



IMPROVING LIVES. IMPROVING COMMUNITIES.

**Physical Therapist Assistant
Program
Clinical Handbook
2024-2025**

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Frequently Called Numbers

MCC Connect	866-664-2832
LHC Library Group	928-453-5809
PTA Program Office	928-505-3351
PTA Program Fax	928-680-5955

The Physical Therapist Assistant

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) is a skilled health care worker who assists the Physical Therapist in providing physical therapy treatment interventions to patients and/or clients in a variety of practice settings. Duties of the PTA are varied and may include, but are not limited to, the rehabilitation of adult and pediatric clients with orthopedic, neurological, traumatic injuries, and various medical conditions through the application of physical modalities, exercise programs, gait training, functional activities and patient education.

The PTA graduate must obtain a certificate/license to practice as a PTA. Graduates are required to contact the physical therapy regulatory agency for that state regarding licensure/certificate requirements.

This MCC PTA program is committed to a high standard of educational excellence while promoting learner responsibility, effective communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. We strive to educate entry level PTA generalists that adhere to professional, ethical, and legal guidelines of the profession to serve our communities. We strive for excellence in all aspects of student education. Student education will be focused on theory, knowledge, and clinical skills essential to the entry level PTA.

The curriculum is designed for the optimal use of technical innovation, hands-on learning, and practical clinical education. This structure is a hybrid curricular model that includes a blend of traditional format with foundation knowledge on human anatomy and physiology, human pathology, study of human movement through kinesiology, physical therapy skills, interventions, adaptive equipment, and information on governing bodies of the physical therapy profession. It also includes problem based and case-based format model to assist with clinical reasoning skills.

The curriculum drives our emphasis on technology and communication to facilitate learning in the classroom and the clinic. Graduates will meet the diverse needs of employers and the community while providing high quality patient care under the direction and supervision of a Physical Therapist.

The PTA program provides students a curriculum consistent with the guidelines of The Higher Learning Commission of the North-Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), and the Normative Model of Physical Therapist Assistant Education: version 2007.

The PTA program curriculum is highly structured, involving classroom, web-enhanced courses, lab and clinical work as well as a considerable amount of personal study. The program format is a full-time day program. However, dependent on program needs, occasionally an evening course may need to be offered. Program faculty will assess competency in skills and knowledge gained in the classroom and lab through practical exams prior to your use of these skills on patients during clinical affiliations. Expectations of the Program include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Being available and on time for class or clinic as scheduled
- ✓ Preparing in advance for class/lab activities
- ✓ Providing your own transportation to assigned clinical sites
- ✓ Providing for your own housing during assigned clinical affiliations
- ✓ Demonstrating professional behavior at all time

Upon successful completion of the PTA educational experience at MCC you will be awarded an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree and will be eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination for PTA's. Additionally, it is hoped that all students will participate in the college and program evaluation process by notifying the program faculty about areas of strengths and/or needing improvement. Faculty and staff hope your time spent in PTA education is successful and enjoyable.

Program Philosophy

We believe that physical therapy is a valuable and integral part of health care and the PTA functions as an effective member of the health care team. The PTA requires specialized knowledge and skills and works under the direction and supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist.

The entry level PTA should be able to practice in an ethical, legal, safe and effective manner. We, as educators, accept the responsibility for supplying students with opportunities to learn the necessary information and inform students of clinical practice required for state regulation and entry-level competence in the field.

Education and learning are lifelong processes and should be evidence based. In our role as faculty and health care providers, we must model the processes of creating a learning centered environment to facilitate lifelong learning, adapting, being flexible, and changing as the environment and culture changes in accordance with sound scientific developments in education, instructional delivery methodology, medical science, and physical therapy practice. Likewise, it is the student's responsibility to fully utilize the opportunities provided by this educational program.

The choice of career is a personal decision, and having chosen a particular profession, the individual must assume the profession's inherent responsibilities and adhere to established professional ethics and standards of practice. As students begin the process of becoming PTA's, they must constantly learn and adapt to different situations, patients, treatment techniques, disease processes and other conditions.

PTA Program Mission Statement

The mission of Mohave Community College PTA Program is to be a learning-centered institution to foster the professional and academic development of the PTA program to better serve the students and the community. The Mohave Community College PTA Program will provide an environment for educational excellence for students to become competent and professional Physical Therapist Assistants. Students will become aware of the world of physical therapy as they develop the structured skill set to perform as a Physical Therapist Assistant under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist. The students of the PTA program will develop into safe, competent healthcare practitioners, thus providing a much-needed service to Mohave County, surrounding communities and states.

PTA Program Vision Statement

The Mohave Community College PTA Program strives to be a leader in Physical Therapist Assistant education in order to better serve the community and meet the demands of the healthcare industry.

[Campus Safety](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Statement](#)

[Anti-Discrimination Policy Statement](#)

PTA Student Graduate Outcomes

Graduates of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate safe and effective application of treatment techniques established within the plan of care.
 - a. Review and understand plan of care written by licensed PT prior to patient intervention.
 - b. Provide safe treatment within the scope of the plan of care written by the licensed PT.
 - c. Describe the rationale of treatment interventions to achieve the goals and outcomes as described in the plan of care.
2. Demonstrate effective oral, written, and nonverbal communication in a culturally competent manner with patients, their families, colleagues, and the public.
 - a. Effectively communicate with patients and family in order to provide clear, concise instructions to ensure safety and achieve functional outcomes.
 - b. Communicate with members of the healthcare team in a professional and timely manner.
 - c. Participate in community and/or physical therapy professional events.
 - d. Demonstrate understanding of cultural competence in healthcare.
3. Demonstrate their ability to contribute as a functional team member within the physical therapy profession.
 - a. Understand the role of the PTA in patient care and team meetings.
 - b. Interact with members of the healthcare team.
 - c. Manage patient caseload, documentation, and billing within the allotted time.

