



	COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES ATR5015/6015 - Therapeutic Agents (2-units) ATR5015/6015L - Therapeutic Agents Lab (1-unit) Course Information Thursday 8:00am - 10:00am Quad II Modalities Lab - Balboa Room 184
Summer 2026	

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Ryan Nokes, PhD, ATC, CSCS Email: rnokes@pointloma.edu Office Hours: By appointment only
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PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ATR5015/6015

This course aims to provide you with in-depth study and eventual mastery of the knowledge and skills you will need as a health professional to apply the appropriate therapeutic modalities and manual therapies based on the recent evidence to treat musculoskeletal pathologies in an athletic population. Students will learn how to select and apply the following therapeutic modalities based on sound judgment and evidence: thermal modalities, electrical modalities, manual therapies, and other mechanical modalities commonly used in athletic training practice.

ATR 5015/6015 Lab

This course is designed to allow students to apply and integrate their didactic knowledge during a laboratory setting. Students will learn to apply all of the therapeutic agents learned in class to patients in clinical settings.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Point Loma Nazarene University MS-AT graduate will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to become a certified athletic trainer.
2. Critically evaluate and integrate the best available evidence for clinical decision-making.
3. Deliver new evidence that is intended to change clinical practice in various healthcare communities through scholarly research presentations and symposiums.
4. Describe the importance of collaborating with multiple healthcare professionals and diverse patient populations to improve patient care.
5. Demonstrate preparedness for their vocation and calling.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

In this course, you will learn how to:

1. Critically evaluate and appraise the evidence as it relates to therapeutic modalities.
2. Utilize various therapeutic modalities to treat musculoskeletal injuries.
3. Implement the appropriate parameters, settings, and indications/contraindications for the therapeutic modalities learned in this course.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in the clinical application of therapeutic modalities.

CAATE Standards

Standards assessed in this course:

- Standard IV.21: Select and incorporate interventions (for pre-op patients, post-op patients, and patients with nonsurgical conditions) that align with the care plan. Interventions including (but are not limited to) the following:

C. Soft Tissue techniques

G. Therapeutic modalities

H. Home care management

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2-unit class and a 1-unit lab class delivered over 16 weeks.

Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Course Assignment Distribution	Grade Scale	
- Quizzes: 10% - Labs: 30% - Student Presentations: 20% - Exams: 40%	A = 93-100	C = 73-76
	A- = 92-90	C- = 70-72
	B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
	B = 83-86	D = 63-66
	B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
	C+ = 77-79	F = 0-59

Students must complete the required program hours in the major (program) from Point Loma Nazarene University with a minimum grade of “C” in each course and an overall 3.00 grade point average.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be submitted by the specified due dates in Canvas. Incompletes will be granted only under exceptionally unusual circumstances.

PLNU SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our Graduate and Accelerated Undergraduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. We have onsite chaplains at our different campuses who may be available during class break times across the week. If you have questions or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with our chaplains, you can find them at the [Chaplain's Page](#) via myPLNU.

In addition, the Mission Valley and Balboa campuses have a prayer chapel for use as a space set apart for quiet reflection and prayer.

STUDENT SUCCESS

The Center for Student Success supports our Graduate and Professional Studies students throughout their academic journey. We provide student services such as academic advising and planning, resource workshops, and connect students to career services, writing support, tutorial services, and wellness resources. The Center itself is located on the first floor of the Mission Valley Campus. If you have any questions about how to access resources at PLNU, please start by reaching out to the Center for Student

Success [by email](#) or by phone at 619-563-2850. Please visit [myPLNU Student Success](#) for more details. If you are in the School of Education, please contact [SOE Advising](#).

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow distance education outside California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Graduate Academic and General Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) to generate ideas, as a learning tool, or in some cases generate portions of work you will submit. I will specify in individual assignments what constitutes appropriate use of AI for that assignment. Please use this [Purdue resource](#) to guide your citations when using AI.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center on the PL campus, the first floor of the Balboa campus, and the second floor of the Mission Valley campus. For all students, including the Bakersfield campus, virtual appointments are available. You can reach the Educational Access Center (EAC) [by email](#) or phone at 619-849-2533. Students can access both requests for and evidence of disability through the Accommodate link off the main page of [OneLogin](#). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines approved accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through [Accommodate](#).

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC eligibility process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

LANGUAGE & BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT & DISCRIMINATION

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the [Title IX Office](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the [Title IX Office](#).

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact [Counseling Services](#) or [consult the list of campus pastors](#).

If you (or someone you know) has experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via the [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy](#).

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each course are minimal requirements.

If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and does not waive attendance requirements.

Refer to [Academic Policies](#) for additional detail.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online. Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

GPS ACADEMIC RESOURCES

PLNU offers the following free academic resources virtually for Graduate Professional Studies (GPS) Students. Visit myPLNU through the links below for more information.

[The GPS Writing Center](#) offers:

- Zoom Writers Workshops offered each quad on a variety of helpful topics
- One-to-one appointments with the Writing Coach
- Microlearning YouTube Video Library for helpful tips anytime

- [Research Help Guide](#) to help you start your research
- The physical office is located on the third floor of the [Mission Valley Regional Center](#) off the student lounge
- Academic Writing Resources Course: Found on your Canvas Dashboard, this course is non-credit with 24/7 access, no time limits, and self-paced content. [Watch a quick video run-through](#) and take time now to explore!
- [Grammarly](#): Students have unlimited FREE access to Grammarly for Education, a trusted tool designed to help enhance writing skills by providing real-time feedback, identifying areas for improvement, and providing suggestions. Grammarly's Generative AI is NOT available with our student accounts.
- [Tutoring](#): Students have access to 24/7 live or scheduled subject tutoring through Tutor.com, including a Paper Drop-Off Service with feedback within 12 hours.

We are here to support you! Contact us anytime: GPSWritingCenter@pointloma.edu

ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Note: Faculty are required to either create assignments in Canvas so that there is a record by the end of the semester OR list the assignments in the syllabus to support the Records office in dealing with possible transfer credit, etc. In the Canvas syllabus function, please use the Show Course Summary checkbox to create a course schedule. Then cut and past the schedule into the syllabus you provide for the Assessment website.