



**LARAMIE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT  
PROGRAM**

Rev. 1/13/2023

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# Welcome!

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PTA) class at Laramie County Community College (LCCC). Having chosen to become a PTA you must assume that there are inherent rights and responsibilities of this healthcare field along with a world of opportunity. The faculty at LCCC is ready and eager to aid you in achieving your educational goals.

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program (PTA) Handbook is a supplement to the LCCC Catalog and the LCCC Student Handbook. These policies apply to all students enrolled in the PTA Program. Please refer to the LCCC Catalog and Student Handbook and the Health Sciences & Wellness School Policies (HSW School Policies) for more information about college policies, procedures, and services.

The PTA handbook outlines policies & procedures specific to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program, the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree in PTA, and PTA clinical education. It also supplies a framework by which students and faculty can function harmoniously. Students are expected to become thoroughly familiar with its contents, and to apply these procedures to their conduct while attending the LCCC PTA Program. The provisions of this Handbook do not constitute a contract, express or implied, between any applicant, student, or graduate and the faculty or the College.

## ***Helpful Contacts: Laramie County Community College***

Campus Operator .....	307.778.5222
Health Sciences & Wellness School .....	307.778.1140
Fax .....	307.778.1395
Admissions/Enrollment Services .....	307.778.1212
Out of state .....	800.522.2993
Financial Aid .....	307.778.1215
Disability Support Services .....	307.778.1359
TTY Number .....	307.778.1266
Veterans Affairs Office .....	307.778.4396
Campus Safety .....	307.630.0645 / 307.630.0866
Bookstore .....	307.778.1114
Library .....	307.778.1205
Student Success Center (HUB) .....	307.778.4315

## ***Helpful Contacts: School of Health Sciences & Wellness***

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### ***Campus Security***

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Phone: 307.630.0645  
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Laramie County Community College is committed to providing a safe and nondiscriminatory educational and employment environment. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation or other status protected by law. Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational, extracurricular, athletic or other programs or in the context of employment.

The College has a designated person to monitor compliance and to answer any questions regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies. Please contact: Title IX and ADA Coordinator, Suite 205 Clay Pathfinder Building, 1400 E College Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82007 | 307.778.1217 | [TitleIX\\_ADA.Coordinator@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:TitleIX_ADA.Coordinator@lccc.wy.edu). Contact information for the regional Office for Civil Rights is: Office for Civil Rights, Denver Office, U.S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582, 303.844.5695, [OCR.Denver@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Denver@ed.gov).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Laramie County Community College does not discriminate against students with disabilities. Efforts are made to arrange effective, reasonable accommodations for any qualified individual. The Disability Support Services (DSS) office at LCCC provides comprehensive, confidential services for LCCC students with documented disabilities. Services and adaptive equipment to reduce mobility, sensory, and perceptual concerns are available through the DSS, and all services are provided free of charge to LCCC students.

## ***Program History and Accreditation***

Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne, WY began serving students on May 1, 1968, to help fill the need for academic, career and community service/continuing education in the county. LCCC, as the sponsoring institution, is currently fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North-Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Laramie County Community College received approval from the Wyoming Community College Commission, the state agency charged with oversight from community colleges in the State of Wyoming, to confer the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) in June 2007. The community built a new Health Sciences building which opened in January of 2009 enabling the PTA program to have a space to occupy. The program graduated its first class in 2010.

The Physical Therapist Assistant curriculum is designed to meet all accreditation requirements for the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The PTA Program at LCCC is accredited by: The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

3030 Potomac Avenue, Suite 100 • Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085

Telephone: 703.706.3245 • E-mail: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org) • Website: [www.capteonline.org](http://www.capteonline.org)

The PTA Program at LCCC provides students a curriculum consistent with the guidelines of The Higher Learning Commission of the North-Central Association of Colleges & Schools and the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) that constitutes current content that is appropriate for an entry-level physical therapist assistant.

## ***Mission Statement***

The primary mission of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) is to provide a high-quality education in physical therapy in order to produce certified, professional, ethical, and competent practitioners in the field with a strong potential for advancement and leadership.

## ***PTA Program Philosophy***

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program philosophy is committed to a high standard of educational excellence while promoting learner responsibility, effective communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. We educate entry level PTA practitioner generalists that adhere to professional, ethical, and legal guidelines of the profession to serve our communities. Our students are focused on safe and effective care. We strive for excellence in all aspects of student education. Student learning is focused on the theory, knowledge and application of clinical skills essential to the entry level PTA. The curriculum is designed for the optimal use of technical innovation, hands on learning, and thorough practical clinical education. This structure 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 Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program curriculum is highly structured, involving classroom, hybrid courses, online coursework, lab and clinical work, as well as a considerable amount of personal study. Program

faculty schedules all classes, labs and clinicals which may include Saturday and/or evening dates/times. A large part of clinical education is included in the curriculum. Program faculty will ensure that competency in skills and knowledge, gained in the classroom and lab, will adequately prepare students for clinical experiences.

Expectations of students by the PTA 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 your own housing during assigned clinical experiences.
- Always demonstrating professional behavior.
- Complying with all policies and procedures within the college, school, and program.

Upon completion of the PTA educational experience at LCCC you will be awarded the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree and will be eligible to sit for the National PTA Board Exam for Licensure/Certification nationwide. In Wyoming, all PTAs must take and pass the exam to practice as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

## ***I. Physical Therapist Assistant Program Overview***

### **A. 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 must obtain a license/certificate to practice in Wyoming. A majority of other states also regulate the PTA primarily through licensure and/or certification. If you plan to apply for a PTA license/certificate in another state after graduation, you should contact the physical therapy regulatory agency for that state regarding licensure requirements.

### **B. Program Goals and Objectives**

#### **Goals**

The PTA program seeks to prepare students to assume a professional and active role within the physical therapy community. The program will:

1. Produce PTAs prepared to competently meet the entry level duties of a PTA in a variety of settings.
2. Produce PTAs prepared to successfully complete the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination (NPTAE).
3. Develop and deliver an integrated academic program leading to the successful completion of the guidelines developed by the Higher Learning Commission of the North-Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
4. Promote the importance of continued personal and professional development through life-long learning and membership in professional organizations and advance the recognition of the field of physical therapy and the role of the PTA within that field.

#### **Objectives (graduates will be able to):**



1. Work under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist in a safe, ethical, legal, and professional manner.
2. Implement a comprehensive treatment plan under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist (PT).
3. Recognize and implement the use of interventions based on outcomes for patients in a variety of settings.
4. Demonstrate effective oral, written, and non-verbal communications skills with the patient, Physical Therapist, health care personnel and others in a competent manner.
5. Successfully integrate concepts from the pre-requisite course work, basic sciences and PTA programming into physical therapy practice.
6. Demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning, evidence-based practice, and ongoing professional growth and quality improvement in physical therapy practice.

## **II. Physical Therapist Assistant Admissions Policies and Procedures**

### **A. Physical Therapist Assistant Program Admissions Policy**

Admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program is open to all academically qualified\* LCCC students. The program has a capacity of twenty (20) students and a competitive admissions process.

*\*Definition: Academically qualified students are those who have completed the necessary prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better, have been accepted to LCCC, and have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or better in their overall college grade point average (GPA).*

The pre-requisites for entry into the PTA program are as follows:

COM 2010	Public Speaking
ENGL 1010	English I: Composition
HLTK 1200	Medical Terminology
MATH 1400	College Algebra
ZOO 2015	Human Anatomy or Anatomy & Physiology I

### **B. Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Admissions Procedure**

New applications are available each summer for the following year's spring class. Applications are accepted through the early fall of each year (please refer to the application packet for the due date). A student may obtain a program application from the PTA Program's web page <http://lccc.wy.edu/programs/physicaltherapistassistant>, The Health Sciences and Wellness School's (HSW) Administrative Assistant, or the PTA Program Director. The student returns the completed application and required documentation to the PTA Program Director or appropriate administrative office by the deadline (listed on the website and application form). An academic review is conducted by the PTA admissions committee to determine admission status. Selection of new students will be completed shortly after the deadline (usually within 30 days) and is based on a student's grade point average, prerequisites completed, the complete receipt of the application, and other criteria as noted on program application materials. The student is notified in writing and/or via email of their admission status. Late applications will be accepted until all seats are filled.

During the review of applicants for acceptance into the program, the admissions committee will complete the scoring of applicants. If there are students with identical scores, the PTA Program Director will make the final decision of student placement utilizing the reference letters scoring, reflective essay scores, and then overall GPA score in order, as needed, to break the tie.

***Note: PTA Program admission is contingent upon successful completion of in-progress prerequisites. If the student does not successfully complete in-progress courses, admission to the program will be void.***

### **C. PTA Program Alternate/Wait List Admissions Status Policy**

A class of academically qualified students will be selected yearly for admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program at LCCC. Up to twenty (20) students will be accepted each year based on criteria set forth by the PTA Program Director, the PTA Advisory Committee, Admissions Committee, CAPTE/APTA, and the Dean of the Health Sciences & Wellness School. The criterion set forth in the Application Information and Process are available online at <http://lccc.wy.edu/programs/physicalTherapistAssistant/apply>.

Qualified students will be notified in writing and/or via email. Refer to the previous definition for details. Qualified applicants who are not accepted may be placed on a wait list. Wait listed students are not allowed to register for PTA program core courses unless a position opens in the class and the applicant's status is changed to "program admission." Wait listed students will be admitted to the classes if a position opens and will be notified accordingly in writing, via email and/or via phone.

### **D. Transfer into the PTA Program**

A student may transfer from a professional physical therapy program, or another PTA program provided the student meets the following criteria in addition to and at the discretion of the Dean of the Health Sciences and Wellness School and the PTA Program Director:

1. The LCCC and PTA Program application and registration procedures are completed.
2. All LCCC courses must be taken in their entirety, even if students have successfully completed units of the course in another PT or PTA program.
3. A plan to introduce a student from a PT program to the PTA role will be developed by the PTA Program faculty and the student. This plan may include self-study, and/or an on-site visit with a PTA in the community.

### **E. PTA Student Responsibilities**

It is important that you be well informed about your academic program. To accomplish this task, students should maintain the following items in their files:

- LCCC's current Catalog and Student Handbook
- LCCC's Schedule for each semester you are enrolled
- LCCC's Physical Therapist Assistant Student Handbook
- LCCC's Health Sciences & Wellness School Policies (HSW School Policies)

All students at LCCC are subject to the policies of the College as found in the LCCC Catalog, LCCC Student Handbook, Health Sciences & Wellness School Policies, and the Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Student Handbook. These College and PTA Program documents have been developed as additional information resources for you.

Individuals may have unique and varying needs, capabilities, and experiences. One of the keys to success in the PTA program lies in the recognition by each student of any learning areas that need improvement. Successful students will assume responsibility for strengthening any deficiencies. LCCC has numerous resources to aid you including help with study habits, test-taking skills, increasing reading skills, and time management. Please seek help early and take advantage of the assistance available. We are committed to helping you reach your educational goals. Once accepted into the program, one of the PTA Program Faculty will be appointed as your program advisor to assist you during your time here. (See *Student Conferences/Advising and Progressive Discipline* for more information.)

#### **F. Physical Therapist Assistant Code of Ethics**

Student Physical Therapist Assistants (SPTAs) are expected to exhibit professional, legal, and ethical behavior always, including during class, laboratory and clinical education experiences. Additionally, faculty, students, and their clinical instructors are expected to abide by ethical guidelines set forth in the American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) Code of Ethics. The appendix to this handbook includes APTA's Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, and the Core Values for the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant. This is also available via the APTA web site: (<http://www.apta.org>). For more information on how these rules apply to clinical education experiences, see the clinical education section of this handbook.

#### **G. Student Information Changes**

Changes to student information including email address, mailing address, phone number, and/or legal name are to be reported in writing to the College and the Physical Therapist Assistant Program office as soon as possible. The program is not responsible for inability to contact the student(s) when changes have not been reported.

#### **H. Academic Progress/Integrity/Grievance**

1. Students must pass all classes of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) curriculum with a "C" (75 percent) or better to meet the program graduation requirements.
2. A minimum grade of "C" is required in all courses with a minimum overall college grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale). Any course with a grade of less than "C" (75%) must be repeated. A program course may be repeated only once. If the class is not passed the second time the student must reapply to the program. Remediation will begin the moment that a student exhibits difficulty in their class work such as scoring < 75% on exams or skill checks.
  - a. When completing practical examinations, a 0 on any safety element will result in an automatic failure for that practical skill check.
  - b. Failure on a practical skill check will also occur if the examiner feels that the student is not prepared to participate in the skill check or scores a 0-1 on any technical skill. Students will also fail if they perform less than 75% overall. The student will be assigned a make-up skill check with a 10% grade reduction for the first make-up attempt. If the student requires a second make-up skill check attempt, they will receive a 20% reduction from their final, passing, grade. If the

student is unable to pass the skill with the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt, they will receive an automatic “F” grade for the entire course.

3. Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) courses are sequential, so students must be continually enrolled in program courses in the appropriate sequence. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete requirements in a given course cannot progress to the next term or the next clinical experience, which may result in dismissal from the program and/or re-entering the program the following year (see *Readmission to the Program*).
4. If a student is dismissed from the program for academic reasons, the student may apply for readmission into the next enrollment cycle. Any lapse in program continuity will require successful documentation of current PTA knowledge and skills, which may include auditing lab skills courses, taking comprehensive exams, retaking skill checks, and/or retaking program courses.
5. The limit for PTA core course repetition is one time during the length of the program. Failure in more than one core course will negate eligibility for program readmission and is up to the PTA Program Director for final decision.
6. Students must meet competencies outlined in each course syllabus and must pass all didactic classes in sequence to progress between courses and to enter the clinical experience portions of the curriculum.
7. The student must recognize and understand that clinical standards of the PTA program require that attitudes, work ethic, communication skills, and manual dexterity are evaluated along with academic readiness.

## **I. Attendance Policy**

Each student is expected to be punctual and attend all scheduled learning experiences and is responsible for all information presented in all lecture and laboratory experiences. Students are expected to be in class on time and to attend a minimum of ninety (90) percent of each component of the course to receive a passing grade. If absence is anticipated, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor, in person or by phone/email prior to the scheduled class. It is also the student’s responsibility to adjust their travel time to suit anticipated weather conditions, to ensure that the student arrives at school, lab, or clinical experiences on time.

Success in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program depends, in part, on consistent attendance. Information presented in PTA core classes is critical to safe and effective patient care. Regular and punctual attendance is expected as a demonstration of professional behaviors and class participation. In lectures, laboratories, and clinical courses, attendance is one of the factors that will be evaluated. Attendance policies and procedures are established and published in all course syllabi. Failure to comply with established policies and procedures will result in progressive disciplinary action, including potential dismissal of a student from the program.

An absence may be excused for a personal or family medical emergency. Vacations are not considered excused absences. The instructor of each course has the right to not approve the student’s reason for being absent from class with appropriate documentation to support the reason. The student must notify the instructor of an absence PRIOR to the absence for it to be considered “excused”. Students are responsible for making up the work missed during any absence. It is the responsibility of the student to

contact the appropriate instructor to arrange to make up any missed work. The instructor will decide the time and method of make-up work/examinations on an individual basis. The faculty member(s) reserves the right to refuse to give a makeup exam if the student does not follow the correct notification procedure. Also, the makeup exams or quizzes may be different than the original given to those who attended class to limit cheating.

If it becomes necessary to add/drop a course or withdraw from a course, it is the student's responsibility to complete the College's approved withdrawal process as outlined in the current LCCC catalog. If the student does not initiate course withdrawal with their student success coach and instructor, the student will be considered an enrolled student in the course and will receive an appropriate grade for the work achieved while enrolled. Students attempting to schedule co-requisite courses must receive written agreement from the PTA Program Director prior to proceeding so they do not conflict with required PTA classes, labs, and clinical education experiences.

A student can request a leave of absence from the program but must document their request in writing at least one semester prior to the absence, if possible, and submit their request to the PTA Program Director. A leave of absence is limited to one year after which time the student must reapply to the program.

#### **J. Student Conferences/Advising and Progressive Discipline**

Because of the varied demands of the practice of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), the program requires considerable communication between the instructors and the students. Feedback is provided in the form of grades, practical exams, evaluations, clinical instruction, and student conferences. The program has two types of student conferences: routine and interventional.

Routine conferences/advising sessions are generally scheduled with the instructor at or near the time of registration for the next term. Students may request a conference at any time. Conferences/advising sessions may be held online or in person. At least one conference/advising session per year will be in person. Conference/advising forms will be provided for all conferences/advising sessions (as needed) and will be signed by the student/advisor as needed. The student's general progress is discussed.

Interventional student conferences/advising sessions are held as needed for students experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties. Interventional conferences/advising sessions are intended to assist the student in achieving academic, behavioral, and professional standards. The specific issue of concern will be addressed, and an action plan may be formulated if it is determined that such a plan is necessary for the desired outcome. The consequences for failure to complete the required action plan will be defined and explained to the student in written form.

The PTA Program Director ensures privacy and confidentiality of all student program records by storing them in a locking file in the Director's office, which is locked whenever it is not occupied. Students are allowed into the program director's office only when the director, or another faculty member, is/are present. Students can access their records during the PTA Program Director's office hours or by making an appointment.

Student's rights to due process are detailed at the college level in the LCCC Student Handbook, <http://lccc.wy.edu/life/handbook> which is available in both online and hardcopy formats.

Patients, clinical sites, employers, and the public have the opportunity to voice a complaint about a student or the program in general. Some may choose to use a document such as a patient survey or a college-initiated survey. Others may choose to voice their complaint in person. All community members, students, and friends can send feedback via the internet at: <http://lccc.wy.edu/about/feedback.aspx>. All administrators, from the Dean through the President maintain an open-door policy to listen to the views of students, employees, and community members. If an official complaint is submitted to the College, the procedure followed is essentially similar, but depends on the nature of the complaint and with whom it is filed. The original complaint would be filed by the administrator who received and responded to the complaint – that could be the President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, or Dean. In all cases, it would be routed to the Dean and/or the PD for their written response, and copies of such files would be maintained in the Program Director's office except in the case of a personnel issue, at which point such files would then be maintained in the Dean's office or in the Human Resources office.

Progressive discipline will be utilized to assist the student in correcting issues that may negatively impact program progression, graduation, and/or clinical experiences. It will be expected that the student will resolve identified issues at the lowest disciplinary level whenever possible. Failure to resolve previously identified concerns may result in action at the next disciplinary level, a warning. Repeated warnings or sufficient seriousness of an initial concern may result in probation. Probation is a trial period in which the student must improve or be dismissed from the program. Upon determination of a student's inappropriate conduct:

1. The faculty member who was involved will meet with the student to discuss the matter and inform the student of the specific conduct that is deemed inappropriate. A verbal warning concerning the inappropriate behavior will be given to the student and a written record of the behavior will be placed in the student's program file.
2. If the student's conduct and behavior does not improve, the instructor involved will meet or speak a second time with the student, at which time a written warning will be given with documentation of specific actions needed to improve performance. A copy of the documentation will be placed in the student's file with a copy sent to the Dean of the Health Sciences & Wellness School. There will be a deadline given for definite measurable improvement to be demonstrated by the student.
3. If satisfactory improvement is not demonstrated before the deadline, the PTA Program Director may place the student on PTA Program suspension or dismiss the student from the program.

The PD may place a student on PTA Program suspension or dismiss the student from the program for any number of reasons. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Failure to meet the criteria established by the College as written in the LCCC Academic Probation Policy found in the LCCC Student Handbook.
2. Inability to maintain physical, emotional, or mental health necessary to function in the program. Students may be referred to the Counseling and Campus Wellness office (<http://www.lccc.wy.edu/services/counseling/> | 307.778.4397 | Clay Pathfinder Building 207)
3. Failure to meet the program attendance policy outlined in the previous section.
4. Participation in substandard, unethical, or inappropriate conduct including, but not limited to:

- a. Possessing or using alcohol or any mood-altering substance(s) or chemical(s) on the premises of LCCC or clinical education sites. This includes attending class or clinical education while under the influence. Refer to HSW School Policies for details.
  - b. Unexcused and/or excessive absenteeism and/or falsification of sick time. Please refer to the section, *Attendance Policy*, for more information.
  - c. Grossly unethical or unprofessional behavior.
  - d. Gross carelessness regarding safety of patients or colleagues.
  - e. Dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, or theft.
  - f. Release of confidential information regarding patients and/or clinical education site personnel or activities.
  - g. HIPAA/FERPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act/Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) violations.
5. As the Generic Abilities ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)) reflect behaviors necessary for success as a physical therapist assistant in the clinical environment, failure to demonstrate progress in the Generic Abilities, or failure to meet the specific behavior levels by the defined target dates, may result in program probation or dismissal (see *Clinical Education* and the appendix of this handbook for more information).

Failure to resolve issues at the disciplinary level may result in suspension and/or dismissal of the student from the PTA Program.

Students considering withdrawal from the program should discuss the matter with the PTA Program Director and/or their advisor prior to the withdrawal process. Students need to follow LCCC policies and procedures regarding program and course withdrawal, which can be found in the LCCC catalog.

## **K. Readmission to the Program**

All requests for program re-entry must be submitted in writing to the PTA Program Director by the published program admission deadline. Readmission is NOT guaranteed and is limited to one time only. Approval for readmission will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students who are dismissed from the program or from LCCC are not eligible for readmission without Program Director approval.

Readmission to the program is based on several factors, including but not limited to:

1. Review of student files by the PD and Admissions Committee.
2. Recommendation by the PD.
3. Academic status of the student requesting readmission.
4. Proper and timely completion of all LCCC and program requirements.
5. Space available.

Admission for re-entering students will be filled in the following sequence:

1. Former LCCC student who withdrew in good standing.
2. Successful challenge by students from another accredited PTA Program who withdrew in good standing.

**Note: Readmission will be at the discretion of the PTA Program Director in consultation with the student, the PTA Advisory Committee, and the Dean of Health Sciences & Wellness School. Good standing is defined as a student who has met all previous program requirements and is not in violation of any program or college policies, procedures, or ethical requirements. If a student is not in good standing, discretion lies with the PTA Program Director and Dean. It is the student's responsibility to prove that the previous violations have been resolved; both the PD and Dean must believe that the student will not willfully violate the College's or PTA Program's procedures again.**

#### **L. Student Retention**

Due to the number of program faculty, lab facilities, and clinical education sites, it is necessary to limit the number of students accepted annually into the program to a maximum of twenty (20). If you are having any difficulty academically, we encourage you to talk to the PTA Program faculty to seek guidance and assistance. Services for tutoring as well as academic and personal counseling are available on campus. It is the desire of the PTA Program faculty for you to succeed and we are here to help.

#### **M. Classroom Policies**

To facilitate an optimal learning environment and respect for other learners and the instructor(s), the following behaviors are expected in the classroom and laboratory:

1. Follow all published policies and procedures and instructor's verbal directions, including those listed in the course syllabi.
2. Arrive in a timely manner and have their learning materials organized and ready by the scheduled class start time.
3. Remain in the classroom/laboratory during the entire class session. Regular breaks will be scheduled and announced. If a student must leave the classroom prior to the scheduled break, please exit as unobtrusively as possible. Students are responsible for any material covered while they are absent from the classroom.
4. Direct all discussion and questions to/through the instructor unless otherwise instructed.
5. Turn off all portable communication devices (pagers, cell phones, etc.) and store them out of sight during all class and laboratory sessions. Exceptions may be allowed with prior permission from the instructor.
6. Food and drinks are allowed in the classroom unless otherwise instructed by the instructor.
7. No students are allowed in the laboratory unless prior permission is granted by the instructor or during posted open lab times. The PTA lab is for student use and may be scheduled for individual or group study when not in use by a PTA class.
8. On occasion, classes may need to be rescheduled. Efforts will be made to reschedule at a time when the majority of students can attend.
9. In the event a faculty member must cancel a class session, it is the faculty member's responsibility to notify the Program Director (PD) and the HSW School Administrative Assistant. The PD or administrative assistant will post a class cancellation notification for students outside the scheduled classroom. The Program Director or other faculty members will notify the class via email if there is sufficient time. If the class session is to be made up, it is the responsibility of the faculty member to schedule the make-up session in communication with those involved (students, room scheduler, PD, etc.)



The PTA Program faculty members have a responsibility to ensure that all PTA students have an adequate background, including competence in technical skills. The faculty must ensure that each student is able to utilize these skills and knowledge in a safe, effective, and competent manner. Learning experiences in the PTA Program are arranged sequentially, to ensure that new information, knowledge, and skills are integrated with previously introduced material. In addition, the curriculum includes opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary learning, where interaction between and among students and faculty are critical components of the students' learning.