4. Demonstrate safe, effective, moral, ethical and legal behaviors within the scope of physical therapy.
 - a. Understand legal and ethical standards as well as state practice acts.
 - b. Utilize APTA's "Guide for Conduct of the Physical Therapist Assistant" as the standard for professionalism and conduct.
5. Demonstrate their role in physical therapy by implementing a comprehensive treatment plan to promote optimal patient outcomes.
 - a. Effectively progress a patient through the plan of care written by licensed PT.
 - b. Demonstrate critical thinking when working with patients who have adverse response to PT interventions.
 - c. Promote active involvement by the patient in his or her care.
6. Recognize the relationship between concepts learned from liberal arts and basic science coursework and physical therapy knowledge and skills.
 - a. Utilize reading, writing, and communication skills with patient care.
 - b. Incorporate human physiology and anatomy with the application of physical therapy interventions.
7. Demonstrate clinical skills necessary to practice at the entry level for the physical therapist assistant prior to graduation.
 - a. Describe accurate and timely information for billing and payment purposes.
 - b. Demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the PT.
 - c. Demonstrate the application of interventions and modalities in a technically competent manner within the plan of care.
 - d. Identify adverse response in patient care and responds in an appropriate and safe manner.

PTA Program Goals

1. Develop and deliver integrated academic program leading to license or certificate to practice as an entry level physical therapist assistant.
2. Provides curriculum consistent with guidelines with CAPTE and the normative model of physical therapist assistant education for entry level physical therapist assistant.
3. Utilizes current, evidence-based curriculum based upon input from the advisory committee, academic faculty, and clinical instructors.
4. Provide an academic setting that facilitates program graduates to enter the physical therapy profession in a timely fashion and in adherence to accrediting body's criteria.
5. Promotes faculty involvement with continuing personal and professional development through life-long learning opportunities and membership with professional organizations.
6. Promotes faculty participation with community events that promote professional and critical development.

PTA Student Responsibilities

It is important that you be well informed about your academic program. To accomplish this task, you should maintain the following items in your files (electronic copies will be permitted):

1. MCC's current catalog and student handbook
2. MCC's schedule for each semester you are enrolled
3. Standard & Procedures Manual
4. All students at MCC are subject to the policies of the college as found in the MCC Catalog, MCC Student Handbook and PTA Program Standard & Procedures Manual. The PTA program documents have been developed as additional information resources for you. It is also the student's responsibility to hold and maintain:
 1. Valid Driver's License
 2. Means of transportation
 3. Maintain current clinical records
 4. Technology to access learning management system and educational resources
 - a. Laptops are highly recommended

Attitude

Each Physical Therapist Assistant represents the entire profession of physical therapy to the client/patient being served. The PTA's expressed or demonstrated attitudes toward others, as well as toward other health professions and services are very apt to be reflected in the subsequent attitude of the patient toward other therapists and towards health care in general.

Attitudes may be reflected in outward behavior such as facial expressions, actions, body language, and conversation. Students must exhibit behaviors that reflect an attitude of openness to learning and motivation to helping others. Listed below are some of the expected attitudes, with examples of the type of observable behavior that is desirable.

1. **Honesty and Integrity** - Refuses to lie, steal or deceive in any way; abides by APTA's Standards of Practice for Physical Therapist Assistants.
2. **Punctuality** - Arrives on time for class, clinics and labs; completes assignments on time. This includes having all appropriate clinical tools available.
3. **Off-Campus Scholarly Activity** - Behaviors during off-campus activities are similar to on-campus. All policies regarding student behaviors will be the same as classroom expectations. Students need to adhere to appropriate attire as indicated by the instructor.
4. **Cooperativeness** - Follows established departmental protocol and procedures; demonstrates a willingness to work well with others and is receptive to suggestions for improvement. In the event of virtual class session, it is vital we all work to participate in the virtual classroom as if we were in the traditional classroom. It is advised to keep the camera on during class time.
5. **Pride in Workmanship** - Strives for improvement in assignments and clinic; requests assistance when having difficulty in attaining the specified performance standards.
6. **Mature Actions** - Assumes responsibility and consequences for their actions; accepts their own limitations; strives to resolve personal conflicts. Students are liable for supplies checked out in their name.
7. **Consideration for Others** - Demonstrates appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication and thoughtful regard for the feelings and rights of other students, faculty, staff, and clinic personnel. The PTA is a member of the health care team and must therefore learn to cooperate with others. Being respectful and courteous with classmates is the first step toward this goal. Students should show the proper respect and courtesy to the members of the faculty and staff. This applies whether in the classroom, in the lab, at the clinical facility, or anywhere on campus.
8. **Concern for Patients** - Demonstrates by verbal and nonverbal communication that the patient comes first; refrains from spoken remarks and/or facial expressions which could arouse undue concern, alarm, or embarrassment to the patients; respects patient's rights to confidentiality or personal information; refrains from referring disparagingly to the services of another health professional in the presence of a patient. The PTA student must be prompt, courteous, and respectful at all times. The patient's care must always be the PTA student's primary concern.
9. **Enthusiasm** - Displays initiative in class, lab and in clinical situations; volunteers to assume responsibility.
10. **Ability to Accept Constructive Criticism Gracefully** - Strives to improve and is not defensive but receptive to suggestions for improvement.
11. **Clinical Decorum** - Student focuses conversation during class and lab on information relevant to learning. Students should remember that lab and clinic are designed to be learning experiences. There should be no visiting in lab or clinic that disrupts the instructor. Remember the patient hears everything. Likewise, "chatting" with classmates can also be overheard by patients in waiting rooms and hallways. Each student is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the classrooms and lab areas.
12. **Loyalty** - Supports with words and actions the ideals and policies of the school, the program and the profession.
13. **Pride in Personal Appearance** - Student maintains professional appearance and personal hygiene consistent with the program's guidelines.
14. **Tact** - Exercises discretion in words and actions to maintain good relations with patients, peers and faculty.

