Conference, Education Session abstract submission: "A Comprehensive Approach to Creating a Win-Win for Rural Academic-Clinical Partnerships" 2025
4. Colorado Chapter of APTA Annual Conference, Education Poster Session: "Are Hybrid DPT Students as Prepared for Clinical Practice as Residential DPT Students? A First-Year Student Assessment." 2025
5. Colorado Chapter of APTA Annual Conference, Education Poster Session: "What Are We Doing?!?: Examination of Post-Stroke Mobility Practices at a Comprehensive Stroke Center" 2024
6. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Education Poster Session: "Using the Partnership Success Theory to Explore Physical Therapy Clinical Instructor Partnership Perceptions" 2024
7. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Acute Care Poster Session: "DPT Student Preparedness for Acute Care Clinical Experience Following ICU Simulation Experience" 2024
8. APTA Education Leadership Conference, Education Session abstract submission: "Rethinking Clinical-Academic Partnerships: Working towards educational sustainability through more integrated relationships" 2023
9. APTA Education Leadership Conference, Education Session: "Site Visits: Is there a method to the madness? Gaining consensus in best practice" 2022
10. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Health Policy and Administration Section Poster Presentation: "Understanding Physical Therapy Student Motivations for Joining the National Health Service Corps" 2022
11. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Education Section Platform Presentation: "The Development of a Novel Academic-Clinical Partnership Assessment Tool Using the Partnership Success

Theory” 2021

12. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Education Section Platform Presentation: “Clinical Instructor Perceptions on Partnership Following Academic Physical Therapy Site Visits: A Mixed-Methods Approach” 2021
13. American Educational Research Association (AERA), Virtual Poster Presentation: “Understanding STEM Identity using the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009” 2021
14. STEM 2021 Virtual Conference, Platform Presentation: “Understanding STEM Identity using the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009” 2021
15. APTA Educational Leadership Conference, Education Section Poster Presentation: “Efficacy of a Rural Panel to Promote DPT Student Interest in Rural Clinical Rotations” 2019
16. APTA Educational Leadership Conference, Education Session Presentation: “From Vision to Reality: Early Years of Implementing a Paid Yearlong Internship and Lessons Learned Along the Way” 2018
17. APTA Combined Section Meeting, Education Section Poster Presentation: “Quantifying Clinical Instructor Time in Student Mentorship During Full Time Doctor of Physical Therapy Clinical Experiences – A Pilot Study” 2018
18. Northwest Intermountain Consortium Annual Conference, Education Session Presentation: “Navigating the ‘Swampy Lowland’ of Clinical Practice – Using Clinical Narratives in PT Clinical Education” 2017
19. APTA Combined Section Meeting, Education Section Poster Presentation: “Improved Clinical Comfort for 3rd Year Doctor of Physical Therapy Students during Full Time Internships using a Clinical Narrative Process” 2016

Non-Peer Reviewed Scientific and Professional Presentations:

1. UCCS Wellness Fair – September, 23, 2025
2. CU Denver Health Career Exploration Presentation – September 10, 2025
3. AHEC HOPE Conference – PT Career Presentations – July 18, 2025
4. Federal Legislative Impact Day on Capitol Hill – Washington D.C. – July 15, 2025
5. CI Development Workshop Series with Craig Hospital – Session 3 – May 13, 2025
6. CI Development Workshop Series with Craig Hospital – Session 1 – April 22, 2025
7. CU Anschutz Pharmacy Geriatric Elective – Physical Therapy Roles and Responsibilities – April

