

Clinical Education

We prepare our students with clinical education that complements classroom education. Graduate students in sports medicine are eligible for assistantships in the [Neuromuscular Research Lab](#) at the [UPMC Center for Sports Medicine](#) or with University of Pittsburgh Athletics, while our students in Nutrition and Dietetics and Athletic Training learn from supervised practice experiences in a variety of major health care and community settings including the renowned University of Pittsburgh Health Care System (UPMC). In either venue, our students gain real-world experience that helps prepare them for satisfying careers.

Clinical Education Experiences in Athletic Training Program

Students will complete clinical education experiences during each of the four semesters in the professional phase of the program under the direct supervision of clinical instructors who plan, direct, advise, and evaluate the students' athletic training clinical experience and demonstration of clinical proficiency on a prescribed set of skills and behaviors. The program utilizes four athletic training facilities on the Pitt campus. In addition, affiliation agreements have been established with Carnegie Mellon University, the UPMC Center for Sports Medicine, the Pittsburgh Steelers and seven local area high schools, providing a wide variety of practice settings for students to gain practical, hands-on patient care experiences. In the two years of the professional phase of the program, students will have the opportunity to interact with and provide athletic training services for athletes and physically active patients from a variety of sports and risk levels, varying levels of competition and those from the same and opposite gender.

Supervised Experiential Practice in the Dietitian Nutritionist Program

Supervised experiential practice focuses on mentored practice in actual worksettings and is an integral part of the program. These experiences provide the students with opportunities to apply her/his knowledge under observation and direction in real environments to develop the clinical skills and clinical reasoning to work with diverse individuals and groups. Clinical instructors and preceptors plan, mentor, direct, and evaluate student progress through the development of the skills, knowledge, and behaviors required to meet the competencies for entry level practice eligibility. Supervised experiential practice is offered in Clinical Dietetics, Food Service Management, Community Nutrition and a variety of specialty practice areas.

Prerequisites for Clinical Education and Supervised Experiential Practice

The following are required in order for students to be eligible to participate in clinical education in the Athletic Training program or supervised experiential practice in the Dietitian Nutritionist Program. Program Clinical Coordinators will provide detailed information and time guidelines for completion of all requirements.

- Physical examination including proof or completion of specific immunizations
- Pennsylvania Criminal Record Check*
- Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance*
- FBI Background Check*
- EMT Certification (AT program)

- CPR Training and Certification (CMD program)
- HIPAA Training and Certification
- Bloodborne Pathogen Training and Certification
- Students must carry personal health insurance while participating in clinical education and supervised practice.
- Students must carry professional student liability insurance coverage while participating in clinical education and supervised practice. This coverage is provided by the SHRS group insurance plan and will appear as a charge on the students' tuition bill.

*In the Athletic Training program, this is only required of students who are assigned to a high school clinical setting.

Additional Information:

- Travel to clinical education or supervised experiential practice sites is the responsibility of the student. Students are expected to provide their own transportation to all remote sites; no exceptions will be made. Not all sites are accessible by public transportation.
- All expenses for transportation, parking, meals, and cost of prerequisites associated with clinical education or supervised experiential practice are the responsibility of the student.