

MScPT clinical education structure re-envisioned

Effective course delivery requires ongoing improvement in response to the changing landscape. After a rigorous review process, we are excited to share some highlights.

The summer placement challenge

For many years, the School of Physiotherapy has relied on engagement with clinical partners to deliver practice education in our MScPT during the summer months of July and August. Our modification of the program length from 24-28 months has opened up opportunities for practice education in the fall term and eliminated the need for August placements. However, we have found that placements extending into July are challenging to fill, and we consistently struggle to meet our benchmark of matching these placements 10 weeks before the start date. This has implications for the time required to complete site-specific prerequisites, setting up access to patient records, security passes and arranging for housing, travel, etc.



Placement structure re-envisioned

The re-envisioned structure aligns the placement length and timing with the availability of clinical partners and best practices in practice education, thus optimizing student learning to meet the course outcomes efficiently and effectively.



Informed decisions

The re-envisioned clinical education structure, approved to begin for the 25/26 academic year, incorporates input from community partners, students, faculty, and the curriculum committee, infused with the latest literature to support processes in practice education. We are committed to providing a comprehensive learning environment that prepares students for competent, professional entry-level physiotherapy practice in a variety of settings. This change strengthens our commitment to building healthy relationships within our community to deliver the best possible education for our MScPT students.



Solution

Decrease total number of placements (from 5 to 4) by increasing the length of each placement (from 6 weeks to 7 or 8 weeks), with zero net change in total number of weeks.

5611 - 8 weeks May /June
6611 - 7 weeks Jan/Feb

6612- 7 weeks Sept/Oct
6613 - 8 weeks Nov/Dec



This response supports the needs of our clinical partners in practice education, students and the PT profession to optimize student success in meeting the demands of professional practice and working together as we build the future of physiotherapy in Atlantic Canada.



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