Conduct

The student is expected to abide by all provisions of the [APTA Ethics and Professionalism](#), Guide for Professional Conduct and the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant published by the American Physical

Therapy Association. Students are also required to abide by the [MCC Student Code of Conduct](#). It is the student's responsibility to report changes in medical status, personal information, and/or illegal or criminal actions.

Clinical Dress Standards

Students are expected to dress appropriately and professionally during clinical education courses. Slacks with the PTA polo shirts or requested clinical attire by the facility. Shoes must be clean and sturdy. You may be asked to wear scrubs at some of your affiliations. Students must wear their ID badge always.

Jeans, t-shirts, sleeveless tops, open-toed shoes, high-heeled shoes, and leggings are all considered unacceptable attire. Students will be sent home to change into appropriate attire.

Students in the program are expected to maintain grooming and hygiene standards consistent with the clinical workplace. This means that:

- ✧ Hair (including facial hair): Must be clean and trim. Long hair should be pulled back and secured.
- ✧ Nails: Must be clean and fingertip length. False fingernails/overlays are not allowed.
- ✧ Jewelry: Should be minimal. If in doubt, don't wear it. Stud earrings are permitted only in the ears with a total maximum of two. No earrings in the cartilage of the ear are appropriate. No facial jewelry, gauges, loops or dangling earrings are allowed.
- ✧ Perfume/Cologne: Not allowed.
- ✧ Body odor/Breath: Must be pleasant.
- ✧ Tattoos: Visible tattoos need to be covered at all times.
- ✧ Body Piercings: Body piercings need to be removed or covered.
- ✧ Natural hair colorings and traditional cuts are acceptable. Extreme hair styling and colors are unacceptable.

*Please note that visible tattoos, body piercings or physical defacement from body piercings may prevent a student from being placed at a clinical site. Clinical placement is not guaranteed and is necessary for program completion and graduation from the PTA program.

Complaint Procedures for External Community

(Including clinical education sites, employers of graduates and the general public)

Any individual who may have a complaint regarding any aspect of the program outside of the realm of due process is requested to follow the steps outlined below:

1. Inform the Program Director of the complaint. The Program Director will provide a complaint form to be completed by the individual reporting the complaint. In the event that the complaint is against the Program Director, the individual will be referred to the Dean of Health and Public Services.
2. Submit the written complaint to the Program Director.
3. The Program Director will send copies of the complaint to appropriate college administrative officials as dictated by the nature of the complaint. The college officials receiving notification of a complaint may include but are not limited to any or all of the following: Dean of Health and Public Services.
4. The Program Director will investigate the complaint and draft a written response within ten working days from the receipt of the written complaint.
5. The written response will be reviewed with the individual who made the complaint. Any actions proposed or taken will also be discussed with the individual who made the complaint.
6. In the event that this individual is not satisfied with the program's response to the complaint, the matter will be forwarded to college administrative officials for any further action deemed necessary by the college.
7. Records will be maintained electronically and will remain on file until next accreditation visit. A log of complaints will include a disposition of the complaint as well as any action taken, if any.
8. The forms are available from program faculty.

Student Safety on Campus

Use of Equipment in Lab

All students have a responsibility in maintaining a clean lab and classroom. See assigned duties and schedule for lab cleaning activities. Students may have access to lab and classroom when class is not scheduled but ONLY when a faculty or staff member is either in the lab and/or in the vicinity. Students may use the lab to practice skills on classmates but

must refrain from using non-classmates. Students may not use electrical equipment when a faculty member is not present in the vicinity. If you need additional practice time with electrical equipment, see faculty member for open lab hours or office hours.

- ✧ If further instruction is required, students will have access to small group instruction by program faculty.
- ✧ Any broken or malfunctioning equipment should be reported to program faculty immediately.
- ✧ All equipment will be disinfected after use by individual using the equipment. Cleaning supplies will be kept in the hydro area.

Lab Equipment

- ✧ The Arizona Therapy Source will complete safety checks on lab equipment at one-year intervals to insure proper working condition.
- ✧ In the event a machine malfunctions a work order will be completed to have the equipment re-checked/re-calibrated.
- ✧ The Program Director or Resident Faculty will be responsible for authorizing use of the lab for non-class lab activities.
- ✧ All equipment will be disinfected after use by individual needing the equipment. Cleaning supplies will be kept in the cabinets.

Student Interactions in Class and Labs

- ✧ As students of the PTA program at Mohave Community College, students are held to the APTA Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant
- ✧ Students will subscribe to hand washing before and after interactions with each other in the lab.
- ✧ As a result of being enrolled in the PTA program, students understand this environment will be free of violence, ridicule and sexual harassment.
- ✧ In alignment with the MCC Value Statement, students are urged to take responsibility for their future endeavors and commit to striving for excellence while actively engaging in the pursuit of knowledge.
- ✧ MCC and the PTA program are committed to being student-centered and will exercise patience, compassion and inclusiveness.
- ✧ Students feeling ill with flu-like symptoms should not be present for on-ground class activities. Negative test result may be required before students can resume with on ground activities.

