Clinical Education in the DPT Curriculum

Our unique clinical education curriculum includes 38 weeks of clinical education prior to graduation. The first two years include one and two week integrated clinical education, as well as 8 and 10-week full time clinical experiences. In year three, students complete a full-time 16-week clinical experience with additional options to continue in a paid internship or internship to residency program beyond graduation at the same site.

**Year 1**

**Integrated Clinical Education I (“ICE I”)**
- Provides an initial foundation and understanding of clinical practice
- Integrates classroom and clinical learning while working in a student team

**Clinical Education I**
- 8 weeks - begins in Spring Semester
- Emphasizes patient management from examination to discharge
- Examines the role of the physical therapist within the healthcare team

**Year 2**

**Integrated Clinical Education II (“ICE II”)**
- Integrates classroom/clinical knowledge to a new clinical setting
- Provides opportunities to engage in advanced clinical problem solving

**Clinical Education II**
- 10 weeks in Spring Semester
- Emphasizes independence in all aspects of patient management
- Integrates concepts from online Clinical Reasoning course

**Year 3: Internship**

**Clinical Education III**
- 16 weeks in Fall Semester
- Focuses on achieving entry-level competency in PT Practice
- Emphasizes development of one’s professional identity as a DPT

**Continuation of Internship:**
- 36 weeks post-graduation
- Offers ongoing mentorship during transition from student to new professional
- Provides opportunity to develop deeper proficiency of clinical skills and clinical reasoning

Students gain a variety of experiences throughout the clinical education curriculum to prepare them as generalist physical therapists. All students are required to complete at least one experience in a rural/underserved area. Many of these sites are outside the Denver area, and students should be prepared to travel for this type of clinical experience, which includes any associated costs. The CU PT Program values building strong relationships with its affiliate clinical sites throughout Colorado and the United States. Establishing new clinical sites will only be considered according to Program need and at the discretion of the Clinical Education team.