



INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
PONCE CAMPUS
HEALTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

LABORATORY SAFETY POLICY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the safe operation and maintenance of Physical Therapist Assistant laboratory equipment.

POLICY:

Laboratory equipment safety is a collaborative effort between the Health Science Department Director, PTA program faculty, PTA program students and the Inter American University, Ponce Campus Administration. The PTA Program faculty and students are all responsible to ensure safe operation of equipment by complying with the safety policy at all times.

EQUIPMENT USE

1. Visually inspect of equipment for damage and current Preventive Maintenance (PM) sticker (some equipment may not require a PM sticker).
2. Pre-check equipment prior to use.
3. If PM sticker is not current, or the equipment has a visible damage, **do not use the equipment**, inform faculty member or program coordinator.

When a piece of equipment fails or malfunctions:

1. Report the incident to the faculty member or program coordinator and assist in the preparation of an incident report.
3. Remove the equipment from the area and label it as **“out of service”**.
4. The program Coordinator will contact AX Medical.

LAB USE

The use of PTA equipment is restricted to the PTA Program faculty and students enrolled in the Program.

The faculty will post lab schedules each semester announcing when faculty will be present to assist students with interventions and data collection skills. Students may also use the laboratory but must coordinate with the Program Coordinator or ACCE.

The following norms must be followed:

1. Students must NOT use equipment in the laboratory they are not familiar with through a lecture or demonstration.
2. Students shall always act in a safe, responsible manner and immediately alert a faculty member if an injury or unsafe situation arises.



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3. Students are expected to conduct themselves as though they are in a clinical setting. Inappropriately loud conversations, inappropriate jokes, use of foul language, or other disruptive behavior will be sufficient cause to dismiss the student from the lab session and will result in disciplinary action.
4. Students will only be authorized to use modality equipment or work with volunteers in the presence of a faculty member. It is preferable for students to schedule lab sessions in accordance with faculty members' presence in the labs.
5. Food and beverage is NOT allowed in the laboratories.

USE OF LEARNING RESOURCES

Students have access to all learning resources in the lab. Learning resources are there to enhance the educational experience.

1. Lab doors will be locked. Students must coordinate with a faculty member to gain access to the material. Access to the lab will give students open access to all learning resources.
2. If a class is in progress, the student may ask the faculty member for permission to enter and utilize material without disrupting the class.
3. All material is to be used in the lab. Removal of material from the lab will result in loss of lab privileges.

LABORATORY PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to participate in all class and laboratory activities as a demonstrator, model, subject, and in the PTA role. Each student must also complete and sign **The Division of Physical Therapy Informed Consent** and the **Division of Physical Therapy Laboratory Course and Informed Consent** and return it to the program coordinator.

If a student is unable to participate in lab activities, must give prior notification to a PTA faculty member. The instructor will arrange for the student to receive alternative reasonable accommodations to gain practice/experience. Reasonable accommodations will be granted only for valid reasons.