

PHT 5611: Intro to Physical Therapy

This course introduces PT students to the physical therapy profession, its state and national associations, and the multiple roles assumed by physical therapists historically and in current practice. Students will grow professionally by utilizing relevant medical terminology, beginning the development of a student portfolio, and gaining familiarity with the core values and ethical standards for physical therapy. Professional standards for conduct are developed applying ethical principles, theories, the APTA Code of Ethics, and utilizing ethical decision-making. Students will gain a working knowledge of the more common state and federal laws, rules, and regulations that impact physical therapist practice, patient/client rights and responsibilities related to patient-centered care, and risk management strategies to avoid medical errors and to reduce legal liability. Cultural competency is introduced and promoted by student identification and exploration of own biases, diversity dimensions, and factors that affect health care outcomes. Students will start preparing for clinical experience by exploring the concepts of patient-client management, the ICF model, clinical-decision-making, therapeutic presence, and interprofessional education in health care.

During this course, students are introduced to the clinical education curriculum including: integrated clinical education (ICE) experiences, full-time clinical education experiences and service learning activities.