## **N. Laboratory Expectations**

All students are expected to:

1. Always demonstrate acceptable professional behaviors in the lab, including appropriate lab clothing.
2. Come prepared per instructor's directions. The instructor will assess preparedness.
3. Request additional practice time if needed to achieve skill competency.
4. Stay focused on assigned tasks to maximize the learning opportunities available in the lab course.
5. Learn to work as a team to prepare for clinical practice.
6. Students must complete a video/photography and liability release form. **See appendix forms.**

### **RULES OF CONDUCT IN THE PTA LABORATORY**

1. Always demonstrate acceptable professional behaviors in the lab. NO horseplay.
2. Stay focused on assigned tasks to maximize the learning opportunities available in the lab course.
3. The use of the program's electrical equipment or the practice of skills involving electrical equipment can only be performed with direct faculty supervision.
4. All lab equipment and supplies must be returned to their proper place of storage after use.
5. If problems arise during the use of equipment, the program faculty must be contacted immediately!
6. If students are acting in the role of a patient-simulator, you are responsible for communicating to the student clinician any relevant information to improve the safety of you and the skill of the student clinician.
7. For infection control purposes, please sanitize/clean all equipment utilized.
8. Electronic transmission of photographs or videotapes of any person without permission is strictly prohibited.
9. Open lab times will be under the supervision of a faculty member and/or an assigned student.

## **O. Equipment**

Students are often given assignments that require the use of equipment or computers without direct faculty supervision. This use may occur in the PTA lab, the library, or in another location at LCCC. Care of this equipment is essential, and students are requested to leave the equipment in good repair. If problems arise during the use of equipment, it should be reported immediately to a PTA Program faculty member. Students may not remove equipment from LCCC under any circumstances.

1. All classroom and lab equipment are property of Laramie County Community College (LCCC) and is not for personal use. Students are expected to exercise safety and good judgment when using all college equipment.

2. Unsafe performance in any course, practical examination, or on any skill check may result in a failing grade in a course even if adequate points for passing the course, practical exam, or skill check were earned.
3. The use of the program's electrical equipment or the practice of skills involving electrical equipment can only be performed with direct faculty supervision. Electrical equipment can be used, but not plugged in, during unsupervised lab practice.
4. All lab equipment and supplies must be returned to their proper place of storage after use. No equipment may leave the lab without faculty approval.
5. Students will follow college policies in the event of a building evacuation. These policies can be found in the LCCC Crisis Management Plan. A copy of this plan will be kept in HS 302, the PTA Program Laboratory.
6. PTA Program students are expected to notify academic faculty (and clinical faculty when participating in clinical education experiences) of any medical condition(s) and/or medication(s) taken that could potentially impair or alter the student's safe and effective performance or function of all program educational experiences. Students contracting an infectious disease during the time they are enrolled in the PTA Program must report that fact to program faculty and follow appropriate medical guidelines to minimize the risk of transmission.
7. Cost and liability of travel to and from off-campus clinical experiences, including, but not limited to field trips, off-campus lab sessions, clinical education experiences, and service learning projects, are the responsibility of the student.
8. PTA Program faculty will accompany and supervise students participating in all off-campus program experiences except for part-time and full-time clinical experiences.
9. Equipment user manuals are kept in the PTA Program Laboratory, room HS 302.

## **P. Clinical Experiences**

Students are expected to attend all clinical experiences. Clinical experience schedules are arranged in advance by the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education. Please see **Section VII: Clinical Education** for more information on clinical experiences.

## **Q. Grading System**

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program is consistent with all LCCC Health Science & Wellness School curriculum and is as follows:

A = 92-100

B = 83-91

C = 75-82

F = 74 or lower

## **R. Field Trips**

At times within the PTA Program, students and faculty may travel off campus for departmental related field trips. The following procedures apply for field trips:

1. Travel Request Forms must be filled out by faculty prior to traveling.
2. All LCCC student travel policies are applicable during the trip.
3. Students participating in field trips are required to sign the "Waiver of Liability Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement – On/Off Campus Activities" form prior to the activity.

4. Faculty and students have the right to a clean and safe environment for off-campus field trip experiences.
  - a. The program is responsible for establishing off-campus educational experiences that support the curriculum and student learning.
  - b. The off-campus facility is responsible for providing an education experience that supports student learning.
  - c. If faculty and/or students do not feel the setting supports the appropriate learning environment, they may terminate the experience until the facility is able to remediate the situation or another setting is established.

## S. Audit

No audits of the PTA Program courses are allowed unless written permission is given by the Program Director.

## T. Graduation Criteria

Upon successful completion of the following criteria, Laramie County Community College (LCCC) will grant an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree with a major of Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA):

1. Credit courses: Students are required to complete all program general education and technical (program) coursework with a minimum grade of “C” for each course. For program courses, this is a 75%.
2. Clinical education: Students are required to pass all clinical education course requirements.
3. Practical skills: Students are required to pass all practical skills exams during PTAT curriculum course work. If a student does not obtain a 75% (passing score), they are allowed up to two more attempts to pass the skill, although a different version of the skill will be given. The interval between exam attempts may vary but will allow students adequate time to prepare (time allotted for make-up will not exceed 1 week).
4. Students are not able to complete the program until all program requirements are met such as career development training, capstone exam successfully passed, and capstone ethical training.
5. Compliance with all LCCC graduation requirements.

## U. Licensure/Certification

Graduates of an accredited PTA Program are eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapist Assistant Examination (NPTAE). Most states require licensure and/or certification to work as a PTA and students are required to take the NPTAE prior to seeking certification. Please see the Rules and Regulations set forth by the State of Wyoming Board of Physical Therapy (Promulgated by authority under the Wyoming Physical Therapy Practice Act, w.s. 33-25-101 through w.s. 33-25-115). This information can be obtained by contacting the Wyoming Board of Physical Therapy, 2001 Capitol Avenue, Room 104, Cheyenne, WY 82002 | (307) 777-5403 | <http://physicaltherapy.wyo.gov/>.

## V. Placement

Your LCCC Student Success Coach is available to assist with resumes/interviewing skills, job searches, etc. This help center is located in the Clay Pathfinder Building. They can also be reached by using the [Navigate app in myLCCC to schedule an appointment](#) or by calling 307.778.1212. A bulletin

board in the PTA lab will also post current PTA job openings that the program has received from employers.

## W. Program Costs

The following is the estimated cost of the entire program including prerequisite (5 semesters) using the 2022-2023 tuition/fee schedule. Student incidental cost may vary significantly. All figures are estimated. Please see the LCCC catalog for more specifics.

<i>Wyoming Residents</i>		<i>Out-of-State Residents*</i>		<i>Without WUE</i>
Tuition	\$11070.00	Tuition	\$14,886.00	20,370.00
Books & course supplies	\$503.55	Books & course supplies	\$503.55	\$503.55
PTA program fees	\$811.00	PTA Program fees	\$811.00	\$811.00
Student fees	\$3,222.00	Student fees	\$3,222.00	\$3,222.00
NPTAE study materials	\$500.00	NPTAE study materials	\$500.00	\$500.00
Cap & gown fee	\$26.95	Cap & gown fee	\$26.95	\$26.95
	<b>\$16,133.50</b>		<b>\$19,949.50</b>	<b>\$25,433.50</b>

\*Students who meet the requirements for Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) may be eligible for a tuition discount.

## X. Financial Aid

To assist students in meeting college costs, LCCC offers a comprehensive program of student financial aid. Students are encouraged to speak with the **Financial Aid Office (307.778.1215)** early to discuss financial assistance options. For more information on eligibility and application procedures, inquire in person at the Financial Aid Office located in the Clay Pathfinder Building, online at <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/services/financialaid/index.aspx>, or via email to [financialaid@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:financialaid@lccc.wy.edu).

## III. General Program Policies

### A. Dress Code

Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students are in pre-professional training and appearance is governed by standards that may be different from the rest of the campus. At all times, students are expected to be well groomed, clean, and neat. There are specific dress codes for clinical experiences, laboratory, and the classroom. Personal hygiene must be excellent and personal habits concerning nutrition, rest, exercise, and overall health should reflect genuine belief in preventive maintenance for health.

1. Classroom: Student is to wear appropriate comfortable clothing. Students wearing shirts or other items of clothing with inappropriate language, symbols, and/or picture(s) or that are otherwise disruptive to the learning environment will be dismissed from the classroom.
2. PTA Lab attire: Each student must wear loose-fitting clothing conducive to easy access to the appropriate body part being discussed. Shorts and a T-shirt are the suggested attire for lab. Sweatshirts and sweatpants may be worn over these. For designated laboratory sessions (related to the trunk or upper quadrant anatomy), females will be required to wear a halter top, sports bra, or similar garment, and males will be required to remove their shirts. Failure to comply with the dress code may result in dismissal from the lab, resulting in an unexcused absence.

3. Clinical Experiences: Each student must wear an official college name tag at the clinical sites (provided). Each student must purchase a lanyard for their name tag/badge. Each student must wear proper professional clothing. A pair of clean, supportive professional shoes is recommended. For all clinic-based learning experiences (including the lab classes held in a clinic), student apparel and grooming must conform to health, sanitation, and safety standards.
4. Fingernails must be trimmed sufficiently to allow you to perform physical therapy without risking damage to the skin of your patients. Fingernails should be short (not to extend past the fingertip), well groomed, unpolished, and no artificial nails are to be worn.

Failure to comply with dress code standards will result in dismissal from class, lab, or clinical until resolution is satisfactory to the Program Director and Dean of HSW.

#### **B. Pregnancy Policy**

All LCCC, PTA program, and clinical site policies, as well as the obstetrician's recommendations, will be followed.

#### **C. Certification in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)**

The student is responsible for submitting a photocopy, front and back, of a signed current CPR card to the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Director by the date specified. It must be an American Heart Association CPR certification and it must be earned at the Health Provider level. It is the student's responsibility to maintain and provide proof of current certification throughout the program.

## IV. Curriculum

### A. Program Description

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program has been designed as an integrated two-year (five-semester) curriculum to promote learning and development so that the graduate will be able to practice as an entry level PTA upon graduation. In the current format, students complete at least five (5) pre-requisite classes prior to admission to the program. After admission to the program, students must complete a curriculum of academic and clinical study designed to lead to the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree that includes integrated general education course requirements. Students are required to complete 71 credit hours to graduate. Students admitted to the PTA Program will complete their didactic and clinical education in five semesters (including one summer semester). Some pre-requisites and some theory courses may be presented online, in person, web enhanced, or hybrid format through a Learning Management System (LMS). Students are expected to have computer skills and access that enables them to participate in online courses. Access to the computer lab is part of the LCCC student fees.

### B. Physical Therapist Assistant Curriculum

<b>Prerequisites</b>		<b>Credits/Lecture/Lab/Clinical</b>
CO/M 2010	Public Speaking	3/3/0/0
ENGL 1010	English I: Composition	3/3/0/0
HLTK 1200	Medical Terminology	2/2/0/0
MATH 1400	College Algebra or higher	3/3/0/0
ZOO 2015 Human Anatomy or ZOO 2010 Anatomy & Physiology I		4/2/2/0
<b>TOTAL PREREQUISITE CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>15 credit hours</b>
<b>Spring I</b>		
STRT 1000	Strategies for Success	3/3/0/0
HLTK 2510	Pathophysiology	2/2/0/0
PTAT 1600	Introduction to PTA	3/3/0/0
PTAT 2030	Functional Kinesiology	4/2/2/0
ZOO 2025 Human Physiology or ZOO 2020 Anatomy & Physiology II		4/2/2/0
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>16 credit hours</b>
<b>Summer I</b>		
PTAT 1650	Therapeutic Procedures I	4/2/2/0
PTAT 1720	Therapeutic Exercise	4/2/2/0
PTAT 1740	Cardiac Rehab	2/1/1/0
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>10 credit hours</b>
<b>Fall II</b>		
EDST 2420	Human Lifespan Development	3/3/0/0
PTAT 1660	Therapeutic Procedures II	3/2/1/0
PTAT 1820	Orthopedics	4/2/2/0
PTAT 2970	PTA Clinical Practicum I	7/0/0/7
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>17 credit hours</b>
<b>Spring II</b>		
POLS 1000 or HIST 1211 or HIST 1221 or HIST 1251 or ECON 1200		3/3/0/0
PTAT 1800	Neurology	3/1.5/1.5/0
PTAT 1840	Special Rehabilitation	1/.5/.5/0
PTAT 2971	PTA Clinical Practicum II	7/0/0/7
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>14 credit hours</b>
<b>TOTAL DEGREE CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>72 credit hours</b>

## C. Course Descriptions/Curriculum Overview

### **PTAT 1600 Introduction to Physical Therapy**

**3 credits**

Students examine the field of Physical Therapy (PT) from the development of the profession to current clinical practices. Students discuss the role of the PTA, ethical and legal issues that guide practice, psychosocial aspects of healthcare, specialty areas of PT practice, components of the plan of care, and patient care essentials. Students practice oral and written communication skills including essential documentation skills. Prerequisite: admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

### **PTAT 1650 Therapeutic Procedures I/Lab**

**4 credits**

Students explore and develop skills involving the principles and practices of physical therapy including performing range of motion assessment and measurements, assessing posture, monitoring vital signs, implementing universal precautions, performing and assessing body mechanics during a variety of activities, performing transfers for a variety of patient populations, assessing wheelchair fitting, utilizing assistive devices, developing edema management programs, assessing and applying compression wraps, and demonstrating a variety of taping procedures. Prerequisite: admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

### **PTAT 1660 Therapeutic Procedures II/Lab**

**3 credits**

Students examine the principles and practices of physical therapy including assessment and measurement of pain and inflammation as it relates to the use of modalities. The students also assess and apply a variety of modalities including: thermal agents, cryotherapy, ultrasound, infrared, electrical stimulation (TENS, FES, IFC, EMG, and Biofeedback), diathermy, mechanical traction, manual traction, iontophoresis, and phonophoresis. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 1720.

