**PTA 202 SLOAT SPRING 2011 ASSESSMENT STUDY REPORT**

**Thomas Donofrio, PT**

Purpose

 The purpose of this assessment is to document the progress of students taking PTA 202 to determine laboratory and classroom competency based on course student learning objectives. This course is designed to educate the student on specific orthopedic pathologies and rehabilitation, cardiac and respiratory pathologies and treatment, burns, prosthetic and orthotic management. Advanced therapeutic exercise and use of various pieces of exercise equipment will be included.Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. explain and perform selected interventions accurately and safely;

2. explain and perform selected data collection tests and measures accurately and safely; and

3. communicate appropriately and effectively in written, verbal, and nonverbal ways.

Methodology

 The two course goals (taken from the course outline) that were assessed in this SLOAT study were as follows:

SLO #1: (Course Goal 1) explain and perform selected interventions accurately and safely. Note: Student mastery of this goal includes their being able to demonstrate knowledge of selected interventions including PROM, AROM, AAROM, stretching and strengthening techniques, stump wrapping and prosthetic prescription, environmental modifications and wheelchair prescription.

SLO #2: (Course Goal 2) explain and perform selected data collection tests and measures accurately and safely. Note: Student mastery of this goal includes their being able to demonstrate knowledge of selected data collection tests and measurements including manual muscle test, sensory test, vital signs and measurement of burns and wounds.

Assessment methods used in this study included a competency exam that included scoring student performance with a rubric and blueprinted final exam questions.

Results

The PTA 202 cumulative final exam consisted of forty questions based on material covered throughout the semester. Questions were designed to test academic knowledge of material as well as application in a clinical setting. It is important for students to be able to apply all didactic information in a critical thinking manner, especially given the complexity and uncertain nature of patient care.

Of the nineteen students registered for PTA 202 for the Spring 2011 semester, eighteen students took the final exam. The one student who did not take the final reported dropping the course due to financial hardship.

Student success level for each MPO is shown in Table 1 below. The two PTA 202 Course Goals and their corresponding MPOs are as follows:

CG 1: Explain and perform selected interventions accurately and safely.

 MPOs:

* 1. *explain and perform postural drainage and chest physical therapy;*
	2. *explain and perform orthotic prescription and fitting, stump wrapping;*
	3. *explain and perform transfer techniques and gait training with prosthetics;*
	4. *identify, explain, and adapt interventions to various disease process and manifestations;*
	5. *explain and perform environmental modifications and wheelchair prescription;*
	6. *identify and explain signs and symptoms of heart failure and adapt interventions to cardiac rehabilitation protocol;*
	7. *adapt interventions to obstetrical and pregnancy situations;* and
	8. *explain and adapt interventions to disease and rehabilitation of the spine*

CG 2: Explain and perform selected data collection tests and measures accurately and safely.

 MPOs:

* 1. *explain and perform ROM, manual muscle test, sensory tests, and vital signs;* and
	2. *discuss and determine measurements of burns and wounds*

**Table 1: Student Success Level for Each MPO**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MPO** | **Total Questions on the Exam Blueprinted to Each MPO** | **Number of Wrong Answers Given by Students** | **Overall Percentage of Correct Responses by Students** |
| 1.1 | 5 | 5 | 95% |
| 1.2 | 4 | 6 | 92% |
| 1.3 | 4 | 11 | 85% |
| 1.4 | 3 | 0 | 100% |
| 1.5 | 2 | 2 | 95% |
| 1.6 | 2 | 19 | 58% |
| 1.7 | 1 | 2 | 89% |
| 1.8 | 2 | 1 | 98% |
| 2.1 | 11 | 19 | 90% |
| 2.2 | 6 | 10 | 90% |

Overall student success level for the final exam was high. Specifically mastery of course MPOs related to Course Goals 1 and 2 ranged from 85% to 100% excluding MPO 1.6. This objective (MP0 1.6) required students to know about cardiovascular and pulmonary disease and identify or describe the signs and symptoms associated with each disease. Student difficulty mastering this material, i.e., the disease process and associated symptoms, may be a result of our ability to present case scenarios that truly identify these types of patients. However, mastery of this content is important, as it is our hope that students are exposed to many cases during their affiliations.

Discussion

PTA 202 is the last required program course for the students before their final affiliation. At this point in their studies, each student has been on three previous affiliations and should have entry-level competency in performing treatments on all types of patients. Students should also have a greater knowledge of anatomy, disease processes, and physical therapy treatment protocols as outlined in the *Guide to Physical Therapy*. Through these affiliations, students gain valuable knowledge and learn critical thinking that cannot be taught in the classroom. Working with actual patients helps the students master course MPOs in a more practical, less abstract way, i.e., in an easier format than by formulating scenarios in class.

In order to address student underperformance on MPO 1.6, a variety of patient scenarios will be incorporated into the lab component of the course and different media tools will be used to cover this topic. The Nursing lab will also be used with the help of the Nursing instructors to teach this component of the class.

Student success level for the PTA 202 MPOs related to Course Goals 1 and 2 could also be a reflection of student success in previous classes, including BIO 222, PTA 201, and PTA 101.