

Samford University Physical Therapy Clinical Faculty Rights & Responsibilities

Clinical Instructor (CI) Responsibilities

The APTA has detailed voluntary guidelines for CIs. The guidelines are divided into six key areas:

- Clinical competence and legal and ethical behavior that meets or exceeds the expectations of members of the profession of physical therapy
- Effective communication skills
- Effective behavior, conduct, and skill in interpersonal relationships
- Effective instructional skills
- Effective supervisory skills
- Performance evaluations skills

Clinical Instructor Qualifications

- All clinical faculty are licensed PTs with at least 1 year of clinical experience who have demonstrated clinical competence that meets or exceeds expectations of the profession in the areas of practice in which they are providing clinical instruction.
- Demonstrate ethical behavior, providing physical therapy services as outlined by the site policies, laws, APTA Code of Ethics, Guide for Professional Conduct, Guide for Conduct of the Affiliate Member, and Guide to Physical Therapist Practice.
- Maintain appropriate licensure requirements, adhere to laws and practice acts of their state/jurisdiction, and practice consistent with state and federal legislation including equal opportunity and affirmative action policies, HIPAA, Medicare, and the ADA.
- Model excellence in practice through professional development, such as specialty certification or post-professional degrees in their area of practice.
- Ensure the patient is aware of the student status of any student involved in providing physical therapy services, and respect the rights of patients to refuse care by a student.

In determining CI competence, CCCEs are also encouraged to consider CI years of clinical teaching experience, student evaluation feedback, CI credentialing, site specific clinical education program development, expressed interest in serving as a CI, and APTA membership.

Samford University expects clinical faculty to:

1. ***Have a strong desire to provide clinical education to Samford PT students***
2. Manage the clinical experience in a professional manner that maintains an environment that is conducive to effective clinical learning.
3. Access clinical education resources posted on the Samford Clinical Webpage and through the Exxat link, using resources for developing clinical teaching skills and for self-reflection/assessment of instruction.
4. Participate in student orientation the first week of the experience, including familiarizing themselves with the student's goals and clinical performance expectations of the program, and supporting students in developing individual behavioral objectives.

5. Foster a structured learning experience consistent with the student's level of preparation, facilitating student learning that progresses patients/environments from simple to complex, and modifying the supervision/guidance provided to promote and support safe, hands-on engagement of students in patient care.
6. Utilize a variety of teaching strategies to assist the student in meeting clinical performance expectations, including provision of timely and effective formative feedback that supports student performance improvement while balancing strengths and areas for growth.
7. Complete online CPI training and provide summative evaluation of student performance on PT CPI Web, including anchor ratings for each of the CPI criteria and summative feedback (at the completion of clinical experiences and at midterm for 14 week experiences).
8. Effectively communicate with the student and program, participating in student performance evaluations and properly reporting critical incidents per the Early Warning System (EWS). ***The EWS includes the CI immediately reporting to the DCE any student behaviors that are unsafe, unprofessional, unethical, or illegal.***
9. Participate in planning/modifying the experience when the student is either not meeting or exceeding clinical performance expectations.

Clinical Faculty who provide clinical education experiences for Samford physical therapy students have to right to:

1. Enjoy engaging eager students in patient-centered care.
2. Be respected as valued professionals volunteering to instruct PT students.
3. Provide input to Samford's DPT plan of study.
4. Expect students to be responsible for
 - Fulfilling all health/safety requirements prior to the first day of the clinical course.
 - Maintaining confidentiality and only engage in safe, professional, ethical and legal behaviors.
 - Meeting all program expectations for student responsibilities as outlined in the Samford DPT Program Handbook and the clinical course syllabi, including completion of assignments and meeting performance expectations.
 - Insuring CI access to online resources relevant to the clinical course, and for students to communicate and facilitate problem resolution of any technical issue with software.
5. Expect the program to use email, the Samford Clinical Webpage, CPI Web and Exxat software for communication, while also encouraging direct communication between the DCE and Program faculty.
6. Expect the DCE to evaluate communications between the program and students/clinical faculty, providing feedback as needed to facilitate teaching strategies that promote student achievement of performance expectations. Sites and CIs are also formally evaluated by students using the APTA Physical Therapy Student Evaluation (PTSE 1 Site & 2 CI).

For current CIs, please refer to the Samford DPT student handbook and course syllabi for additional clinical course guidelines. These items are posted in Exxat and accessed through the Exxat link provided to you by email.