

## Clinical Education Experiences and Assignments

Students complete three (full-time) six-week clinical rotations (practicums) in different settings. Full-time is defined as a minimum of 32 hours per week in the clinic and students are expected to follow the work schedule determined by their clinic instructor. Students will complete a clinical rotation in an Acute/Inpatient setting, an Outpatient Orthopedic setting, and an inpatient or outpatient Neuro/Rehab setting.

Upon completion of three clinical experiences, students will have worked with inpatients and outpatients. The most common types of patients seen during clinical practicums include orthopedic, geriatric/adult, general medical/surgical, deconditioning/weakness, neurologic, and cardiopulmonary. Students have the opportunity to provide interventions, including but not limited to, therapeutic exercise, functional training, manual therapy, biophysical agents, and neurological rehab.

Practicum I will occur during the summer for students who have completed their first year in the program. Students will have the opportunity to complete this rotation during the first or the second summer session. Practicum II will be completed during the second summer session or during the Spring semester of the student's second year in the program. Practicum III will occur in the final Spring semester of the program. Students will have the opportunity to complete this rotation during Practicum IIIa or Practicum IIIb according to site availability and DCE placement. Students that complete 2 rotations in the summer of the first year will only have one clinic in the last semester. Students that completed one rotation in the summer will complete two rotations during the final (Spring) semester of the program.

Students have input in determining where they want to go for clinical rotations, but the determination and final placement of clinical practicums is the role of the Director of Clinical Education. All clinic contracts and placements for rotations are overseen and managed by the Director of Clinical Education. Due to the complicated legal nature of clinical contracts and program policy regarding clinical placements, students are prohibited from contacting clinical sites to facilitate a clinical practicum.

The PTA program has clinic contracts with facilities throughout the DFW metroplex and Parker County. Additionally, we have clinic sites as far west as Abilene, as far south as Stephenville, and as far north as Wichita Falls and Sherman-Denison. It is not the goal of the program for students to travel to far away clinic sites, however, to achieve the best clinical experiences students may have to travel a distance of an hour or more for one rotation, depending on where they live. Traveling away to full-time clinical facilities may require considerable driving, extended stay, and additional expenses. Successful completion of three clinical rotations is a requirement of the PTA Program.