



Department of Kinesiology | Master of Science, Athletic Training

ATR6020: Pharmacology for Allied Health Care Professionals

2 units

Summer 2026 | Quad 1

May 11 - July 5, 2026

Modality: Online

Meeting Days: Online

Meeting Times: Online

Meeting Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Ross Brunett, DPT, PT, ATC

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Instructor: Dr. Jill Ball, Pharm.D

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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

This course will provide an overview of drug classifications and medical-legal aspects of therapeutic and pharmacological treatments.

This course provides an in-depth study and eventual mastery of the knowledge and skills you will need as a health professional to utilize the appropriate OTC and prescription medication to treat pain, inflammation and other illnesses and disorders. Students will gain a working knowledge of pharmacological principles in athletic training:

- OTC's
- Indication/contraindication
- Side effects of drugs
- Prescription drugs
- Pharmacology of drugs

To be successful in this course, students must synthesize the information presented in the lecture and laboratory and apply it to the clinical setting. Specifically, this means that studying for quizzes and tests should involve reviewing and integrating the essential ideas contained in both the lectures and the textbook. Where possible, we will do activities in class or have study sessions to improve your retention. Graded assignments (e.g., tests, quizzes, assessment outlines and review of literature paper) will be used to help students identify, recall, synthesize and apply the key concepts in therapeutic modalities and pharmacology.

BOC domains addressed in the course:

- **Domain IV: Therapeutic Intervention:** This domain covers the rehabilitation and reconditioning of injuries, illnesses, and general medical conditions. It includes the use of pharmacological agents in the treatment process.
- **Domain I: Risk Reduction, Wellness, and Health Literacy:** Pharmacology fits here when discussing the prevention of conditions (e.g., proper medication usage, avoiding adverse effects, understanding supplement safety).
- **Domain II: Assessment, Evaluation, and Diagnosis:** Covers recognizing symptoms that may require pharmacological intervention or understanding the interaction of medications with pre-existing medical conditions.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you will be able to:

Course Learning Outcomes and Alignment to CAATE Standards

Course Learning Outcome	Program Learning Outcome(s)	CAATE Standard(s)
Identify prescription drugs and common uses	2, 3	74, 75, 84

Recognize common effects, interactions, and side-effects of drugs	2, 3	74, 75
Recognize the legal aspects implicated with drugs and therapy	2, 3	74, 75
Identify the role of the FDA in drugs and regulated substances	2, 3	75
Recognize proper dosing, storing, and dispensing of drug therapies	2, 3	74
Explain how participation in sport might alter drug efficacy	2, 3	74

CAATE Standards Covered in this Course

CAATE Standard	Standard Description
75	Educate patients regarding appropriate pharmacological agents for the management of their condition, including indications, contraindications, dosing, interactions, and adverse reactions.
76	Administer medications or other therapeutic agents by the appropriate route of administration upon the order of a physician or other provider with legal prescribing authority.
84	Educate clients/patients about the effects, participation consequences, and risks of misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, performance-enhancing drugs/substances, and over-the-c

Program Learning Outcomes

1. To prepare students to demonstrate competency in interpreting evidence-based research and improving clinical standards and practice through clinical question development and research methodology
2. To prepare students to develop expertise in the athletic training domains through an integrative experiential clinical model

3. To equip students with appropriate knowledge and educational foundation required for an entry-level Certified Athletic Trainer
 4. To prepare students to establish and understand the importance of inter-professional relationships, while collaborating with other health care professionals to become effective communicators
 5. To prepare students to demonstrate preparation, knowledge and skill in the delivery of comprehensive health care to a diverse set of patients with musculoskeletal injuries and conditions and illnesses in a distinctly moral and ethical manner, integrating Christian faith with clinical practice.
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Institutional Learning Outcomes

1. **Learning, Informed by our Faith in Christ**
Students will acquire knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world while developing skills and habits of the mind that foster lifelong learning.
 2. **Growing, in a Christ-centered Faith Community**
Students will develop a deeper and more informed understanding of others as they negotiate complex professional, environmental, and social contexts.
 3. **Serving, in a Context of Christian Faith**
Students will serve locally and/or globally in vocational and social settings.
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Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Houglum, J., Harrelson, G. & Seefeldt, T. (2016). *Principles of Pharmacology for Athletic Trainers (3rd Ed.)*. FA Davis.