Student as Patient Simulators

- ✧ Students will act as patient simulators in order to practice skills learned in lab. Students will be given a waiver of liability form to complete prior to beginning of lab courses.
- ✧ The students are expected to use the same decorum and give the same respect that would be given to a patient in a clinical setting.
- ✧ Students will provide feedback to each other regarding hand washing practices, tone, hand placement, integrity of touch and technique.
- ✧ If a medical condition prohibits full participation during lab, the student must inform the instructor ahead of time.

Patient Simulators

- ✧ Visitors in the Classroom – Except in emergencies involving the health and safety of those present, faculty and/or staff will not allow visitors into a classroom, laboratory, or other instructional facility while class is in progress. Only students who have been admitted to the college and are officially registered for the class and guests of the instructor who are invited for legitimate purposes of instruction may attend classes. No faculty and/or staff member is authorized to make an exception to this policy without prior approval of the Dean of Health and Public Services.

Student Safety during Off-Campus Educational Experiences

Please refer to [MCC Policies and Procedures Manual](#), Field Trips for details.

Drug-Free Schools and College Prevention Program Commitment

Please refer to [Drug-Free Schools and College Prevention Program](#) website.

Clinical Education Courses: PTA 206, PTA 280 and PTA 290

The clinical courses allow the physical therapist assistant student to apply techniques and theory learned in the lab and lecture sessions to direct patient care in a variety of physical therapy practice settings. Patient care is provided at outlying facilities under the direct supervision of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

Professional Conduct at Clinical Site

PTA students should consistently portray a professional attitude in order to inspire the patient's confidence. Students must treat patients and staff with respect, courtesy and confidentiality. Students must provide the best treatment for the patient that their skills allow, under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

- ✧ Students will avoid using communication technology for personal use during clinical work hours, as it is disrespectful and unprofessional. Students using cell phones or smart technologies for personal use while treating patients may be withdrawn from the clinical experience and will impact progression through the PTA program.
- ✧ Students should always introduce themselves as a Physical Therapist Assistant Student and wear their name tags. Address others as Mr., Mrs., Dr., etc. unless directed otherwise.
- ✧ Students should limit personal involvement with fellow staff members. Professionalism in and out of the facility must be maintained at all times.
- ✧ Students should avoid loaning personal items to patients and/or running errands for patients.
- ✧ Students should accept constructive criticism gracefully.
- ✧ Students should inform the clinical instructor in the clinical facility of activities and location at all times, especially when off the unit.
- ✧ Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the clinical sites.
- ✧ Abide by the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the PTA and the Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy found on the [APTA Ethics and Professionalism website](#).

Failure to comply with stated program policies and procedures will result in "Counseling Offense Form" documentation. Repeated failure to comply with the stated procedures will impact progression through the PTA program.

Absence during Clinical Rotation

The clinical experience is designed to mimic the work environment. Full attendance is essential for completion of clinical practical. The expectation is that you will be present every day you are scheduled to be at the clinical site for the duration of the four or six-week affiliation. The four and six-week clinical agreement does not provide for any absences. Any absences must be made up through mutual arrangement with the student, ACCE and the clinical site. **The academic coordinator of clinical education (ACCE) must be informed in this event.** The student must contact their clinical instructor AND the ACCE if they will be absent from the clinic.

Student absences greater than 10% of the required clinical hours will not be considered successful with the clinical practicum. Students will be required to extend or repeat the clinical (if offered) or will receive a failing grade.

Clinical sites are contracted for the selected clinical education experiences and time frames. There is no guarantee that a student will be allowed to make up the time in the clinic for any absences. It is in the student's best interest to participate fully in their clinical experiences.

Clinical Work Expectations

Break Periods/Lunch

Lunch breaks are solely at the discretion of the facility.

Conflict Resolution

In the event of conflict between the student and the Clinical Instructor, every effort should be made to solve the problem between the Clinical Instructor and the Student. The Center Coordinator for Clinical Education (CCCE) may help to provide direction in the problem-solving process. If the problem remains unsolved it may be necessary to involve the

Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education (ACCE). Conflicts are inevitable. Adherence to problem solving principles should allow the appropriate resolution of most problems.

Clinical Hours

Students are expected to be at their clinical assignment until the agreed upon finish time. Students may be required to stay later than their assigned time should the demands of patient care require extended time. Students should be given the opportunity to make alternative travel arrangements if an extended day is required. Students are required to be at the clinical site during the same hours as their CI. This may include weekends and/or holidays.

Evaluation of Performance

Assessment of a student's performance during the clinical rotation should be an ongoing process. The Clinical Instructor is expected to guide the experience with an emphasis on the provision of feedback which will assist the student to be successful in the treatment of patients requiring physical therapy services.

The Clinical Instructor should formally meet with the student at least one time per week to discuss the student's strengths and areas of performance which may require improvement. Assessments will be performed during the clinical rotations' PTA 206, PTA 280 and PTA 290. The assessment tools used by the program are weekly planning form and the Web CPI. Web CPI will be utilized by the CI, Student, and ACCE. A training tutorial is required prior to clinical placement.

The key to successful clinical performance is ongoing and open communication between the Clinical Instructor and the Student. Through the process of ongoing assessment, the student should be well aware of their level of performance at the time formal assessments are made. There should be no surprises.