15, 2025

8. PT Preview Day Presentation – April 5, 2025
9. Medical Career Collaborative (MC<sup>2</sup>) – Introduction to PT – March 12, 2025
10. North Warren Technical School – PT Career Presentation – March 11, 2025
11. Colorado Early Careers Presentation – PT Career Presentation – March 6, 2025
12. Site Coordinators of Clinical Education Workshop - Maximizing the Clinical-Academic Partnership to Promote Student Success – October 24, 2024
13. Colorado State University – Pre-PT club presentation – October 7, 2024
14. CU Denver – Health Careers Pathfinder Day – September 11, 2024
15. Working Meeting of the Handan Rehabilitation Medicine Quality Management and Control Center, and Academic Conference of Physical Therapy and Medical and Preventive Integration from a Global health Perspective, Handan City, Hebei Province, China – Acute Care and Rural Health – July 28, 2024
16. CO Area Health Education Center – HOPE Institute PT sessions, UCCS – July 19, 2024
17. Southwest Area Health Education Center – Career Fair, Fort Lewis College – June 7, 2024
18. Black Youth Summit – Anschutz Medical Campus – May 4, 2024
19. University of Colorado, Colorado Springs – Healthcare Career and Resource Fair – April 23, 2024
20. University of Colorado School of Pharmacy - Geriatric Course Presentation – April 16, 2024
21. Medical Career Collaborative (MC<sup>2</sup>) – Introduction to PT – March 6, 2024
22. Adams City High School Career Exploration Panel – Anschutz Medical Campus – December 4,

2023

23. Colorado State University – Pre-PT club presentation – November 27, 2023
24. Aurora Science and Technology – PT Career exploration – November 10, 2023
25. Colorado Mesa Graduate Fair – CU PT representation – November 7, 2023
26. Western State University – Pre-PT club presentation – November 6, 2023
27. K-12 Steam Exposure Day – Anschutz Medical Campus – October 26, 2023
28. Adams County 5 Start School District – K-12 PT exploration presentation – October 10, 2023
29. AHEC Near Conference - PT Partner Presentation – September 24, 2023
30. CU Physical Therapy Program – University of Colorado, Denver – September 14, 2023
31. Motivational Interviewing Review – Saint Joseph’s Hospital – July 27, 2023
32. Medical Career Collaborative (MC<sup>2</sup>) – Introduction to PT – March 6, 2023
33. CUPS Presentation/Workshop – Introduction to PT – October 15, 2022
34. Aurora Science and Technology HS – Health Care career exploration day – 2 presentations on profession of PT – October 13, 2022
35. Greeley HS Dream Team – Health Care career exploration – panel participant representing PT – October 10, 2022
36. CU Anschutz PreHealth Day – Interdisciplinary panel case presentation participant – October 1, 2022
37. South Middle School – Career Exploration session – PT profession presentation – September 23, 2022
38. Colorado Early Colleges, Colorado Springs – Career Exploration day – 3 sessions presenting on profession of PT – September 15, 2022
39. National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions panel participant representing PT – June 15, 2022
40. CO SWAHEC Health Careers Institute, Fort Lewis College, Durango – Physical Therapy booth –

June 10, 2022

41. UPP Career Exploration Week – Introduction to PT – June 6, 2022
42. MC<sup>2</sup> Pre-health organization presentation – Introduction to PT – March 24, 2022
43. Chinese Disability Symposium – Adaptive Recreation Opportunities for People in the United States – August 2021
44. UCCS Graduate Research Slam Competition - Using the Partnership Success Theory to Explore Site Visits on the Academic-Clinical Partnership from the Physical Therapy Clinical Instructor Perspective - 2021
45. “We Need to Talk” – Having Difficult Conversations – APTA CO CESIG 2019
46. PT Clinical Education - Navigating Through Wonderland - University of Colorado Department of Physical Therapy 2017
47. Panel Discussion Participant: Best Practice of Clinical Education Task Force Recommendations - APTA CO CESIG 2017
48. Reprised: EWU SMA3RT (Successful Mentoring, Administration, Advising, Arts, Research and Teaching) Faculty/Staff Poster Presentation 2016
49. Reprised: WA PT Faculty Research Showcase – PTWA State Conference 2016
50. Facilitating the Construction Process – A Neural Plastic Approach to Gait Retraining. EWU School of Physical Therapy 2012

#### Research Activity

Senior Investigator: “Clinical Instructor Preferences Between the Clinical Performance Instrument and the Clinical Internship Evaluation Tool” Ongoing with planned dissemination 2026

Principle Investigator, Dissertation publication: “Using the Partnership Success Theory to Explore Physical Therapy Clinical Educator Partnership Perceptions” Completed 2023.

