



FCCE STUDENT GUIDE: KEYS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE	
Preparation for the Experience	
Selection of Clinical Site Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program requirements (<i>i.e. inpatient, outpatient, specialty practice</i>) ● Geographical location ● Personal considerations (<i>i.e. family, significant other, pets, caregiver responsibilities</i>) ● Value of experience; opportunities (observing a surgery, interprofessional collaboration, PTA supervision and delegation, home visits), patient population, professional development ● Research the facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ on-line website ○ previous site evaluations
Personal Brand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital Profile: Resume, Cover Letter, LinkedIn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resume Templates • Cover Letter Templates • How to Write a Cover Letter • 10 Steps to Building your Personal Brand on Social Media • Create a good LinkedIn Profile ● Professional picture – share with site if able ● Social media platform presence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media Dos & Don'ts for Personal Branding
Financial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When to start planning? ● Budget Creation ● Site specific compliance requirements (See Compliance & Onboarding) ● Housing: Networking, friends/family, Airbnb, Share the Nest ● Travel to geographical location/region ● Daily commute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Car/public transportation/rideshare, parking, tolls, etc. ● Meals ● Dress Code: specific criteria (business casual, scrubs) ● Emergency contingency fund; unexpected events
Compliance & Onboarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Timely completion of site-specific onboarding/prerequisites ● Site requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immunizations ○ Background checks ○ Drug screens ○ Site pre-orientation when applicable (modules, pre-test, etc)



Preparation for the Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review the material relevant to the setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State Practice Acts ● Resources to Help Prepare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guide to Physical Therapist Practice ○ Clinical Education Glossary ● Connect with SCCE/CI – <i>per program guidance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Send digital profile ○ Seek guidance on how to best prepare for the experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome measures • Patient population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review your course notes that apply to the patient populations that you will be working with ○ Potential virtual or in-person meet, tour the site ● Logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practice travel route before start ○ Parking options (<i>i.e. leave the front parking for patients</i>) ○ Meal break options (<i>i.e. meal prep if needed</i>) ● Establish personal goals for success ● Self-reflection (how to be successful in clinical education)
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During the Experience: What are Clinical Instructors looking for?	
Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interpersonal skills: introduce self, interact with patients, staff, family, caregiver ● Clarify experience expectations and goals, yours and CI's, do this early on and throughout the experience ● Discuss interests – avoid saying “this is not the practice setting I want to work in” ● Share your learning style preference ● Growth mindset: “Don’t wait for someone to hold your hand” ● Be a team player: Contribute ● Ask questions, at the right time (<i>discuss with your CI the best time to do this</i>) ● Initiate follow up conversations when asked to do extra work or review ● Be prepared: jot down notes, follow-up questions ● Weekly Planning/Goal Setting Form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set weekly goals – S.M.A.R.T. ○ Review with CI at beginning or end of week ○ If time is short for feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put self-reflections in writing related to weekly goals (strength/weakness) • Allow time for CI to review – don’t provide it as the CI is leaving for the week. ● Daily Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prep for the following day/week ○ Review/research materials ○ Program/Site requirements: inservice, project, assignments



Professionalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go above and beyond what is asked or expected ● Demonstrate consistency in professional behaviors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professional Behavior Assessment Tool ● Appearance: dressed appropriately ● Attendance: punctual (<i>early</i>) ● Adaptability – things will change; the unexpected will happen (do not complain, ask how you can help) ● Adapt and be open to differences and variances in approaches and techniques in the clinic. Avoid saying “this is not how I learned it in school” ● Accountability: meet expectations of CI; Reflect on an ongoing basis ● Ethical Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● APTA Code of Ethics ● RIPS Method– navigating ethical concerns ● Responsibility ● Receptiveness to feedback, integrate and apply it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be open to variability in practice ● See to understand and not judge ● Provide constructive feedback to CI and Site during and after, tactfully ask for what you need from your CI
Environmental and Situational Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emotional Intelligence ● Be present and engaged ● Contribute ● Read the room/understand the situation (individual and team situational analysis) before you respond ● Be mindful of your role as a student within the clinical team
Motivated to Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenge yourself to make the needed changes ● Avoid saying ‘I don’t know’, consider instead ‘I don’t know but I will find out’ ● Stretch out of your comfort zone ● Develop self-efficacy ● Accurate self-assessment, reflection, formal Midterm/Final CPI – How close is your assessment to your CIs? Why? Why not? ● Schedule time to review performance assessment with your CI
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verbal language: Wording, tone ● Non-verbal body language (<i>arms crossed, eye rolling, facial expressions</i>) ● Proactive: Seek guidance: SCCE, CI, DCE, and Academic Program ● Inform: Unplanned event (<i>emergencies, illness</i>) Planned excused absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify CI and academic program ● Ask to make up the time even if it is not required ● Expectations – discuss, ongoing, evolving; be open ● Feedback: Seek/receive/implement/provide
Post-Experience	
Experience Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank you: Clinical instructor, SCCE, staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why are thank-you notes important? ● Ensure all final assessments and assignments are submitted by due dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic faculty have strict dates to submit final grades ● Reflect on the experience: goals, career goals, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Takeaways: what worked/did not work, future as a PT and CI ● Reflective practice in health care and how to reflect effectively ● How can I apply these takeaways to the next step in my professional journey