Exposure/Injury to the Student

The intent of the Mohave Community College PTA program is to promote the highest quality of care and safety for clients, students, staff and faculty. The PTA program is following accepted policies, standards, and guidelines set for by Mohave Community College, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Students are taught Universal Precautions in the first PTA course (PTA 200) and content is practiced and reinforced throughout the program. Students are responsible for using universal precautions and for any personal expenses that may occur in the event of an exposure. Students are encouraged to check their health insurance policy for coverage.

Holidays/Weekends

Students may be expected to report to their clinical assignment if their clinical assignment falls on the holiday and/or weekend.

Hours/Days

While normal hours are 8 am to 5 pm, the individual clinical sites may modify these hours to suit their specific needs. The student will be required to work the same hours as the clinical instructor which could vary. Students are expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week.

Pregnancy

Students who become pregnant may be susceptible to delays in completing their clinical education experiences which could also delay completion of the program. Each case will be evaluated individually to determine the safest plan for the student, child, program and clinical site. The Program Director and ACCE will make the final decision regarding the student's progression with the PTA program and placement in clinical education courses.

Tardiness

Students are expected to BEGIN work at their scheduled starting time. The student must contact the ACCE and their clinical instructor (CI) if unable to report to the clinical site at the appointed starting time. All absences must be reported to the ACCE and the CI as soon as possible.

Transportation

Each student is required to provide their own transportation to the clinical site. A valid driver's license is required. Every attempt is made to arrange the location of the clinical education site with respect to the geographic location of the student's residence. Understand that Mohave County is considered rural. If you have family in outlying areas (Arizona, Utah, California, or Nevada) where you could stay during your clinical rotations, please inform the ACCE as soon as

possible. Students may be required to travel to and from the clinical site or find temporary housing during the clinical rotation. All fees associated with housing and transportation to and from the clinical site is the responsibility of the student.

Informed Consent

Students in the Practice Setting

Patients have rights and responsibilities. One of the patient's rights is to know who is treating them and their scope of practice. It is your responsibility to be clear to the patients who you are (name and that you are a student) and what you will be doing to them. Your clinical instructor can facilitate this exchange of information as well. Remember that patients have the right to refuse treatment.

Cancellation of Clinical Rotation

The availability of clinical sites is critical to the success of the physical therapist assistant program at Mohave Community College. In the event an offered clinical site will not be used for a particular time frame, the college will make every effort to give notice to the clinical site a minimum of six weeks in advance.

Clinical sites are requested to alert the academic coordinator of clinical education (ACCE) a minimum of six weeks prior to the start of the clinical rotation if circumstances will cause the clinical site to withdraw the offer to accept a student for a particular time frame. It is acknowledged that last minute changes are often necessary. Every effort should be made on the part of the Program and the Clinical Facility to avoid these situations as much as possible.

Records Required for Clinical Rotations

- ✧ Background Check
- ✧ Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card
- ✧ Healthcare Provider CPR Card
- ✧ Student Health and Immunizations
- ✧ Health Insurance
- ✧ Drug Screening
- ✧ Required Current Vaccinations

Records required for clinical rotations (items 1-6) need to be completed by the end of the first semester unless granted special permission by the ACCE.

PreCheck Background Check/Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card

Clinics require students to have a background check and fingerprinting completed prior to participating in their clinical education experience. All students will be required to complete these tasks.

Any questions about prior convictions have to be discussed with the director. A positive result on the background check may preclude the student from clinical affiliations at certain facilities since each clinical site has their own criteria. *This will impact progression through the PTA program.* The student will be required to follow readmission policy, or apply for entry as a new student. In addition, a positive background check will need to be addressed with the state board of physical therapy. The positive background check may preclude the student from obtaining licensure in the state he or she chooses to work in.

Students with a positive background check will be notified by the Program Director of the potential impact on the progression through the PTA Program. **It is the student's responsibility to notify the Program Director of any changes in their background due to criminal activity.**

Students are required to notify the director within 7 days of any offense. Failure of notification *will impact progression through the PTA program.* The program has the right to require another background check at any time at the student's expense.

- ✧ PreCheck Background Check: Obtain a PreCheck Background Check at www.mystudentcheck.com. After PreCheck Background Check has been cleared, select school-Mohave Community College District, and then PTA from the drop-down menu.
- ✧ Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card Application: Complete the Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card application directly from DPS. For frequently asked questions please visit:

<https://www.azdps.gov/services/public/fingerprint>. A Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Card is valid for six years and must remain valid throughout the PTA program.

Healthcare Provider CPR

All students must have a valid Healthcare Provider (or equivalent) CPR card that is valid for all clinical rotations. CPR training must be obtained through either the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association, classes offered through Community Outreach program at MCC. CPR is good for 2 years.

Student Health and Immunizations

Students are required to maintain physical exam and immunizations in the clinical electronic database. This includes yearly 2-step TB testing, the Hepatitis B vaccine series, tetanus (every 10 years), and other routine childhood immunizations. Due to the changing healthcare environment, additional vaccinations may be required such as the flu vaccine, and COVID-19 vaccine.

Some facilities require further immunizations, updated physical exams and health insurance which students will have to provide prior to being accepted for a practicum in that facility. Students should be aware that there is a potential risk of exposure to Hepatitis B and other communicable disease during clinical affiliations. Students will be oriented to safety procedures at Mohave Community College and at all clinical facilities. Students will have access to faculty within their clinical area for any additional information. Students are expected to accept all types of patient assignments. Students are financially responsible for their personal health care/hospitalization costs incurred while participating in the PTA program.