Principle Investigator and Mentor for Junior Faculty to translate dissertation work into two manuscript. Ongoing with planned dissemination 2026

Validity Article

Partnership Findings Article

Co-Investigator (Methodologist), Mentor for Grantsmanship and Mentoring in Education Research (GAMER) Participant: “Physical therapy student financial literacy and effect of financial literacy education curriculum” Ongoing

Additional manuscript on financial self-efficacy in development with planned dissemination 2026

Co-Investigator (Methodologist): “DPT Student Preparedness for Acute Care Clinical Experience Following ICU Simulation Experience” Completed 2024

Co-Investigator: Participant in 2021 Grantsmanship and Mentoring in Education Research (GAMER) intensive workshop. Completed 2021

Principal Investigator: “Physical therapy student interest in joining the National Health Service Corps: An Exploration of Considerations and Demographic Attributes” Completed as a component of PhD course work.

Co-Investigator: “Understanding STEM Identity using the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009” Completed as a component of PhD course work.

Co-Investigator: “The impact of students’ personal financial situations on decision-making for terminal clinical education experiences of the DPT degree” 2022.

Principal Investigator: “Improved Clinical Comfort for 3rd Year Doctor of Physical Therapy Students during Full Time Internships using a Clinical Narrative Process” 2016

Peer-reviewer for Journals: “Healthcare”, and “The Clinical Teacher”

Faculty Member for Occupational Therapy Master’s student orals: “What effect does shoulder taping have on hemiplegic shoulder pain and functional skills (ADL and Transfer skills)”, 2014.

Adjunct Investigator: “Sexual Boundaries in Physical Therapy Practice”  
In collaboration with University of Rhode Island, 2014

Graduate Research Project:  
“Therapist’s Predicted Outcomes for a Patient with Low Back Pain”  
APTA National Conference Platform Presentation, 2002

#### Membership in Scientific/Professional Organizations

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) 2012 - Present

Academy of Physical Therapy Education member; Clinical Education Special Interest Group  
Member 2012 – Present

Academy of Physical Therapy Research member; Qualitative Research Special Interest Group  
member 2021 - present

Section on Health Policy and Administration member; 2021 – present

CPI 3.0 Advisory Committee; 2022-2023

Academic Council of American Physical Therapy (ACAPT)

Education Research Committee 2024 - Present

Clinical Education Partnership Taskforce 2023

Commission on Clinical Education (National Consortium of Clinical Education) member 2012 - Present

Colorado Chapter of American Physical Therapy Association 2017 - Present

CO State Legislative Impact Day Participant 2025 – Present

CO State APTA Delegate (at large) 2023 – Present

Primary author of 2025 Position Statement Amendment for House Consideration  
Clinical Education Special Interest Group member 2017 - Present

Physical Therapy Association of Washington (PTWA) 2012-2017

WA State APTA Delegate 2017

Regular attendance to regional PTWA monthly socials and quarterly meetings 2017

Northwest Intermountain Consortium of PT Clinical Educators (NIC) 2012 - Present

Chair Pro Tempore: 2023 - Present

Chair 2016-2019

NIC conference planning workgroup 2017

EWU DPT

Co-chair, 30-year all-class reunion planning committee 2017

Consultative and Advisory Positions Held:

CPI 3.0 consultant

Member, Acadaware Software company advisory board 2017

Community Service

National Sports Center for the Disabled – Adaptive Ski Instructor, Sit-ski – Winter Park, CO – 2024 – Present

Cherry Creek Pointe Townhomes Home Owners Association – Board Member at Large – 2024 – Present

Dedicated to Aurora's Wellness and Needs (DAWN) Student-run Clinic, PT Preceptor 2018 – Present

EWU College of Health Science and Public Health

Food bank volunteer 2016

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

5th-6th grade Religious Education Instructor Sept 2014 – June 2015

Junior High Religious Education Instructor Sept 2013 – June 2014

“Our Whole Lives” Instructor 4-6th grade: March 2013 – April 2013

Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

President, Board of Trustees, Member: January 2008 – June 2011

Council for Defense of Chelan County

Board of Directors, Member: March 2007 – April 2012

Columbia Valley Community Health

Vice President, Board of Directors, Member: September 2008 – March 2011

Testified at WA State Licensure board to allow CI mentorship to count towards required CE hours  
2016-2017