### **PTAT 1720 Therapeutic Exercise/Lab**

**4 credits**

Students explore the theory, principles, and implementation of therapeutic exercise programs for a variety of patient populations. In addition, they apply specific strategies for stretching (sustained hold, contract/relax, strain/counter strain), strengthening (isometrics, isotonic, open/closed chain, resistive exercises, weight training, aquatics), and balance and coordination activities. Students also examine theories of motor control and motor learning, and implement these theories into clinical practice. Lab activities will involve therapeutic exercise programs set up, joint mobilizations, and Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation (PNF) techniques and implementation in the clinical setting. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 2030.

### **PTAT 1740 Cardiac Rehabilitation/Lab**

**2 credits**

Students explore an in-depth description of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation and develop skill to read and assess basic EKGs (normal and pathological), identify cardiac protocols, assess and monitor common cardiopulmonary conditions, review cardiac and pulmonary circuitry, identify cardiac precautions for variety of patient populations, develop a comprehensive treatment program for patient with cardiopulmonary conditions, assess and perform postural drainage, and establish endurance and wellness programs for healthy and diseased individuals. Students explore an in-depth description of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation and develop skills to implement cardiac protocols, assess and monitor common cardiopulmonary conditions, identify cardiac precautions for a variety of patient populations,

and perform postural drainage techniques. Students will design fitness and wellness programs for healthy and diseased individuals. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 2030.

**PTAT 1800 Neurology/Lab**

**3 credits**

Students examine multiple pathologies of the nervous system including stroke, demyelinating diseases, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). In addition, students contrast normal structures and function of the nervous system, including motor control center of the brain and spinal tracts, to a nervous system with specific impairments. Students also develop skills to assess, treat, and manage the neurologically impaired patient based on clinical signs and symptoms of neurological disorders across the lifespan. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 2970.

**PTAT 1820 Orthopedics**

**4 credits**

Students identify and assess common orthopedic conditions and analyze findings to implement intervention strategies and develop comprehensive treatment plans under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. Students participate in case studies common to orthopedic conditions including amputations. Students learn to progress physical therapy plans of care for a variety of orthopedic and postsurgical conditions. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 1720.

**PTAT 1840 Specialty Rehabilitation/Lab**

**1 credit**

Students will explore an in-depth overview of specialty areas of physical therapy practice including burns, chronic pain, geriatrics, lymphedema, pediatrics, vestibular rehabilitation, women's health, and wound care. Students will utilize assessment tools specific to these areas of specialty to develop intervention strategies for improvements in function and to minimize disability. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 2970.

**PTAT 2030 Functional Kinesiology/Lab**

**4 credits**

Students explore the application of human anatomy to the study of human movement patterns. Students identify normal versus abnormal movement with the use of posture analysis, gait analysis, functional movement and sport activities. Students will apply information demonstrated for data collection including manual muscle testing, goniometry measurements, and palpation techniques to the application in the physical therapy field. Prerequisite: admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

**PTAT 2970 PTA Clinical Practicum I**

**7 credits**

This course provides the students with selected experiences to provide practical clinical experience under the direct supervision of a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant. The clinical experience gives students the opportunity to correlate didactic course work with clinical skills. Students are required to complete the 280-hour clinical at an affiliate site that provides physical therapy services. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 1720.

**PTAT 2971 PTA Clinical Practicum II**

**7 credits**

This course provides the students with selected experiences to provide practical clinical experience under the direct supervision of a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant to meet entry-level PTA requirements. The clinical experience gives students the opportunity to correlate didactic course work



with clinical skills. Students are required to complete the 280-hour clinical at an affiliate site that provides physical therapy services. Prerequisite: completion of PTAT 2970.

## **V. Additional Policies & Procedures**

### **A. Student Records & Exam Copies**

The PTA Program maintains files that include department/student forms, consent forms, waivers of liability, contracts or correspondence, and clinical education performance evaluations. These files are maintained for all students and are stored in a locked file cabinet in the ACCE's office for clinical education information and the PTA Program Director's office for all other information. Students may review the contents of their file during the ACCE or PTA Program Director's respective posted office hours or by appointment. Information will be maintained for one (1) year after graduation to assist faculty in providing employment references for students. Files of basic student information will be available up to 5 years.

Copies of completed midterm and final exams will be kept in locked file cabinets in faculty offices or through LCCC databases. Students will not be allowed to keep copies of completed midterm or final exams. Prior to final exams, faculty will schedule a review session for students during which student test files will be available for review. This review will be proctored by a faculty member and students will not be allowed to leave the room with their test file.

### **B. Disabilities/Accommodations**

Disability Support Services (DSS) plans for and provides services for students with disabilities. The DSS office is located in the Clay Pathfinder Building Room 207. They can be contacted via phone at 307.778.1359 (TTY: 307.778.1266) or email at [dss@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:dss@lccc.wy.edu).

Students with documented disabilities may request reasonable accommodation. The student must still be able to adequately meet all technical standards and critical elements of the PTA profession and this program. To receive accommodations, a student must:

1. Initiate a request for services through Disabilities Support Services (DSS) in person or online at <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/services/disability/index.aspx>.
2. Provide documentation verifying the disability.
3. Follow the plan as determined after consultation with the Disabilities Support Services coordinator.

Please refer to the LCCC Catalog for more information regarding services available for students with disabilities.

### **C. System for Student Success**

The LCCC Learning Commons promotes student learning through a comprehensive program of academic support services via the Student Success Center (SSC) and Writing & Communications Center (WCC). The Student Success Center (307.778.4315) is located in the Ludden Library and provides free tutoring and assistance with time management, study skills, and test taking strategies. The Writing & Communications Center (307.778.1311) is located in Ludden Library Room 430 and provides free

writing, reading, and public speaking/communication support. Students who feel they are having difficulty in any course should not hesitate to contact the SSC or WCC.

#### **D. Library**

The LCCC Ludden Library (307.778.1206) has a variety of holdings appropriate for the PTA Program. The library's online publication database located at <http://lccc.wy.edu/library> provides access to many physical therapy and other medical journals. The library also has subscriptions to the following physical therapy journals: *Physical Therapy*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of Orthopedic and Sports Physical Therapy*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehab*.

The library also has reserved holdings for the PTA Program. These include The Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Management of the lumbar, pelvis, and hip Regions, CD-ROMs, and VHI exercise cards.

#### **E. Computer Use**

Owning a laptop is not a requirement of the PTA Program. Computer access is available in the library and in other computer labs throughout campus. Wireless computer access is also available on campus. Please refer to the Student Policy Handbook/Planner for appropriate computer use guidelines.

#### **F. Resources**

The program has developed a file of articles on a variety of physical therapy topics that may be useful for students on some assignments. This file is located on reserve in the library; students should return the borrowed materials when finished with them.

Program faculty may allow students to borrow books and other materials from their personal libraries. Students should follow borrowing procedures set up by the individual faculty member and return the materials promptly.

The library is a quiet place for individual or group study. The PTA lab may be used for group study when classes are not being held with PTA faculty permission or during open lab time. There are also student study areas in the Health Sciences building and at various locations around campus.

LCCC lecture rooms will be assigned for PTA lecture coursework each semester. At times the PTA lab may also be used for lecture. When the lab is used for lecture, students are to remove the treatment table pads/linen and replace them after lecture is completed.

## **VI. Expectations**

### **A. Professional Behaviors**

Professional behavior by students is expected at all times. Students are expected to follow professional standards when in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings. Guidelines for these standards are as follows:

### ***The Generic Abilities (Appendix)***

Ten specific professional behaviors, called “Generic Abilities” are assessed throughout the PTA Program curriculum. PTA program faculty will assess the Generic Abilities once per semester with students performing a Generic Abilities self-assessment once per semester.

#### Expected Generic Abilities levels are:

- a. End of semester II: All Generic Abilities at least beginning level
- b. End of semester III: 50% of Generic Abilities at developing level or higher
- c. End of semester IV: all Generic Abilities at least developing level
- d. End of semester V: all Generic Abilities at entry level

The faculty will provide both oral and, if necessary, written feedback regarding professional behaviors each semester. Copies of written feedback will be placed in the student’s file. Students are expected to change unsatisfactory behaviors after receiving feedback from faculty. If a student is not demonstrating professional behaviors at an appropriate level, students (with faculty supervision) may develop a plan for improvement. Student services may also be involved. Significant deficits in professional behavior with no improvement may result in program academic probation or dismissal.

### ***American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant***

These standards will be followed throughout the LCCC PTA Program. They can be found online at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org).

In the interest of safety and professionalism, students are expected to follow the following professional appearance behaviors during lab, skill checks, practical exams, and field trips:

- a. No hats
- b. Trimmed, clean nails
- c. No excessive jewelry
- d. No excessive makeup
- e. No visible face or mouth jewelry/piercings other than small earrings located in ears
- f. No offensive body odor
- g. No offensive perfumes or aftershaves
- h. Neat, clean appropriate clothing
- i. Hair neatly groomed and out of face

Exceptions to the PTA dress code may be made for religious, cultural, or medical reasons.

## **B. Skills Checks**

A skill check is an assessment of a student’s ability to demonstrate competence in a PTA skill. Each student must pass the skills check prior to being able to attend the next clinical experience. Skill check assessments are done in the following manner:

1. Students will be given formative assessments throughout the labs. The assessment is a checklist that is given to the students, their peers, and the faculty. Assessments are discussed in each course with each group of students each semester. There are points attached to these ongoing assessments, but

it is used as feedback for all parties in relation to the skill/task/assignment that they are practicing in the labs throughout the semester.

2. All skills checks and practicals will be competency based and will require a passing grade for the execution of the components for each skill/treatment/procedure. Each skill check must be passed with a 75% or better (which is a passing "C"). All tasks are given appropriate point values. If the exam is not passed the first time, the student will have a chance x 2 following remediation.
3. The skills portions of the class for the students will be posted at the beginning of each semester. Students may access the skill check criteria and know what is expected during each semester's skill check(s).

### C. Insurance

It is advised that students carry their own health insurance during the program including all full-time clinical education experiences. Some clinical sites may require students to carry health insurance while performing a clinical experience at their facility. It is the students' responsibility to obtain the required insurance.

### D. Immunization, Background Checks, & Health Screening

Students enrolled in a Health Sciences & Wellness (HSW) Division Program at LCCC participate in clinical training as an essential element of their studies. To protect the health of students, patients, employees, and others, and to comply with standards established by the affiliated healthcare providers, the College requires all students enrolled to provide dates of current immunization against certain vaccine preventable diseases, and the date and results of current tuberculosis (TB) screening before the student is eligible to participate in clinical training, unless an exception applies.

All Wyoming Hospitals with whom LCCC has Educational Affiliation contracts require drug screens and background checks for all persons who provide services that involve direct contact with patients and residents. LCCC has assumed responsibility to perform these screens with a contracted partner. This information was sent to each student via mail/e-mail prior to the beginning of the first semester. It is the students' responsibility to comply with the screening process prior to entering the program. Failure to comply may result in voiding acceptance into the program. All fees related to background checks and drug screens are the responsibility of the student.