Health Insurance

Students will be required to provide proof of health insurance by the end of the first semester. The program will provide information to clinical sites on request. Health insurance is not provided by the college to cover injury during the course of academic and clinical training. If you do not have health insurance, contact a local insurance provider. Failure to obtain health insurance will impact progression through the PTA program.

Drug Screening

A drug screening test is required of all students for clinical assignments. In case of a positive result, the results will be sent to a medical review officer who will investigate with the student the reason for the positive test result. The medical review officer will contact the program and indicate if the test result was valid or a false positive. The student's ability to participate in the clinical education rotation will be dependent on the medical review officer's report. A positive report will be grounds for disciplinary action, if not cleared by the medical review officer. Action will impact progression through the PTA program. Some clinical sites may also require screening for nicotine. Students who test positive for nicotine may not be able to be placed at some clinical sites but are not excluded from the program.

Injury and Emergency Procedures

Procedures for Handling an Injury during Clinical Assignment - Evaluate the injury immediately.

Medical Emergency:

1. If someone needs immediate medical attention, call 911 –even if they protest or later refuse medical services.
2. Provide first aid to the extent of your ability and training.
3. Keep the injured or ill person as comfortable as possible; do not move (unless remaining would cause further injury or risks).
4. Notify Supervisor and ACCE.

The Mohave Community College liability insurance policy does not cover a student's injuries or emergencies. Payment of all healthcare charges not covered by personal health insurance is the responsibility of the student.

Mohave Community College incident reports will be filed in the student's folder. In the event of injury and at the discretion of the clinical instructor and the program director, the student will be given up to a week off from the clinical training. Days of absence must be made up by extending the clinical experience. The student may be required to submit a physician's prescription to refrain from participation in the clinical experience and/or a release to re-enter the clinical education facility.

Clinical Practice Settings

Practice settings may include all of the following: acute care hospital, rehab hospital (includes rehab unit located within an acute care hospital), extended care facility, outpatient care (includes free-standing practices as well as outpatient rotations in a hospital-based program). Other practice settings may be available at the discretion of the Program Director. During the 3 clinical rotations, every attempt will be made to have the student exposed to a minimum of two distinct physical therapy practice settings.

NOTE: To be considered as an active clinical site for the program the site must meet the following conditions:

- The facility has a completed clinical agreement with Mohave Community College which outlines the specific responsibilities of the facility and the college with regard to clinical education of physical therapist assistant students.
- It is recommended that the assigned Clinical Instructor has a minimum of one year of experience in the practice setting for the specific clinical rotation. Clinical Instructors may be physical therapists or physical therapist assistants.
- The facility is able to provide an adequate clinical case load for the specific clinical rotation to allow for the evaluation of the student's performance in the specific practice setting.

Clinical Competencies

The MCC PTA program includes three full-time clinical experiences in the curriculum.

Student competence prior to clinical assignment

The following academic standards, lab and skill competencies will be performed before students are approved to participate in PTA 206 (Clinical Practicum I), PTA 280 (Clinical Practicum II) and PTA 290 (Clinical Practicum III).

The first clinical affiliation (PTA 206) is scheduled for the summer between the first and second year (but may be subject to change).

First Clinical Rotation

PTA 206 is the first of the clinical education experiences and allows students to practice basic skills in the clinical environment which have been learned during the first year in the program. These skills include basic patient assessment techniques, gait and transfer training, wheelchair mobility, heat and cold modalities, traction, massage, intermittent venous compression, therapeutic light applications, and therapeutic exercise and Electromodalities.

Competency	Critical Safety Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer training • Gait training with assistive devices and stairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foot wear, application of gait belt, locked wheelchair, maintain documented precautions including WB status, proper guarding ○ Proper footwear, application of gait belt, maintains documented precautions including WB status, proper guarding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapeutic Exercise • AROM and Prom Stretching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proper instruction, body mechanics, and maintenance of documented precautions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Right cuff size, opening pressure relief valve, rapid evacuations of cuff following determination of diastolic blood pressure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Manual Muscle Testing and Goniometry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilization of proper body mechanics, maintains documented precautions and appropriate patient positioning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proper sequencing for donning and doffing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial Heat (includes hot packs, paraffin, hydrotherapy, fluidotherapy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reassessment of skin following intervention, call system available if PT is unsupervised for periods of time, knowledge of absolute contraindications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial Heat • Includes Hot Packs, • Paraffin • Hydrotherapy • Fluidotherapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reassessment of skin following intervention, call system available if patient is unsupervised for periods of time, knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions (critical for all superficial heat modalities) ○ Positioning of body part remains constant to avoid burns

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All Temperature check and appropriate for treatment outcomes ○ Ensure system is closed before turning machine on.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deep Heat ● Includes Ultrasound ● Electromagnetic Radiation (Shortwave Diathermy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, skin reassessment following intervention, proper care of wand/crystal, 100% contact skin during application, continuous movement ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, removal of jewelry, skin reassessment following intervention, appropriate moisture control measures performed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Traction ● Includes cervical, pelvic and over the door 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, correct application of harnesses, check poundage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intermittent Venous Compression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, cover any open wounds with absorbent material, check poundage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Light Therapy and Laser Therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, proper wand care, proper application of wand (no movement), 100% contact to skin, safety glasses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Massage and Soft Tissue Mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Electrical Stimulation ● Includes TENS, low and high volt currents, microcurrent, NMES, functional e-stim and biofeedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, proper electrode placement including contact, skin reassessment, check for latex allergies, check skin sensation prior to application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cryotherapy ● Includes cold packs, ice massage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, skin reassessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iontophoresis ● Phonophoresis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions, proper electrode placement including contact, skin reassessment, check for latex allergies, check skin sensation prior to application

