

Department.: Physical Therapy

Course Number: PT 280W

Course Title: Research for Physical Therapists

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Susan Gregoire

Catalog Copy: PT 280W - Research for Physical Therapists. Summer. Three credits. Hours by arrangement. Prerequisites: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250 and a course in statistics. Open only to students in the Pre-Physical Therapy major; others with consent of instructor.

Preparation of physical therapists to become consumers and initiators of research in clinical settings. Topics include accessing and critiquing information, formulating research questions and hypotheses, designing research projects, conducting research ethically, analyzing data, and disseminating research. Students write a research proposal relevant to physical therapy practice.

W Criteria: The writing component of the course is intended to preparation students to become consumers and initiators of research as physical therapists. Objectives: Describe the research process and the use of research in physical therapy, Comprehensively identify research relevant to a topic of interest using appropriate data bases and sources, Use and cite references in an appropriate and effective manner, Critically analyze literature relevant to physical therapy, Identify a research problem and communicate a research question, Identify hypotheses, variables, and appropriate measures for a research project, Identify, compare, and select from among alternative research designs and data collection techniques, Summarize ethical issues and considerations relevant to research and publication, Identify and select appropriate sampling strategies, Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of validity and how it can be tested, Discuss the concept of reliability and how it can be tested, Select, interpret, and present elementary descriptive and inferential statistics, Use a computer to perform supervised, statistical analysis, Explain the key elements of an effective review of literature, Describe the key elements of a case report, Write a systematic review or research proposal

Writing assignment – Students write a literature or research proposal incorporating components of good research writing as outlined in the objectives above. Final research proposal is to be at least 15 pages in length. Typed double-spaced, using a 12 point font, and employing 1 inch margins. At least 15 references are required and should be cited (by number) in the order of appearance in the text (Arch Phys Med Rehab style).

Three drafts are to be submitted at specified dates over the course of the semester - 1) Research Question, 2) Results & Discussion, 3) Dissemination of Research. Feedback is available through written evaluation and face-to-face meetings. Drafts are reviewed for hypothesis formulation, content, clarity, grammar, spelling, and organization consistent with the objectives for the course (listed above). Each draft is returned to the student with written comments as to the previous mentioned components and are given an evaluation of P+, P, P-, or F. Subsequent drafts should incorporate suggestions and feedback from prior drafts.

Grading: final literature/research proposal - 40% of overall grade (content - 40%, organization, style, and grammar - 60%). Students must pass the final, edited version of the research proposal with a passing grade in order to pass the course.

Role of Grad Students: N/A

Supplementary Information: Required course for completion of the B.S. in Allied Health Pre-Physical Therapy program.