**LCCC has partnered with CastleBranch to complete the background checks and coordinate the drug screenings through SAMHSA certified laboratories. Our website ([www.lccc.compliance.com](http://www.lccc.compliance.com)) will be open to submissions in the fall of each year. You will need to enter the system, complete the data entry process, and pay your bill no later than **December 3** (date subject to change). Upon receipt of your Chain of Custody form, you must submit your urine sample no later than **January 7** (date subject to change). The system accepts credit cards and money orders, and the cost is \$217 (subject to change). The cost includes your background check, initial drug screen, and your participation in our random drug screening program.**

The following searches are required for students beginning clinical experience programs through Laramie County Community College, based on your residential history and all names used for the last seven years:

1. County Criminal History Record Check
2. Social Security Number Trace
3. Nationwide Criminal Search
4. Nationwide Sex Offender Registry Search
5. Office of Inspector General
6. Excluded Parties Listing System
7. 10 Panel Drug Screen

The following disqualifying offenses will prevent admission:

- A conviction for any felony involving violence, sexual offenses, child abuse, or elder abuse (no time limit)
- Any felony conviction in the last seven years
- Any misdemeanor in the last seven years involving violence, sexual offenses, child abuse, or elder abuse
- Registered sex offenders (no time limit)
- OIG/GSA and Medicaid Sanctions (no time limit)
- Any student who is currently on probation, parole, or under any type of deferred sentencing guidelines. Students who have successfully completed the terms of a deferred adjudication agreement will not be disqualified.
- Positive drug test

The following potentially disqualifying event may prevent admission:

- Except as applies above, any misdemeanor in the last seven years will be evaluated based on the nature of the offense, length of time since the offense occurred, etc. The student may be asked to provide more information which will be evaluated by the Dean on a case by case basis and may still prevent admission. The decision of the Dean is final.

If any applicant feels the criminal background check or drug screen is inaccurate, they may appeal the decision to the Dean of the Health Sciences and Wellness School and request a review of the report and/or decision.

#### **E. Personal Property & Valuables**

Laramie County Community College (LCCC) and the PTA Program do not accept responsibility for loss of personal items. Theft does occur on campus, and students should secure their valuables accordingly. All lost items should be reported to the PD and campus safety.

#### **F. Medical Emergency in the Classroom**

Students are expected to respond quickly to an emergency. Universal methods of treatment common to most emergencies are listed:

1. If someone else is in the room, ask him/her to report the emergency to a faculty member or college staff. If appropriate, call for medical assistance (dial 9-911 on campus phones) or have someone else call.
2. Assess vital signs and begin CPR, if appropriate.

3. A first aid kit is located in the PTA Program Laboratory, Room HS 302.
4. An automated external defibrillator (AED) is located in the HSW building on the first floor next to the restrooms.
5. Security can be reached 24/7 at 307.630.0645 or 307.630.0866.

## **G. Confidentiality/Data Privacy**

In keeping with LCCC's FERPA Policy, the PTA Program will maintain privacy/confidentiality in the following manner:

1. Grades will be posted using the online learning management system (LMS), which requires students to sign in using an individual password.
2. All exams, quizzes, and assignments will be returned in a manner that does not expose the grade to the public and is accessed online.
3. Feedback is provided after skill checks and practical exams with only the student and instructor(s) present. When necessary or helpful, instructors will obtain permission if they would like to provide feedback in front of other students.
4. Clinical faculty must follow the data privacy policies of LCCC and the PTA Program.
5. Requests for student information from any government agency will be referred to the Registrar's Office.
6. Students will sign a confidentiality agreement which applies to maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of patients during all clinical experiences.
7. During the first semester of the PTA program, students are instructed in basic HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) policies and procedures for proper use and handling of confidential patient/client information. Additional information on HIPAA may be accessed at the US Department of Health & Human Services' website <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/>.

## **H. Standard Precautions**

Information on "Standard Precautions" will be provided in the 1st semester of the program in PTAT 1600 Introduction to Physical Therapy and during PTAT 1650 Therapeutic Procedures I. Content includes but is not limited to:

- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Universal Precautions/Infection Control
- Chain of Infection
- Proper Hand Washing Technique

All students must demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of this information by passing a test and a skill check on standard precautions during PTAT 1600 and PTAT 1650.

Additional requirements regarding COVID-19 are updated through the HSW policies.

## I. OSHA Regulations

A listing of all hazardous substances found at LCCC can be found in the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) Manual located through myLCCC account. MSDS for all hazardous substances used in the PTA lab are kept in there as well.

## J. Informed Consent

Students within the PTA program are expected to perform a variety of physical therapy procedures on each other in the classroom and laboratory for educational purposes. This participation is very important to the learning process. Students must sign the **Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement – On/Off Campus Activities** forms prior to practicing laboratory skills (see appendix). Students will sign a consent form at the start of the program that will remain in effect during the student's tenure in the PTA Program. Consent forms will be kept in the student file in the PTA Program Director's office. See appendix for a sample form. This form is also used by a "patient" that may visit the PTA lab and participate in hands on demonstrations for student learning.

## K. Photography/Video Recording

PTA students, on occasion in classroom and laboratory settings, will be simulating a work environment and will practice on one another. During this time, students may be video recorded or have digital pictures taken of them, both of which will be used only for educational purposes. Students will be asked to sign a permission form to allow video recording and digital photography at the start of the first semester of the PTA Program (see appendix). This form will remain in effect for the duration of the students' tenure in the PTA Program. If a student wishes to photograph or videotape a patient for educational purposes, they must follow the policies and procedures of the clinical education site for confidentiality and for obtaining consent.

## L. Lab & Lab Protocol

Room HS 302 will be utilized for lab work. There will be open lab times scheduled when faculty are available upon request. Open labs can be used for practicing PTA skills, for peer skills checks, and for skills checks with faculty. Open lab times will have a student and/or faculty member assigned to provide supervision to the lab.

It is the PTA Program's expectation that the lab will be maintained in a safe and orderly fashion. Out of respect and as a professional responsibility to faculty and students who use the lab, everyone must:

1. Replace equipment in its proper location.
2. Clean, dry, fold and put away linens and pillows in the appropriate cabinet.
3. Put refuse in available receptacles.

To ensure a clean laboratory environment and to facilitate infection control, the following policies will be in effect:

1. Plinths, mats, and other treatment surfaces will be cleaned using a bactericidal agent after each use (anti-bacterial wipes are supplied).
2. Soiled linen will be placed in the linen hamper located in the lab. If a bag is full, place a new bag in the hamper and take soiled linen to the laundry facility.

3. The hydrocollator will be cleaned a minimum of every six months, per the hydrocollator cleaning procedure suggested by the manufacturer.
4. PTA faculty members are responsible for assuring the infection control policies are enforced in their labs.

Lab Protocols are to be followed by all students; they include:

1. All lab sessions will begin promptly at the scheduled start time. Students should be changed into lab attire before class starts. Students will be given time at the end of class to dress.
2. Changing areas are the respective Men's/Women's restrooms located near the PTA Program Lab.
3. Lab attire must be worn for lab classes. If lab attire does not need to be worn on a specific day, PTA faculty will let students know in advance. Appropriate lab attire consists of loose-fitting shorts and shirts for men; loose-fitting shorts and swimsuits (open back), sports bras, or open back halter top under shirts for women. Warmer clothes (sweat suits to wear over lab clothes) are also appropriate. Patient gowns will be available to students if they forget their lab clothes.
4. During lab sessions, students will role play either patients or PTA's during practice sessions. **Students should be prepared to allow access to the entire treatment area or body region when needed.** Privacy will be respected, and modesty will be retained as appropriate using draping methods.
5. Students should be prepared for lab class by bringing appropriate texts, equipment, and course notes.
6. The lab should be kept clean at all times. Dirty linens and equipment used should be properly cleaned and stored before leaving. Treatment tables and chairs should be returned to their proper places.
7. Students who know that they will miss a lab section must contact the course instructor in advance. The student should also make arrangements to make up work with a lab partner.

#### **RULES OF CONDUCT IN THE PTA LABORATORY**

1. Demonstrate acceptable professional behaviors in the lab at all times. NO horseplay.
2. Stay focused on assigned tasks to maximize the learning opportunities available in the lab course.
3. The use of program electrical equipment or the practice of skills involving electrical equipment can only be performed with direct faculty supervision.
4. All lab equipment and supplies must be returned to their proper place of storage after use.
5. If problems arise during the use of equipment, the program faculty must be contacted immediately!
6. If students are acting in the role of a patient-simulator, you are responsible for communicating to the student clinician any relevant information to improve the safety of you and the skill of the student clinician.
7. For infection control purposes, please sanitize/clean all equipment utilized.
8. Electronic transmission of photographs or videotapes of any person without permission is strictly prohibited.
9. Open lab times will be under the supervision of a faculty member and/or an assigned student.

#### **M. Laundry Usage**

To keep laundry costs at a minimum, students should conserve laundry by doing the following in lab courses:



1. Place towels, pillowcases, and sheets that have made contact with hair and skin in the dirty laundry bin.
2. Towels, pillowcases, and sheets that were used for positioning may be folded and returned to the laundry cart to be used again
3. Place any towels, pillowcases, or sheets that are soiled with dirt, sweat, or other body fluids, mineral oil, alcohol, ultrasound gel, or e-stim gel in the dirty laundry bin.
4. Towels used to wrap a paraffin hand which is enclosed in plastic wrap may be used again, if clean.

## N. Electronic Devices

All pagers, cell phones and other electronic devices that may disrupt the classroom must be turned off (or silenced if you need one on due to childcare, etc.) during lecture and lab periods. It is preferred that all cell phones and other electronic devices are turned off during off-campus labs and during field trips to respect the guest lecturer. You will have opportunities to check your phone for messages during scheduled breaks and/or between classes. If you have an emergency situation where you are waiting for a call, let the instructor know before class. Calculators may be allowed for specific quizzes/tests/exams. Electronic devices and/or equipment with internet access are not allowed during testing. Audio or video recording of lectures, laboratory sessions, etc. may only be performed with the expressed written permission of the instructor or if instructed by the instructor. The use of artificial intelligence in supplementing or replacing the clinical decision-making of a student is not permitted without permission from the course instructor.

## VII. Clinical Education

**Welcome to clinical education!** We hope the contents of this section will assist you in providing a high quality clinical education experience for the clinical instructor and the student. Clinical education is a vital portion of the physical therapist assistant (PTA) curriculum. It allows an opportunity for the student to fully integrate and implement the didactic knowledge and skills learned in the program coursework into the clinical environment.

The purpose of this section of the handbook is to provide guidelines and information for all who are involved in the clinical education experience including the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education/Directors of Clinical Education (ACCE/DCE), Clinical Instructor (CI), Center Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCCE), Faculty, Program Director, Dean of Health Science and Wellness School, and Students.

### A. Critical Resources for Clinical Education and the Practice of Physical Therapy

1. The Practice Act for the State of Wyoming may be found at <https://physicaltherapy.wyo.gov/rules> or at the PTA Program homepage
2. To access the Rules and Regulations for the State of Wyoming, Board of Physical Therapy, visit <https://rules.wyo.gov/Search.aspx?Agency=062>, check the "Current Rules" box, and choose the following:
  - Agency: Physical Therapy, Board of (062)
  - Program: Physical Therapy, Board of (001)
3. Supervision Regulations
  - See *APTA Guidelines for Supervision of the Student PTA* in Appendix B of the student handbook

4. Clinical Performance Instrument  
You may access the CPI at <https://cpi2.amsapps.com/> using your log in identification and password.
5. Confidentiality  
See HIPPA guidelines at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/>

## **B. Clinical Education Competencies**

1. PTAT 2970 PTA Clinical Practicum I Course Competencies
  - a. Demonstrate competence in the expected performance criteria of the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI).
  - b. Demonstrate the ability to apply learned skills to provide safe and effective interventions based on the physical therapists' examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of care with direct personal supervision less than 50% of the time working with patients with simple conditions and less than 75% of the time working with patients with complex conditions while maintaining a minimum of 50% of a full-time PTA's patient care workload.
  - c. Demonstrate involvement in interprofessional practice through observation of a service or treatment outside of physical therapy if available.
  - d. Demonstrate the ability to educate other individuals on the practice of physical therapy if available.
2. PTAT 2971 PTA Clinical Practicum II Course Competencies
  - a. Demonstrate competence in the expected performance of the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI).
  - b. Demonstrate the ability to apply learned skills to provide safe and effective interventions based on the physical therapists' examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and plan of care with general supervision by physical therapist for simple and complex conditions while maintaining 100% of a full-time entry-level physical therapist assistant's patient care workload in a cost-effective manner with direction and supervision from the physical therapist.
  - c. Demonstrate involvement in interprofessional practice through observation of a service or treatment outside of physical therapy.
  - d. Demonstrate the ability to educate other individuals on the practice of physical therapy.
  - e. Successfully pass capstone exam requirements.

## **C. Guidelines and Responsibilities of Clinical Education Sites, Clinical Coordinators, and Clinical Instructors**

APTA's Guidelines to Promote Excellence in Clinical Education Partnerships are endorsed by the American Physical Therapy Association's House of Delegates as a resource to highlight the following criteria for selection of clinical education and clinical instructors. The program recognizes the full document in its entirety and should be understood by all parties involved in clinical education including the Program Director, Director of Clinical Education (DCE)/Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE), Center Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCCE), Clinical Instructor, and student. This document, and other resources, can be found in Appendix C of the student handbook.

### Clinical Education Sites

1. The philosophies of the clinical education site and provider of physical therapy for patient/client care and clinical education is compatible with that of the academic program.