Students Entering PTA 206, Clinical Practicum I, Have Completed the Following Courses:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ◇ Introduction to Physical Therapy (PTA 101) | ◇ Pathology (PTA 203) |
| ◇ Kinesiology (PTA 103) | ◇ Electromodalities (PTA 214) |
| ◇ Patient Mobility Techniques (PTA 200) | ◇ Wound Care (PTA 215) |
| ◇ Physical Therapy Modalities (PTA 202) | |

Students Have Demonstrated Competency in The Following Areas:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ◇ Transfer training | ○ Cervical and pelvic traction |
| ◇ Gait training with assistive devices | ○ Intermittent venous compression |
| ◇ Active and passive range of motion | ○ Light and Laser Therapy |
| ◇ Progressive resistance exercise | ○ Massage and soft tissue mobilization |
| ◇ Therapeutic exercise with equipment | ○ Universal precautions |
| ◇ Vital signs | ○ Patient positioning |
| ◇ Stretching | ○ Theory and application of electrical stimulation – includes TENS, low and high volt currents, microcurrent, electrical muscle stimulation, and functional electrical stimulation, lontophoresis and phonophoresis. |
| ◇ Posture and body mechanics | ○ Biofeedback |
| ◇ Goniometry | |
| ◇ Basic manual muscle testing | |
| ○ Theory and application of superficial heat – hot packs, paraffin, hydrotherapy, fluidotherapy | |
| ○ Theory and application of deep heat – ultrasound and shortwave diathermy | |

Lecture, exams, skill competencies and lab practical's will be given frequently to assure that student comprehension and skill performance levels are being achieved. Safety precautions are stressed throughout lecture and lab activities.

Second and Third Clinical Rotations

In PTA 280 and 290, students will continue to apply the skills mastered in PTA 206. In addition, several new skills will be assessed including treatment techniques for patients with cardiopulmonary dysfunction, brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputations, developmental delay, and specific orthopedic conditions. The student's ability to use orthotic/prosthetic devices will also be assessed.

Competency	Critical Safety Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthopedic management of bone & joint pathologies • Basic orthopedic joint assessment • Manual traction techniques for spine • Grade I, II mobilization techniques for extremity joints and spine • Therapeutic Exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of common bone & joint pathologies ○ Implement orthopedic management of pathologies ○ Knowledge of absolute contraindications and precautions for manual techniques ○ Knowledge of assessment of willingness to move, end feel, mobility and basic special tests to each extremity joint ○ Knowledge and demonstration with positioning and implementation of basic joint mobilization techniques ○ Identify precautions and contraindications with joint mobilization techniques ○ Knowledge of selection, progression and delivery of therapeutic exercise instruction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuroanatomy: central and peripheral nervous system • Sensory and motor innervations • Neurological Impairments: functional movement problems • Motor control & motor learning across the lifespan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying central versus peripheral nervous system impairments ○ Screening for sensory and motor deficits ○ Identifying neurological deficits: progressive & Non-progressive disorders ○ Implementing appropriate positioning & interventions ○ Identifying level of spinal cord injury ○ Knowledge of the motor learning strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiopulmonary disorders • Pediatric disorders • Vestibular disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying cardiopulmonary deficits & use of assessment tools ○ Implementing appropriate interventions for cardiopulmonary disorders ○ Knowledge of common pediatric disorders ○ Implementing age appropriate interventions ○ Knowledge of appropriate positioning for treatment ○ Identifying common vestibular disorders ○ Knowledge of appropriate positioning and treatment strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuromuscular rehabilitation • Orthotics & prosthetics • Prescriptive wheelchair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge of treatment strategies: PNF, NDT, constraint induced therapy, coordination and balance retraining, motion sensitivity training, vestibular rehab techniques ○ Knowledge of use of orthotics & prosthetics, and the PTAs role ○ Knowledge of maintenance with orthotics & prosthetics ○ Knowledge of precautions & contraindications with orthotics & prosthetics ○ Knowledge of prescriptive wheelchair management, positioning & seating ○ Knowledge of the postural support components ○ Demonstrate required measurements for wheelchair fitting ○ Educate patients on wheelchair mobility

Students entering PTA 280 and 290, Clinical Practicum II and III will have completed the following additional courses:

✧ Rehabilitation of Special Populations (PTA 208)

✧ Orthopedics (PTA 210)

✧ Clinical Neurology (PTA 217)

✧ Physical Therapy Seminar (PTA 230)

Students will have demonstrated competency in the following additional areas:

- ✧ Proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation
- ✧ Neurodevelopment treatment
- ✧ Orthopedic manual and exercise treatment
- ✧ Facilitation and inhibition techniques

- ✧ Pre-prosthetic and prosthetic training of the lower extremity amputee
- ✧ Use of orthotics
- ✧ Therapeutic exercises
- ✧ Chest physical therapy

NOTE: The clinical faculty may teach treatment techniques that have not been covered in lecture/lab but is responsible for any consequences resulting from a student applying a technique which has not been covered in the academic setting. Observational opportunities are invited and acceptable.

Program faculty come from clinical practice prior to teaching and have the greatest respect for our clinical sites and do not feel that any student should be on a clinical affiliation without basic safety and competency skills.

Standards of approval for students to participate in the clinical education experience include:

1. All skill competencies must be passed.
2. All skill competencies safety requirements must be met.
3. All classes must be completed successfully prior to clinical education experience.

