AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY
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Clinical Education Terms Update for DCEs and Program Directors:

In response to the call for increased consistency in physical therapy clinical education following the 2014 Clinical Education Summit, the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) tasked a panel of clinical educators to produce a glossary of terms for physical therapy education.

The adopted glossary was published in *Physical Therapy* https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/pzy075 and is posted publicly on the ACAPT website. Many of the 34 terms remained the same, but highlighted below are a few important updates that we wanted to bring to your attention.

1. Site Coordinator of Clinical Education (SCCE)
2. Clinical Education Experience
3. Internship
4. Full time clinical experience (first, intermediate, terminal)
5. Integrated Clinical Experience (ICE)
6. Preceptor
7. Clinical Instructor

The following statement is provided as a suggestion for sharing this information with your clinical instructors:

As we enter into another physical therapy clinical education cycle, we first want to thank all of you for your amazing contributions to educating future physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. In response to the call for increased consistency in physical therapy clinical education following the 2014 Clinical Education Summit, the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) tasked a panel of clinical educators to produce a glossary of terms for physical therapy clinical education. The resulting glossary developed through a consensus-based process is published in *Physical Therapy* https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/pzy075 and is available publicly on the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) website (https://acapt.org/docs/default-source/pdfs/common-terminology-glossary-for-physical-therapist-clinical-education.pdf?sfvrsn=25978bd8_2). The glossary is divided into 4 categories and includes a total of 34 terms. Many terms stayed the same, but listed below are some terms that we feel are important to review. Hopefully, the adoption and use of these terms will enhance communication among all stakeholders.

1. Site Coordinator of Clinical Education (SCCE)

- SCCE replaces the previous term Center Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCCE) to reflect that clinical education occurs within varied environments.
- ACAPT Glossary definition: "*A professional who administers, manages, and coordinates clinical assignments and learning activities for students during their clinical education experience. In addition, this person determines the readiness of persons to serve as preceptors and clinical instructors for students, supervises preceptors and clinical instructors in the delivery of clinical education experiences, communicates with the academic program regarding student performance, and provides essential information to academic programs.*"

2. Clinical Education Experience

- The single term clinical experience, used with clarifiers as needed (full-time, first, intermediate, terminal—see additional definitions below) is preferred instead of the multiple terms used over time to designate clinical experiences i.e. affiliation, rotation, etc...
- ACAPT Glossary definition: "*Experiences that allow students to apply and attain professional knowledge, skills, and behaviors within a variety of environments. Experiences include those of short and long duration (e.g., part-time, fulltime), provide a variety of learning opportunities, and include physical therapy services for patients/clients across the lifespan and practice settings. While the emphasis is on the development of patient/client physical therapy skills, experiences may also include inter-professional experiences and non-patient/client service delivery such as research, teaching, supervision, and administration. Clinical education experiences are a part of the professional curriculum and include formal student assessment*."

3. Internship

- The term internship should be limited to those terminal clinical experiences that include student compensation as specified by the ACAPT glossary.
- ACAPT Glossary definition: "*A terminal full-time clinical education experience that provides recompense to participants in accordance with federal labor laws under the Fair Labor Standards Act."*

4. Full-time Clinical Education Experience

- While specific timing for full-time clinical experiences varies across curricula, the following definitions provide a consistent descriptive framework.
- ACAPT Glossary definition: *"A clinical education experience in which a student is engaged for a minimum of 35 hours per week. Full-time clinical education experiences designated to achieve the minimum number of weeks set forth by CAPTE are directed by a physical therapist clinical instructor. An integrated clinical education experience may be a full-time clinical education experience."*
    - First full-time clinical education experience: *"The first clinical education experience designated to achieve the minimum number of weeks set forth by CAPTE in which a student engages for a minimum of 35 hours per week."*
    - Intermediate full-time clinical education experience: *"A clinical education experience designated to achieve the minimum number of weeks set forth by CAPTE in which a student engages for a minimum of 35 hours per week and returns to the academic program for further completion of the didactic curriculum."*
    - Terminal full-time clinical education experience: *"A single, or set of, full-time clinical education experience(s) designated to achieve the minimum number of weeks set forth by CAPTE that occurs after the student has completed the didactic curriculum of a physical therapist professional education program. Students may return to the academic program for didactic instruction that does not require additional clinical education experiences. The expected outcome of the final, or last terminal experience is entry-level performance."*

5. Integrated Clinical Experience (ICE)

- DPT programs are required to provide both integrated and full-time clinical education experiences within the curriculum. Clinical sites providing full-time clinical experiences may or may not be engaged in the integrated clinical education aspects of a Program.
- ACAPT Glossary definition: "*Integrated clinical education is a curriculum design model whereby clinical education experiences are purposively organized within a curriculum. In physical therapist education, these experiences are obtained through the exploration of authentic physical therapist roles, responsibilities and values that occur prior to the terminal full time clinical education experiences.*

  Integrated experiences are coordinated by the academic program and are driven by learning objectives that are aligned with didactic content delivery across the curricular continuum. These experiences allow students to attain professional behaviors, knowledge and/or skills within a variety of environments. The supervised experiences also allow for exposure and acquisition across all domains of learning and include student performance assessment.

  For integrated clinical education experiences to qualify towards the minimum number of full-time clinical education weeks required by accreditation (CAPTE) standards, it must be full time and supervised by a physical therapist within a physical therapy workplace environment or practice setting."

6. Preceptor

- This term was added to allow designation of individuals who may be providing specific, focused learning experiences for students, but who are not a clinical instructor (see clinical instructor definition).
- ACAPT Glossary definition: *"An individual who provides short-term specialized instruction, guidance, and supervision for the physical therapist student during a clinical education experience. This individual may or may not be a physical therapist as permitted by law."*

7. Clinical Instructor

- ACAPT Glossary definition: *"The physical therapist responsible for the physical therapist student and for directly instructing, guiding, supervising, and formally assessing the student during the clinical education experience. When engaged in full-time clinical education designated to meet the minimum number of weeks required by CAPTE, the clinical instructor must be a licensed physical therapist with a minimum of one year of full time (or equivalent) post-licensure clinical experience."*