2. Clinical education experiences for students are planned to meet specific objectives of the academic program, the provider of physical therapy, and the individual student.
  - a. Planning for students should take place through communication among the CCCE, CI, and ACCE/DCE.
  - b. A thorough orientation to the clinical education program and the personnel of the clinical education site should be planned for students.
  - c. Opportunities for discussion of strengths and weaknesses should be scheduled on a continual basis.
3. Physical therapy personnel provide services in an ethical and legal manner.
  - a. All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants provide services in an ethical and legal manner as outlined by the standards of practice, the state/jurisdictional practice act, clinical education site policy, and APTA positions, policies, standards, codes, and guidelines.
  - b. The clinical education site policies are available to the personnel and students.
4. The clinical education site is committed to the principle of equal opportunity and affirmative action as required by federal legislation.
5. The clinical education site demonstrates administrative support of physical therapy clinical education.
  - a. A written clinical education agreement, in a format acceptable to both parties, exists between each academic program and each clinical education site.
  - b. The clinical education site demonstrates support of the participation of its personnel in clinical education activities.
  - c. A clinical education program manual exists, which might include, but should not be limited to, structure of the program, roles and responsibilities of personnel, quality improvement mechanisms, policies and procedures, sample forms, and a listing of current academic program relationship.
6. The clinical site has a variety of learning experiences available to students.
  - a. Students in clinical education are primarily concerned with delivery of services to patients/clients; therefore, the provider of physical therapy must have an adequate number and variety of patients/clients.
  - b. The clinical education site will provide, if available and appropriate, opportunities for students to participate in other patient/client-related experiences, including but not limited to attendance on rounds, planning conferences, observation of other health professionals, and medical procedures, and health promotion, prevention, and wellness programs.
  - c. Other learning experiences should include opportunities in practice management (e.g., indirect patient/client care). For physical therapist assistant students, these opportunities may include education, administration, and social responsibility and advocacy.
7. The clinical site provides an active, stimulating environment appropriate to the learning needs of the student.
8. Selected support services are available to students.
9. The physical therapy personnel are adequate in number to provide an educational program for students.
  - a. Direct clinical supervision of a physical therapist assistant student is delegated to a physical therapist or a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant team.

- b. Physical therapist responsibilities for patient/client care, teaching, critical inquiry, and community service permit adequate time for supervision of physical therapy students.
- 10. A Center Coordinator of Clinical Education is selected based on specific criteria.
- 11. Physical therapy clinical instructors are selected based on specific criteria.
- 12. Special expertise of the clinical education site personnel is available to students.
- 13. The clinical education site encourages clinical educator (CI and CCCE) training and development.
- 14. The clinical education site supports active career development for personnel.
- 15. Physical therapy personnel are active in professional activities.
- 16. The provider of physical therapy has an active and viable process of internal evaluation of its affairs and is receptive to procedures of review and audit approved by appropriate external agencies and consumers.

### Clinical Instructors

Clinical Instructors (CIs) are individuals who provide clinical instruction and supervision when students are engaged in the clinical education portion of the curriculum. CIs are considered PTA Program clinical faculty members but are not employed by LCCC. The CI demonstrates clinical competence and a willingness to share his/her insights and rationales related to patient care. Clinical Instructors are responsible for understanding the information contained within the LCCC PTA Handbook and the Guidelines for Clinical Education endorsed by the APTA. The responsibilities of the CI are as follows:

1. The clinical instructor (CI) demonstrates clinical competence, and legal and ethical behavior that meets or exceeds the expectations of members of the profession of physical therapy.
  - a. The CI is a PT or PTA.
  - b. The CI has at least one year of clinical experience.
  - c. The CI graduated from an accredited program.
  - d. The CI is licensed, registered, or certified in those states where applicable.
  - e. The CI demonstrates clinical competence, professional skills, and ethical behavior.
2. The CI demonstrates effective communication skills.
  - a. The CI defines performance expectations for students.
  - b. The CI and student collaborate to develop mutually agreed-on goals and objectives for the clinical education experience.
  - c. The CI provides feedback for students.
  - d. The CI confers and consults with the ACCE/DCE regarding student learning needs and progress towards meeting objectives.
  - e. The CI consults with the ACCE regarding unsatisfactory progress of the student immediately upon observation of behavior.
  - f. The CI may contact the Dean of the Health Sciences & Wellness Division with any complaints regarding the ACCE or PTA Program Director. The CI should contact the PTA Program Director with any complaints involving the LCCC PTA Program or ACCE.
  - g. When a patient or member of the public has a complaint or concern regarding a PTA student or the LCCC PTA Program, the CI is responsible to give the individual the name, title, and phone number of the LCCC Dean of Health Sciences & Wellness School.
3. The CI demonstrates effective behavior, conduct, and skill in interpersonal relationships.
4. The CI demonstrates effective instructional skills.
  - a. Demonstrate an interest in teaching and in continuing education.

- b. Orientate the student to the facility and to all safety parameters for the clinical site.
  - c. The CI collaborates with student to plan learning experiences.
  - d. The CI demonstrates knowledge of the students' academic curriculum, level of didactic preparation, current level of performance, and the goals of the clinical education experience.
5. The CI demonstrates effective supervisory skills.
- a. CI provides direct clinical supervision of a physical therapist assistant student.
  - b. The CI and students both participate in ongoing formative evaluation.
  - c. Cumulative evaluations are provided at least at midterm and at the completion of the clinical education experience and include student self-assessments.
6. The CI demonstrates effective assessment and evaluation skills.
- a. The CI familiarizes herself or himself with the student's evaluation instrument prior to the clinical education experience.
  - b. The CI recognizes and documents students' progress, identifies areas of entry-level competence, areas of distinction, and specific areas of performance that are unsafe, ineffective or deficient in quality.
  - c. The CI completes requested assessments which may include assessment of ACCE, self, and student.

#### Clinical Coordinators of Clinical Education (CCCE)

Each clinical site with three or more PTs and PTAs should have a designated CCCE who is responsible for coordinating the assignments and student activities. CCCEs are responsible for understanding the information contained within the LCCC PTA Handbook and the Guidelines for Clinical Education endorsed by the APTA. The responsibilities of the CCCE are as follows:

1. The Center Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCCE) has specific qualifications and is responsible for coordinating the assignments and activities of students at the clinical education site.
  - a. The CCCE delegates clinical supervision of students to staff PTs or PTAs.
2. The CCCE demonstrates effective communication and interpersonal skills.
  - a. The CCCE interacts effectively and fosters collegial relationships with personnel internal and external to the clinical education sites, including students, clinical education site personnel, and representatives of the academic program.
  - b. The CCCE performs administrative functions between the academic program and clinical education site, including but not limited to, completion of the clinical center information forms (CCIF), clinical education agreements, student placement forms, and policy and procedures manual.
  - c. The CCCE is knowledgeable about the affiliated academic programs and their respective curricula and disseminates the information to the clinical education site personnel.
  - d. The CCCE should contact the PTA Program Director with any complaints involving the PTA Program. The CCCE should contact the Dean of the Health Science & Wellness School with any complaints regarding the ACCE or Program Director.
3. The CCCE demonstrates effective instructional skills.
  - a. The CCCE serves as a resource for the CI for establishing goals and objectives, setting up learning experiences and evaluating student performance.
  - b. The CCCE plans and implements activities that contribute to the professional development of the CIs.

- c. The CCCE, in conjunction with CIs, plans and implements alternative or remedial learning experiences for students experiencing difficulty.
- d. The CCCE, in conjunction with the CIs, plans and implements challenging clinical learning experiences for students demonstrating distinctive performance.
- e. The CCCE, in conjunction with CIs plans and implements learning experiences to accommodate students with special needs.
- f. The CCCE informs the CI of all pertinent information from the affiliated schools.
- 4. The CCCE demonstrates effective supervisory skills.
  - a. The CCCE supervises the educational planning, clinical experiences, and performance evaluation of the CI(s)/student(s) team.
- 5. The CCCE demonstrates effective performance evaluation skills.
  - b. The CCCE completes the requested assessment which may include assessment of ACCE, self, and clinical site.
- 6. The CCCE demonstrates effective administrative and managerial skills.
  - a. The CCCE is responsible for the management of a comprehensive clinical education program.
    - 1. The clinical education program includes, but is not limited to, the program's goals and objectives, the learning experiences available and the logistical details for student placements, and a plan for CI training, evaluation, and development.
    - 2. The CCCE implements a plan for program review and revision that reflects the changing health care environment.
  - b. The CCCE advocates for clinical education with the clinical education site's administration and the physical therapy providers.
  - c. The CCCE serves as the clinical education site's formal representative and liaison with academic programs.
    - 1. Activities include scheduling; providing information, documentation, and orientation to incoming students; and maintaining records of student performance, CI qualifications, and clinical education site resources.
  - d. The CCCE facilitates and maintains the necessary documentation to affiliate with academic programs.
    - 1. The CCCE maintains current information, including clinical site information forms (CSIF), clinical education agreements, and policy and procedure manuals.

Academic Coordinator for Clinical Education (ACCE)/Director of Clinical Education (DCE)

One member of the PTA program faculty is responsible for coordinating the clinical education portion of the program curriculum. The ACCE/DCE works directly with the other program faculty, clinical faculty, and students to provide learning experiences which will help the students develop clinical competence.

The ACCE/DCE is responsible for the following:

1. Development of clinical education sites.
2. Coordinate and provide clinical instructor development activities.
3. Assessment and determination of student readiness for clinical experience in collaboration with program faculty.
4. Meet with students to discuss clinical site selection.
5. Set up and schedule clinical assignments for students.
6. Ensure that students get a variety of clinical experiences.

7. Meet with students to discuss goals related to clinical education.
8. Coordination of all clinical education experiences.
9. Maintain and update clinical site contracts and database.
10. Maintain and update a Clinical Affiliation Agreements database in collaboration with the contracts department on an annual basis.
11. Update the Clinical Education Handbook.
12. Provide updated Clinical Education Handbook to all clinical sites and students.
13. Provide all forms and information to clinical sites and clinical instructors.
14. Contact clinical site by phone mid-way through clinical experiences.
15. Schedule site visits.
16. Serve as a resource to the student and the clinical instructor.
17. Confer with student and clinical instructor regarding student learning needs and progress towards meeting objectives.
18. Keep students and clinical instructors informed on APTA and state specific regulations and rules that guide clinical practice.
19. Facilitate conflict resolution and problem-solving strategies.
20. Assess student overall clinical education performance based on methods of evaluation.
21. Contact and secure new clinical sites and complete all appropriate paperwork.
22. Ensure that a Clinical Affiliation Agreement between LCCC and the clinical site is reviewed and renewed biannually/annually, as set forth in the respective agreement, by academic and clinical faculty, in collaboration with LCCC's contracts department.
23. Ensure that clinical education sites receive a copy of LCCC's liability insurance on an annual basis if required in the specific clinical contractual agreement(s).
24. Ensure that clinical instructors meet selection criteria.
25. Complete self-assessment and solicit feedback from faculty using designated assessment tools.

#### **D. Education Affiliation Agreements**

An Educational Affiliation Agreement must be signed by both the clinical site and LCCC prior to a student being assigned to the facility. This agreement includes a statement regarding general and professional liability and insurance. This agreement automatically rolls over from year to year within the agreement's timeline. Either LCCC or clinical sites can terminate this agreement with written notice. All Educational Affiliation Agreements originate in the office of the Contracting and Procurement Director at LCCC:

Abbie Connally

Phone: 307.778.1280

Fax: 307.778.4300

[aconnally@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:aconnally@lccc.wy.edu)

#### **E. Arrangement of Clinical Experiences**

Requests for Clinical Practicum I and II placements are sent to the Clinical Coordinators of Clinical Education (CCCE) by June 1st of each year for placements in the Fall Semester and the following Spring Semester. The clinical sites that are available to accept students are compiled into a list made available for students to view. The ACCE is responsible to assign students to clinical sites. The CCCE is responsible for pairing students and clinical instructors.

## F. Placement of Students at Clinical Sites

The PTA Program's Academic Clinical Coordinator of Education (ACCE) makes all clinical assignments in consultation with the Program Director (PD). Clinical placements are designed to expose the student to different physical therapy settings. The goal is for the students to attain the skills needed for entry level practice as a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA).

All students must complete two (2), seven (7) week, full-time clinical practicums in the second year of the program. The first practicum occurs during the last fall semester of the program. The second practicum occurs during the last spring semester of the program.