978-0-8036-4029-0

Websites:

- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [Drug Free Sport](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration MEDLINEplus website](#)

Note: Students are responsible for having the required textbooks prior to the first day of class. Students are also encouraged to begin reading the books in preparation for the class as soon as possible.

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. All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles,

book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

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 delivered over 8 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

Assessment and Grading

It is important to read the feedback provided in the gradebook as these comments are intended to help you improve your work. Final grades will be posted within ten days of the end of the class. Multiple measures of evaluation are used in the course, allowing students opportunities to demonstrate their learning in more than one way, and giving consideration to individual learning styles. Course components that will be evaluated include:

Assignment Weighting

Category	Description	Percentage of Grade
Discussions	Students will participate in weekly discussions about the week's content and topics.	30%
Assignments	Students will need to submit assignments including case studies and discussions not classified as video lectures. Some assignments will involve collaboration with a group.	25%
Quizzes	Students will complete a quiz at the end of each week to demonstrate comprehension of that week's content. Some weeks, students will also complete graded lessons containing brief quiz questions.	40%
Surveys	Students will complete surveys throughout the semester that include course evaluations and group evaluations.	5%

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used for all exams and final course grades:

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentage of Points Earned

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F ≤ 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU Spiritual Care

Balboa Campus

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end, we provide resources for our graduate students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. At the Balboa campus, we have an onsite chaplain, Rev. Kevin Portillo, who is available during class break times across the week. If you have questions or a desire to meet or share any prayer requests with Rev. Portillo, you may contact him directly at KevinPortillo@pointloma.edu.

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 of California.

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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 Policy

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.

During the first week of class, you will be asked to submit an Academic Honesty Verification Statement. Submitting the statement is a requirement of this course. By submitting the Academic Honesty Verification Statement, you will be verifying all assignments completed in this course were completed by you. Carefully review the Academic Honesty Statement below.

Statement: "In submitting this form, I am verifying all the assignments in this course will be completed by me and will be my own work."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

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.

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Language and 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, you can find more information on reporting and resources at [PLNU's Nondiscrimination webpage](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. 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 help and support are available through the [Title IX Office](#). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is 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 at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors via our [Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy](#).

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via our [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 details.

Synchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

For synchronous courses that have specific scheduled meeting times (including in-person, hybrid, and synchronous online courses), absences are counted from the first official meeting of the class regardless of the date of the student’s enrollment. For courses with specific attendance requirements, those requirements are outlined in the course syllabus.

Note: For synchronous courses with an online asynchronous week, refer to the Online Asynchronous Class Attendance policy listed below.

Online Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

Students taking online courses with no specific scheduled meeting times are expected to actively engage throughout each week of the course. Attendance is defined as participating in an academic activity within the online classroom which includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in an online discussion
- Submitting an assignment
- Taking an exam
- Participating in online labs
- Initiating contact with faculty member within the learning management system to discuss course content

Note: Logging into the course does not qualify as participation and will not be counted as meeting the attendance requirement.

Course Modality Definitions

1. Online Courses: These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction are fully online.
 1. Synchronous Courses: At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 2. Asynchronous Courses: All class meetings are asynchronous.
 2. Hybrid Courses: These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
 3. In-Person Courses: These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).
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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 nor allowable) 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.
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Course Schedule

Weekly Course Schedule

Date	Topic
Week 1	• Chapter 1 - Introduction to Pharmacology • Chapter 4 - Medication Management in an Athletic Training Facility
Week 2	• Chapter 2 - Pharmacokinetic Principles • Chapter 3 - Pharmacodynamic Principles
Week 3	• Chapter 6 - Phases Healing and Drugs for Treating Inflammation
Week 4	• Chapter 5 - Drugs for Treating Infection

Week 5	• Chapter 11 - Drugs for Treating Gastrointestinal Disorders
Week 6	• Chapter 7 - Drugs for Treating Pain • Chapter 10 - Drugs for Treating Colds and Allergies
Week 7	• Chapter 14 - Drugs for Treating Diabetes Mellitus
Week 8	• Chapter 9 - Drugs for Treating Asthma

Assignments-at-a-Glance

The course summary below lists our assignments and their due dates. Click on any assignment to review it.