Services to the University/College/School on Committees/Councils/Commissions:

CU PT Leadership Committee 2024 – Present

CU PT Recruitment and Admissions Committee 2018 – Present

Recruitment Committee Chair 2022 - Present

Holistic Application Reviewer 2018 - Present

Early Admissions Program Coordinator 2018 - Present

On-site & Virtual recruitment events 2017 – Present

Student Outreach Group Faculty Advisor 2021 – Present

Student Promotions Committee 2023 – Present

Assessment Committee 2023 – Present

Faculty Advisor: Student Adaptive Sports Special Interest Group 2024 – Present

Class Advisor: CU DPT Residential Class of 2027 - Present

CU School of Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Junior Faculty Committee Department  
Representative 2021 – 2023

Student Mentoring:

20-25 students/cohort for Clinical Education Advising 2017 - Present

3-4 students/cohort for Academic Advising 2018 - Present

As requested by students within the CU DPT program 2017 - Present

Honors and Awards:

UCCS merit-based scholarship for dissertation phase of PhD

2021, 2022, 2023 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Mission Incentive recipient

Distinguished PhD Year 1 study: Using the Partnership Success Theory to Explore Site Visits on the  
Academic-Clinical Partnership from the Physical Therapy Clinical Instructor Perspective

Multiple patient and co-worker nominated awards for quality of care and customer service

Excellence in Research, SRU Graduate School of Physical Therapy

First Honor Graduate, Army Medical Academy

Continuing Education Attended:

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Kansas City, MO 2025

Colorado APTA Chapter Annual Meeting – Golden, CO 2025

Combined Sections Meeting – Houston, TX 2025

Acute Care Competency Course – Virtual, 2024

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Oakland, CA 2024

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – Boston, MA 2024

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Philadelphia, PA 2023

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – San Diego, CA 2023

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Milwaukee, WI 2022

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – San Antonio, Tx 2022

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Atlanta, GA 2021

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – Virtual, 2021

AERA Annual Conference – Virtual, 2021

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Virtual, 2020

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Bellevue, WA 2019

Northwest Intermountain Consortium of Clinical Education Annual Conference – Portland, OR 2018

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Jacksonville, FL 2018

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – New Orleans, LA 2018

Northwest Intermountain Consortium of Clinical Education Annual Conference – Boise ID 2017

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Columbus, OH 2017

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – San Antonio, TX 2017

PTWA State Conference – Tacoma, WA 2017

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Phoenix, AZ 2016

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – Anaheim, CA 2016

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Baltimore, MD 2015  
CAPTE Accreditation workshop – Baltimore, MD 2015

NIC meeting and conference – Denver, CO 2015

Professional study group to explore Mindful Practice in Clinical Practice 2015

APTA Combined Sections Meeting Conference – Indianapolis, IN 2015

Clinical Education Summit – Kansas City, MO 2014

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Kansas City, MO 2014

Clinical Narrative writing 1-day course – Las Vegas, NV 2014

APTA Combined Sections Meeting conference – Las Vegas, NV 2014

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Portland, OR 2013

APTA Combined Sections Meeting conference – San Diego, CA 2013

NIC meeting and conference – Park City, UT 2012

APTA Educational Leadership Conference – Greenwich, CT 2012

Current Teaching Responsibilities in the Entry-Level Program (in sequence, by quarter or semester):

Summer 1

DPTR 5711: Professional Development I: Course Instructor

Summer 2

DPTR 6931: Clinical Education I: Course Instructor

Fall 2

DPTR 6712: Professional Development II: Course Instructor

Spring 2

DPTR 6932: Clinical Education II: Course Instructor

DPTR 6633: Clinical Reasoning III: Course Instructor

Summer 3

DPTR 7641: Integrated Practice: Lead Course Coordinator

Fall 3

DPTR 7933: Clinical Education III: Course Coordinator