Students are offered a variety of clinical experiences between inpatient and outpatient settings. Each student must have a minimum of 25% inpatient experience during at least one of the clinical education experiences. Students are given an opportunity to state their preferences (top 3 choices) for placement before assignments for the clinical experiences are finalized. The students' professional interests and experience are also given consideration. Special consideration/accommodation may be given if the student submits their request in writing with at least ninety (90) days advanced notice prior to the clinical experience and if contractual arrangements can be made within the appropriate time frames. Students may also request a clinical site outside of the region. Requests outside of the region will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to previous clinical experiences and relevance to potential employment upon graduation. No clinical experiences are guaranteed and are at the discretion of the PD and ACCE.

Clinical schedules are determined by the academic faculty in close collaboration with the clinical faculty. Students may not rearrange clinical assignments. Special situations should be discussed with the ACCE and the Program Director. Students should not contact the clinical facilities to obtain a clinical assignment. If a student contacts a clinical site directly to arrange a clinical placement, please contact the PTA Program ACCE. Students are only placed at facilities in which there is a current, unexpired, written educational affiliation agreement in place.

Students are expected to complete at least one of the clinical education experiences outside the Cheyenne area. For clinical education placements, all expenses incurred (transportation, meals, housing, etc.) are the student's responsibility unless they are provided for (all or in part) by the clinical facility.

Students will not be placed at any clinical site or company where they have been employed in the past unless it is determined that the site would be particularly advantageous to the students' learning.

## G. Student Readiness for Clinical Experiences

The ACCE, in consultation with other PTA program faculty, assesses each student's readiness prior to clinical experiences in PTAT 2970 and PTAT 2971. This assessment will determine student readiness and includes:

1. Skill competency demonstrated on practical exams and skills checks
2. Ability to perform adequately in all didactic work
3. Status of the student's Generic Abilities
4. Academic status including prior or current academic probations



5. Clinical evaluations and performance from previously completed clinical experiences
6. Ability to perform physical therapy treatments in a safe/effective manner

Safety in regard to patient care is a priority of this program. In order to ensure that the student is able to perform in a safe manner that minimizes risk to patients, self, and others, the PTA faculty considers all of the areas listed above. In addition, all practical exams are monitored in regards to safety criteria, including retakes. The students are notified, in writing, if they are placed on program probation or if they are denied a clinical placement.

## H. Clinical Grading

Clinical Education courses are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory system and use of the Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI). The CPI is a clinical assessment tool used by the program through online format. The final decision as to whether the student passes the clinical experience is made by the ACCE in consultation with the CCCE, CI, and PD. Any question about student performance will follow the Academic Progress, Integrity, and Grievance policy outlined in *Section II: J. Student Conferences/Advising and Progressive Discipline* of this handbook. If the ACCE has concerns regarding a student's performance, the ACCE addressed the issue first through the informal resolution policy and then through the formal process for consideration. The following explains how the satisfactory progress of clinical experience is determined:

1. The evaluation by the Clinical Instructor, including their written comments and whether any "Significant Concerns" boxes are checked on the final CPI form (online form).
2. Checking the "Significant Concerns" box indicates that the student's performance on this criterion is unacceptable for this clinical experience.
3. When the Significant Concerns Box is checked, written comments to substantiate the concern, additional documentation such as a critical incident form and learning contract are required with a phone call placed to the ACCE/DCE.
4. The significant concerns box provides an early warning system to identify student performance problems thereby enabling the CI, student, and ACCE/DCE to determine a mechanism for remediation, if appropriate.
5. The CI should not wait until the mid-experience or final evaluation to contact the ACCE/DCE regarding student performance if a problem arises.
6. Problems or concerns raised by the student and/or clinical faculty during the clinical experience and whether these were effectively resolved.
7. How the problems in #1 affected patient care and safety as well as the student's chances of performing at entry-level by graduation.
8. Whether the problems in #1 fit a pattern of problems that were evident during the student's academic coursework.
9. ACCE in consultation with the student, CI, CCE, and PTA Program Director.
10. The uniqueness or complexity of the clinical education site.
11. Whether or not all outcomes on the course syllabus have been met.
12. The Physical Therapist Assistant Clinical Performance Instrument for Students (CPI) will be employed to assess achievement of clinical competence.
13. Determination of the student's final grade (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) on the CPI will be expressed as indicated below:

The CPI rating scale was designed to reflect a continuum of performance ranging from “Beginning Performance” to “Entry-Level Performance”. Student performance should be described in relation to one or more of the five anchors. The rating scale is NOT a visual analog scale. The vertical mark indicates that the student has exceeded the anchor definition of on or to the left of the vertical mark. In order to place the rating on an anchor, all of the conditions of that level of the rating must be satisfied as provided in the description for each of the 5 anchors. Students and CIs use the PTA CPI to rate the student on fourteen (14) performance criteria.

### **Determining a Grade**

#### *Credit of satisfactory grade for the clinical experience*

The guide below is provided to assist the program in identifying what is expected for the student’s performance depending upon their level of education and clinical education experience within the program.

1. *Clinical Practicum I (initial clinical experience)*: Final ratings of student performance on the CPI are expected to progress along the continuum ranging from a minimum of intermediate clinical performance clinical performance. Students must complete these ratings in 11 out of the 14 criteria to pass the first clinical experience. Students must score within the above range on Red Flag Items (numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7).
2. *Clinical Practicum II (final clinical experience)*: Students are expected to achieve ratings of entry-level for all 14 performance criteria on the CPI (if applicable to that site and upon review by the PD and ACCE). Students must successfully pass the capstone exam.

Satisfactory completion of the clinical education courses also includes completion of all required assignments and achievement of course competencies.

#### *No credit/unsatisfactory grade for the clinical experience*

1. Failure to meet expectations for red flag items on the CPI
2. Failure to meet 11 out of the 14 performance criteria on the CPI for the initial clinical experience and 14 out of the 14 criteria for the final clinical experience.

When unsatisfactory grades are received, the ACCE meets with the student and CI to discuss the reason for the grade. Recommendations are made for remediation of the problem(s). The student is reminded of LCCC’s policies regarding the student’s right of appeal. A Plan of Action is developed through collaborative efforts by the ACCE, student, CCCE, CI, and PD. The student is placed on PTA Program probation.

### **I. School Holidays and Inclement Weather**

Not all clinical education sites recognize the same holidays as LCCC. Sites may remain open for regular business although LCCC may be closed. Students must follow the clinical education site schedule for holidays/closures. If the site remains open for regularly scheduled business during a holiday, the student is to perform their clinical education duties during those days. If the clinical education site is closed during a holiday, the student will also have that day off.

Inclement weather is a way of life in this part of the country, especially during the winter months. If a clinical education facility closes for regular business due to inclement weather, the student is to call or email the ACCE as per the absenteeism policy. It will not be considered an absence if the clinical education site is closed due to inclement weather and the ACCE is notified; however the day/time must be made up.

If the student is unable to get to the site because of poor weather conditions, closed roads, or other unforeseen circumstances, both the CI and the ACCE must be notified as soon as safely possible.

## **J. Student Policies**

In accordance with Wyoming state law governing the practice of physical therapy, the following activities may not be delegated to a Student Physical Therapist Assistant (SPTA): *patient/client initial examination, intervention planning, initial intervention, and initial or final documentation*. Any documentation written by the student must be signed with the student's full name followed by the title Student Physical Therapist Assistant (SPTA). All documentation must be read and co-signed by a licensed physical therapist and/or certified physical therapist assistant. PTA students are expected to be asked to perform only those duties that are routinely delegated to PTAs and are within their scope of practice. For more information regarding student supervision, see Appendix B: Resources for CCCEs and CIs.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Each student has two clinical experiences throughout the two years of the PTA Program. The students are involved in clinical site selection by being able to express their top three choices for placement. The students are guaranteed a clinical placement. However, the students must realize there are no guarantees for clinical placements because of the number of other classmates involved, other disciplines/schools needing clinical sites, the clinical sites scheduling, and the need for a well-rounded clinical experience by each student. The student's responsibilities are as follows:

1. Once the site has been assigned for a particular student, the student may contact the clinical site to obtain information related to housing, parking, and departmental policies and procedures prior to the start of the clinical experience.
2. Transportation and lodging arrangements and costs.
3. Wear professional attire, including a lab coat if required by that clinical site.
4. Adhere to all policies and procedures of the assigned clinical site.
5. Act in an ethical and legal manner at all times.
6. Identify and actively seek needed learning experiences to meet goals and objectives.
7. Confer and consult with the CI, CCCE, and ACCE regarding learning needs, progress, and/or concerns.
8. Display professionalism and responsibility.
9. Complete ACCE Performance Assessment, Evaluation of Clinical Experience and Instruction, and the Clinical Performance Instrument at midterm and final for self-assessment.

### **Attendance and Absenteeism**

Attendance is required for the entire clinical experience. All absences must be made up apart from the official closing of the clinical education site's physical therapy department. All effort should be made to avoid missing any clinical time. If clinical time is missed, every effort to make up for that time should be

made and arranged with the CI. All make-up time must be made during the clinical rotation for time that was missed, if possible. If it is not possible to make up for the missed time, the student, ACCE, and CI/clinical site will attempt arrangements based on the circumstances. All make-up time must be documented on the student's time record as time made up for a specific date. Each clinical rotation week is defined as 40 hours. ACCCE and CI approval are required for any week where a student plans to complete fewer than the required 40 hours.

*Absences and tardiness:* will be monitored through communication between the ACCE, CI, and student. Timecards should accurately reflect all absences and hours spent in clinical time.

1. The student must report any absences to the **CI and ACCE** 30 minutes prior to the time the student is due to arrive at the clinical site. The student must call the CI. The student can contact the ACCE by e-mail or phone.
2. If a student fails to notify the CI of an absence or tardiness, the CI should notify the ACCE and make note of it on the student's time record. If the CI has any concerns regarding the professional behavior of the student (excessive absences or tardiness), the ACCE should be contacted as soon as possible. The PTA faculty will contact the student to discuss the absenteeism/tardiness problems and possible remedies. If needed, independent study assignments or other ways to "make-up" missed time may be arranged.

*Breaks:* Students are required to take a 30-minute break during the day. The 30-minute break may not count toward clinical hours. Timecards should reflect the actual amount of time spent in clinical experience, excluding time spent on break(s).

*Required Clinic Hours:*

Clinical Practicum I	280 hours
Clinical Practicum II	280 hours

*Timecards:* Timecards are available to students at the beginning of each clinical experience. Each timecard is to be labeled with the student's name and the dates for which the card is used. Each student is to write down the total hours spent at the facility on appropriate clinical education tasks each day. These timecards are to be signed by the CI and the student must turn them in to the ACCE with the other required clinical paperwork at the end of the internship.

**Professional Behavior**

Professional behavior by students is always expected. Students are expected to follow professional standards when in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings. Guidelines for these standards are as follows:

1. *Generic Abilities (located in appendix):* Ten (10) specific professional behaviors, called "Generic Abilities" are assessed throughout the PTA Program curriculum. Students will self-assess these professional abilities at the clinical site and review it with their clinical instructor. Clinical instructors provide oral and written feedback regarding professional behaviors. Information will be gathered from the CPI criteria to assist academic faculty in assessing the professional behaviors which is recorded on the CPI. If a student is not demonstrating professional behaviors at an appropriate

level, the faculty member and the student will develop a plan for improvement. Serious deficits in professional behavior with no improvement may result in program probation or program dismissal.

2. *American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant (located in appendix)*

### **Personal Appearance**

A student is expected to set an example of cleanliness, tidiness, and professionalism in the clinical assignment area. Personal appearance is regarded as an important aspect of a student's overall effectiveness. Students are expected to be kept neat and clean at all times. Special attention should be given to personal hygiene and dress in the clinic areas.

Hair must be clean and neat at all times while in clinic. Hair must be worn back away from and out of the face. Beards and mustaches must be short and neatly trimmed. Nails must be clean and short. Nails should be shorter than fingertips when viewed from the palm side. The only jewelry which should be worn in clinic areas are watches, wedding rings, and stud type earrings. This is for the safety of the student and the patients. Students should avoid wearing excessive perfume, colognes, or after shaves in their clinical experiences sites as patients and/or staff may be allergic to them.

Students are expected to comply with the dress code for each clinical facility. Unless otherwise noted by the facility's dress code, students should wear professional street clothes and comfortable closed-toe shoes. Professional street clothes typically will include a shirt with sleeves, a tie (for males), dress slacks or khaki-type pants (no jeans), sturdy low-heeled shoes with a closed toe, socks, and a watch with a second hand. A white lab coat may be worn in some facilities. Athletic shoes are acceptable if they are neat, clean, and professional looking. Given today's fashions and the level of physical activity required in most PT settings, it is recommended that students check their appearance from all angles and positions to ensure that clothing ensures freedom of movement, remains in position, and does not expose undergarments or inappropriate body parts at any time. If available and compliant with site's dress code, students may wear a PTA program polo shirt.