Students must achieve a minimal competency level of 80% for all PTA courses in order to progress forward in the program and be in-line to graduate.

HIPAA

[Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(1996\)](#)

HIPAA will be discussed more in length throughout your physical therapist assistant program. Here is a brief description of what HIPAA involves.

HIPAA, which stands for the American Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, is a set of rules to be followed by doctors, hospitals and other health care providers. HIPAA took effect on April 14, 2006. HIPAA helps ensure that all medical records, medical billing, and patient accounts meet certain consistent standards with regard to documentation, handling and privacy. HIPAA compliance can be summarized by the three major rules or standards:

1. **HIPAA Privacy Rule**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule mandates the protection and privacy of all health information. This rule specifically defines the authorized uses and disclosures of "individually-identifiable" health information.

2. **HIPAA Transactions and Code Set Rule**

The HIPAA Transaction and Code Set Standard addresses the use of predefined transaction standards and code sets for communications and transactions in the health-care industry.

3. **HIPAA Security Rule**

The HIPAA Security Rule mandates the security of electronic medical records (EMR). Unlike the Privacy Rule, which provides broader protection for all formats of health information, such as print or electronic information, the Security Rule addresses the technical aspects of protecting electronic health information. More specifically, the HIPAA Security standards address these aspects of security:

- a. Administrative security - assignment of security responsibility to an individual.
- b. Physical security - required to protect electronic systems, equipment and data.
- c. Technical security - authentication & encryption used to control access to data.

Student Clinical Education Requirements for Communication and Documentation

1. Students will fill out the weekly planning form. This will allow the student to communicate adequately with the clinical instructor each week, review the past week and plan for the next week. The weekly planning form will be turned into the ACCE at the completion of each week.
2. The PTA Web CPI will be completed by the student and the CI. The PTA Web CPI will be reviewed by the ACCE after submissions.
3. At the end of the clinical rotation, students will complete student evaluation of clinical site and CI. This document will be turned into the ACCE at the completion of the clinical rotation.

4. The student will receive a grade for the clinical rotation following completion of the required documents.

Clinical Instructor Guidelines for Clinical Education for Communication and Documentation

1. The PTA program will submit clinical course goals and competencies to the Clinical Instructor and student.
2. CI will provide feedback on student performance as needed.
3. Students and clinical instructors will complete a written summary on weekly performance. Each will have a place to comment on strengths and weaknesses.
4. The student and clinical instructor will compare notes and discuss goals for the next week and goals for the overall clinical course.
5. Any question of student performance and/or reaching clinical goals and competencies will be reported at the earliest opportunity to the ACCE by either the clinical instructor or the student.
6. Web CPI will be completed online.
7. At the completion of the clinical rotation, the clinical instructor will submit their CPI through the WebCPI to turn into the ACCE for review.

Appendices

Clinical Agreement: Student Responsibility

Students shall read the following and indicate their understanding by signing below. This student responsibility statement is in addition to the course syllabus, and the student is responsible for being familiar with the content of both documents.

In consideration of the opportunity to enter into clinical education/internship/externship experience, I agree to:

A. Complete and be responsible for the cost of providing all health forms, documents, and certificates requested by the FACILITY.

B. At all times conduct myself, both at the FACILITY and outside normal business hours, in a personally and professionally ethical manner.

C. Agree to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, including those prohibiting discrimination, and to follow the policies, rules, and regulations of FACILITY, including those regarding to confidentiality of protected health information or other confidential information pertaining to clients and patient records.

D. Secure my own room and board during my clinical/internship/externship assignment.

E. Conform in my attire and appearance to the accepted standard of the COLLEGE and the FACILITY, and procure the appropriate and necessary attire required, if any, but not provided by the COLLEGE and the FACILITY.

F. Procure the appropriate and necessary equipment required as identified by the COLLEGE, if any, but not provided by the COLLEGE and the FACILITY.

G. Provide my own transportation to and from the FACILITY or to and from any related special assignment approved by the COLLEGE and the FACILITY. I will never transport clients.

H. Conform to the work schedule of the FACILITY. Notify the FACILITY immediately if I must be absent due to illness. Make up time and work missed during unavoidable illness, in consultation with my academic coordinator and clinical or internship/externship instructor.

I. Notify immediately the FACILITY and COLLEGE liaisons if I learn I am pregnant or have other health-related concerns during the clinical practicum and/or internship/externship assignment so that appropriate personal safety precautions can be implemented.

J. Obtain prior approval from COLLEGE and FACILITY before publishing or presenting any material relating to the clinical experience outside normal educational settings of the COLLEGE.

K. Provide health insurance, if desired, because I understand that neither the FACILITY nor COLLEGE will provide me with health insurance. I understand that I am not an employee of the FACILITY or COLLEGE for Workers Compensation Insurance purposes and that neither the FACILITY nor COLLEGE will provide such insurance during my involvement in the clinical practicum and/or internship/externship assignment.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Program Complaint Form

The PTA program complaint form will be used for handling complaints that are related to the PTA program from external sources. This form will be kept as a record of any complaint about the program; including the nature of the complaint and the disposition of the complaint.

Person(S) Filing Complaint: _____

Nature of Problem: Contact Made By: Phone Fax Email Visit

Signature Person(S) Filing Complaint Date

For Office Use Only:

Fact Finding:

Data to Verify Complaint:

Suggested Steps for Resolution:

Info Provided To: _____ on (Date) _____

Results (Include Date of Resolution): Contact Made By: Phone Fax Email Visit

Print Name: _____ Campus Dean: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____
Person(S) Completing Form

Date: _____ Date: _____