

**MGH Institute of Health Professions
Entry-Level DPT Program**

**PT 738-Practicum IV
Service Learning Experience
Spring 2003**

Course Description: Service Learning is a structured learning experience in which students use acquired skills to meet specific academic objectives by providing community service to an identified population, in the context of both experiential and reflective activities. The experience augments traditional physical therapist responsibilities, commonly focusing on health promotion and wellness of the individuals served, and the prevention of disability. Students will have the opportunity to conduct a program that meets a health need in an identified population within the community, using education, selected screening tools and various intervention strategies. The experience will benefit both the students and the persons served.

Time Frame: Approximately 28 hours in the first 7 weeks of Spring Semester; time is set aside in students' schedules on Wednesday mornings to plan and conduct the experiences.

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1/8/03	Introduction—in class
1/15/03	Planning Time
1/22/03	Planning Time
1/29/03	In Community
2/5/03	In Community
2/12/03	In Community
2/19/03	Group Presentations to Class

Credit Hours: 1

Faculty:

Course Coordinators:

Donna Applebaum DPT, MS
Patricia Sullivan DPT, PhD

Faculty Advisors:

Jane Baldwin, PT
Janet Callahan, PT, MS, NCS
Vanessa Erens, MSPT
Claire McCarthy, PT
Maricely Perez, MSPT

Competencies Practiced:

- Professional/Social Responsibility
- Consultant Role of the Physical Therapist

- Cultural Competence
- Professional Behavior
- Communication Skills
- Teaching Skills
- Examination and Evaluation Skills via Client Screening
- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork (interdisciplinary and within discipline)
- Leadership Skills

Objectives:

By the end of the experience, students will:

- Have a greater personal appreciation for social responsibility and service
- Implement a program that focuses on preventative care
- Enhance skills in providing culturally sensitive care
- Deliver education that meets the needs of the individuals served
- Collaborate effectively with:
 - members of their student group
 - appropriate individuals in other disciplines at Practicum sites
- Understand differences between screening and evaluation
- Be more proficient in select examination and evaluation skills
- Have a greater understanding of socio-economic and environmental factors that affect the clients served

Overview of Practicum Experience:

- Students will be presented with five options of settings/age groups.
- Students will sign up to work in one of the five groups for the duration of the Practicum experience.
- Each group will be given a general topic for the program they will develop for their site. The topic was determined in advance through a needs assessment, done in collaboration with individuals who work with the persons to be served.
- The student groups will be responsible for the development of, and the implementation of a program related to their assigned topic.
- Each group will be assigned to a faculty advisor who will facilitate the group process and oversee program content, and who will be present while students are on-site in the community.
- During the weeks preceding the on-site experience, students will work as a group to plan the program. Presence of the faculty advisor is not necessary at all planning meetings; frequency and mechanism of consultation with advisor will be determined collaboratively between the group and the advisor.
- Each group should choose a leader who will serve as a liaison with the advisor and with the site. All group members will play an active role in the planning and implementation of the program.
- Things to consider while planning the program:

Content

- What are the needs we are trying to address? What are the options for addressing those needs?
- What do we need to know about our audience in order to customize the program?
- What format will be most effective, given the time, audience, space and needs of the clients? (e.g. group vs. individual vs. combination of the two)
- What type of screening tool(s) should we use?
- What form(s) of education will be most effective for our audience? (e.g. verbal, written, demonstration, experiential)?

Resources

- Are there any resources we will need, or research we need to do as we plan the program?
- Who will we need to communicate with at the site to help us plan the program?
- Do we have any special equipment needs?
- Who will market/advertise the program? How will we advertise it?
- How will we get to the site? Do we need directions?

Time

- How much time do we need? How much time will we have? Are the two a match?
- How early should we arrive at the site to set up?

Space

- What kind of space will we need? Do we need to see it before we conduct the program?

Outcomes

- What outcomes or responses are we hoping for? After week 1, how will we know if we need to modify our approach?
- What kind of tool will you use to evaluate the success of your program...or what data will you need to collect? (suggest using Chapter 16 in your research text for ideas)

Reflective Assignment:

Each student will complete a 3-page reflective paper at the conclusion of the Practicum experience, discussing the following:

- Do you think the objectives of your project were met? Explain the outcomes.
- Did your group encounter any challenges either while planning or conducting the experience? How did you deal as a group or personally with these group or interactive challenges?
- Did you experience any personal challenges over the course of the experience? How did you deal with these personal challenges?
- What did you learn about the population your group served, or about the challenges this population encounters?
- How did this experience impact your growth, professionally and personally?
- How has this experience helped to shape your view of community service as you think about your future academic and professional endeavors?

Group Presentation:

Each group will prepare a 20-minute presentation for the class. There will be a period of 10 minutes following each presentation for questions and discussion. Briefly discuss the following:

- Overview of the setting and population served
- Description of the program you presented, and why you chose this type of program
- Challenges you encountered as a group
- Any insights the group gained from the experience
- Your perception of the benefits of your program to the persons served
- Your group's assessment of the success of the program
- What, if anything, you would do differently if you were to implement the program again
- Recommendations for future programs for this population. Why?

Methods of Evaluation of Practicum Experience:

1. Advisor evaluation of individual students
2. Site evaluation of program
3. Student evaluation of Practicum experience

Grading of Practicum Experience:

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| 1. Participation in group work and in class | 40% |
| 2. Reflective Assignment | 30% |
| 3. Group Presentation: group 15% and individual grade 15%
(each person will participate in the presentation) | 30% |