### **Name Tags**

A name tag (student ID) is to be always worn by all students while at clinical education sites. Wearing the name tag ensures proper identification for security purposes and entitles the student access to the premises. The name tag is also a necessary communication tool as the student meets a variety of people, including patients and staff. The facility may require that the student wear a facility name tag as well.

### **Student Preparedness**

Students are expected to come to the clinic prepared for that day. Preparedness includes reading any assigned material, researching expected skills or diagnoses, preparing assignments on time, and bringing necessary books and materials to clinic.

### **Confidentiality**

Students are expected to always maintain confidentiality standards in the clinical setting. It is unethical to share information with other individuals regarding patients/clients, facilities, clinical instructors, or

classmates. This includes placing the patient's name or other identifying item on case study reports, class presentations; etc.; failing to obtain written permission to utilize pictures or videos of a patient in presentations or talking about patients to your classmates. Violation of this policy may result in probation or withdrawal from the PTA Program.

During the first semester of the PTA program, students are instructed in basic Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) policies (visit US Department of Health and Humans Service HIPAA guidelines at: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html>) and procedures for proper use and handling of confidential patient/client information. They are also required to view the online information from the Wyoming State Health Department and pass a Knowledge Assessment at 70% proficiency, prior to their first clinical education course. This information is made available by the Wyoming Department of Health (<http://wdh.state.wy.us/main/hipaa.html>). The CI should give the student instruction in site-specific HIPPA procedures at the start of each clinical experience.

Prior to the start of the first Clinical Affiliation, students are required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement (see Appendix D: Required Student Forms). This agreement will be considered in force for the rest of the student's tenure in the PTA Program.

### **CPR/Immunization Requirements**

1. Each student must have a current Health Care Provider CPR certification upon entering their clinical experiences. Students are required to show proof of this certification prior to attending clinical experiences.
2. Required immunizations must be current and kept up to date. Students are required to show proof of immunization during program orientation in the first semester of the program. Students are required to show proof of immunizations that require annual renewal. Required immunizations include:
  - a. MMR
  - b. Hepatitis B
  - c. Varicella
  - d. Tetanus
  - e. PPD (TB)
  - f. Flu Shot (annual renewal)
  - g. Color vision exam
  - h. COVID-19

Although students are not required to have health insurance, it is highly encouraged. Students should be aware that some clinical education sites may require students to have additional immunizations and/or health insurance.

### **Accidents**

All accidents occurring while in the clinic that result in patient injury, hospital personnel injury, personal injury, and/or damage to equipment must be reported to the clinical instructor (CI) immediately. Students may also be required to fill out a facility incident report. Students are required to understand the safest methods of properly performing treatment procedures and operation of equipment before

undertaking them. Students are responsible for the cost of their individual medical care that may result from an accident while in the clinic. In the event of an accident, please have the student complete an incident form and notify the ACCE of the incident.

### **Accommodations**

LCCC affirms the rights of students with disabilities to equal opportunity and treatment in all aspects of education. Reasonable accommodation will be made that will enable students with disabilities to enjoy equal educational opportunities. To receive accommodations, a student must:

1. Initiate a request for services through the campus Disabilities Coordinator (located in the Clay Pathfinder Building).
2. Provide documentation verifying the disability.
3. Follow plan as determined after consultation with campus Disabilities Coordinator.

The accommodation(s) will be implemented at the earliest possible date. If consultation with the student and the College does not identify an appropriate accommodation, the student shall be notified in writing of the program's inability to reasonably accommodate the student's special needs.

### **Early Termination of Clinical Experience**

The PTA Program ACCE and the LCCC PTA program faculty may remove the student from the clinical site if it appears that the student is performing incompetently or poses a safety threat to the patients/clients or staff of the clinical site. This decision will be made based on input from the CI and/or CCCE. The ACCE will meet with the student either in person or by phone within twenty-four hours to explain the reasons for removal from the clinical area and to inform the student that he/she is failing. Please keep the ACCE informed of any potential problems. If you feel the student must be removed from your clinic, contact the ACCE or PTA Program Director immediately.

Following this action, an informal meeting with the student, ACCE, CI and/or CCCE, and PTA Program Director will be convened as soon as possible to discuss the student's status. If the removal from the clinical setting is upheld because of this meeting, the student receives a failing grade in the clinical component of the course and may be dismissed from the program. Even if a student is not removed from a clinical experience, failure to meet the standard clinical objectives by the end of the semester may also result in failure of that clinical education course.

### **Due Process and Grievance Procedure**

It is the policy of the LCCC Physical Therapist Assistant Program to work with students in finding a fair and just solution to problems that may arise, including grievances, questions, misunderstandings, or discrimination. At all steps of the grievance procedure, students should feel free to discuss the matters fully with clinical faculty, PTA program faculty, and LCCC administration. Students are urged to first take their problems to their clinical instructor. Usually, the CI will have direct knowledge about the subject and is best qualified to work with the student in resolving the manner.

If the student and CI are unable to find a solution, the student should then bring up the situation to the CCCE, who may consult with the program's ACCE. If the student, CI, and CCCE are unable to find a solution, the student should then bring up the matter to the PTA Program ACCE. Should the student find

unsatisfactory solutions after involving the ACCE, the student should then bring up the matter to the PTA Program Director (PD.) If the student finds unsatisfactory solutions after involving the PD, the student should bring up the matter with the Dean of the Health Sciences & Wellness School.

Student complaints involving clinical faculty or clinical facilities should be directed to the PTA Program ACCE.

### **Clinical Reassignment**

When a student is on a clinical experience but is unable to complete the required hours, an alternative clinical may be provided. Possible reasons a student may be unable to complete these hours include, but will not be limited to, the following: (1) family crisis, (2) health status (3) conflict with the Clinical Instructor, and/or (4) lack of patients at clinical site. The ACCE and PTA Program Director will decide on an individual basis whether the student will be provided with a clinical reassignment.

A student will be allowed only one opportunity during the PTA Program to be considered for a clinical reassignment. The student will not be allowed a clinical reassignment if they are on PTA Program probation, and they must be off PTA Program probation prior to clinical reassignment.

### **Background Checks/Drug Screens**

All students are required to have drug screens and background checks completed prior to providing services that involve direct contact with patients and residents. An individual, who is disqualified from having direct patient contact as a result of the background study and/or drug screen, will not be permitted to participate in a clinical education placement. Inability to participate in a clinical education placement required by the academic program could result in ineligibility to qualify for a degree in this program. Various clinical sites may require additional background checks and drugs screens according to their policies and procedures.

### **Knowledge of Program and College Policies and Procedures**

The PTA program abides by Laramie County Community College (LCCC) policies. The most current college policies can be found at <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/academics/policies/index.aspx>.

Students are expected to have a working knowledge of the content of the LCCC PTA Program Handbook, which is provided annually during the spring semester. After reviewing the handbook, students will sign and date the "Student Handbook Agreement" (see Appendix D: Required Student Forms), which is an agreement where the student states they understand the content of the handbook and agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth during their tenure as a PTA student. Students will also be able to access the PTA Program Handbook on the PTA Program home page <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/programs/physicalTherapistAssistant/index.aspx>.

The PTA Program Handbook is reviewed and revised annually by program faculty. To ensure all program policies are consistent with those of the College, the handbook is reviewed annually by the Dean of the Health Sciences & Wellness Division and periodically the VP of Student Services and/or the VP of Instruction. Program faculty will consider input for manual revisions from students, college administration, the PTA program advisory committee, and clinical faculty. When changes are made after the initial publication of each year's Clinical Education Handbook, PTA Program students and LCCC



administration will be notified of the updates. The Handbook will be available in Health Sciences & Wellness Administrative Assistant's office, the Health Science & Wellness School Dean's office, and the PTA Program Director's office.

## **K. Responsibilities of the Clinical Faculty**

### **Clinical Affiliation Agreement**

Only clinical facilities with current, unexpired, written Clinical Affiliation Agreements in place will be utilized for the placement of students. A Clinical Affiliation Agreement is drafted specific to the facility upon establishment of clinical site and signed by representatives from the college and the facility. Renewal contracts are completed as needed for contracts that are not on automatic renewal.

### **Equipment and Facility Safety**

All clinical facilities are expected to have policies concerning safety regulations governing the use of equipment and the storage and use of any hazardous materials. These policies should be reviewed with students affiliated with that facility. Equipment should be inspected regularly, and safety regulations should be posted and reviewed periodically.

### **Confidentiality**

All clinical facilities are expected to have policies on the confidentiality of records and other personal information. Additionally, there should be facility policies concerning the informed consent of patients seen by the student. Facility guidelines on the use of human subjects for educational purposes should also exist at each facility. These policies should be reviewed with the students affiliating at that facility.

### **Supervision**

All clinical facilities are expected to provide direct supervision of students to ensure patient safety and to enable the successful completion of the program's educational objectives. All students require on-site supervision by a licensed physical therapist or a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant team. Preferably, this should be the student's assigned clinical instructor. If the clinical instructor is unavailable on-site, another licensed person who is on-site must be assigned to that student for that time period. The clinical instructor should have adequate release time to adequately supervise the student and be available for questions, assistance, and mentoring. All supervisory clinical faculty are expected to demonstrate positive role modeling for the students. If there is no PT in the building for part of a day when the student is on their clinical experience, the student may perform non-patient care clinic duties such as chart reviews, assignments on reference materials, documentation, in-service preparation, and observation of other health care practitioners. Students should contact the ACCE immediately if supervision does not follow these guidelines.

### **Complaints**

Complaints regarding the program or the program graduates should be first addressed to the PTA Program Director. Unresolved complaints or complaints about the PTA program and/or Program Director should be directed to the Dean of the Health Sciences & Wellness School. All complaints will be documented, including the projected outcome, and kept on file at the Dean's office and/or Program Director's office. Complaints regarding accreditation of the PTA Program should be addressed to the

Commission for Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). This Commission is located at 111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314 (703.706.3245).

#### **L. Clinical Faculty Rights and Privileges**

The LCCC PTA Program values the clinical faculty who are involved with the clinical education of our students. CCCEs and CIs are entitled to rights and privileges because of their participation with the LCCC PTA Clinical Education Program. All CCCEs and CIs are invited to participate in the LCCC PTA Advisory meetings. The agenda of these meetings includes such items as review of curricular changes within the PTA program, review of program assessments including the CPI used in clinical education, and a question-and-answer session with the PTA Program Faculty. Additionally, topics that have been identified in assessments or through interviews and observations made by the ACCE will be discussed.

The LCCC PTA Program is required to determine the professional development needs of the clinical faculty members with the intention to facilitate continued growth and development of clinical faculty in their role as clinical educators. Clinical faculty are encouraged to complete relevant assessments from the APTA Guidelines and Self-Assessment for Clinical Education on an annual basis (found in Appendix C: Clinical Practice Standards.) These assessments are related to the ACCEs, Clinical Instructors, CCCEs, and Clinical Education sites. These assessments will be available in online format for clinical staff to complete at their convenience during the assessment period. Clinical staff will also be asked to complete a brief survey of professional development needs.

LCCC PTA Program academic faculty members are available to provide in-services for any affiliating clinical facility on mutually agreed upon topics. This in-service could be on clinical education topics or other physical therapy information. Contact the PTA Program Director if your facility is interested in arranging for an in-service.

Clinical faculty will be given the opportunity to use PTA Program departmental resources. Departmental resources are in the PTA Program laboratory and in program faculty offices. Please contact the PTA Program Director for a list of available departmental resources.

#### **M. Education Tips for the Clinical Instructor**

1. The Clinical Instructor should review the PTA Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI) with the student at the beginning of the clinical rotation. This is done to familiarize the CI and the student with the individual skills and their objectives. The Clinical Instructor can then identify which skills the facility is usually able to address. The CI and the student then design learning experiences to facilitate mastery of the identified skills.
2. Scheduling a formal meeting at least once a week to review the student's progress and goals to be addressed the next week is recommended.
3. It is helpful to have a student information packet to mail to the student prior to the affiliation. Information that is helpful includes:
  - Confirmation of the dates of the rotation
  - Name of the Clinical Instructor and the CCCE

- Time the student should report to the clinic
- Dress code for the facility
- Directions to the facility and PT department
- Parking information
- Direct phone number to the PT department
- Medical forms, if needed
- Any orientation the student may need prior to seeing patients (HIPAA, standard precautions, etc).
- Meals - is there a cafeteria or does the students need to bring a lunch?
- Housing information, if applicable
- Any information on other tests the student may require (background check, drug test, etc.)
- Any additional orientation information you want the student to read prior to the start of the clinical rotation

#### **N. Patient Rights**

Patients have the risk-free right to refuse student participation in treatment or observation.