

Physiotherapy in Geriatrics

Code: 102975
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Physiotherapy	OB	3

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for enrollment. The teaching team recommends having completed and obtaining the first subjects and according to physiotherapy course.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Knowledge of the physiotherapy bases in geriatrics to attend (treat) to geriatric patients from one integral vision.

Understanding and basic management of the main geriatric syndromes and diseases that can influence the process of physiotherapy.

In the current context, the knowledge of physiotherapy in geriatrics is necessary, due to the increase of the life expectancy that partly

involves a high prevalence of chronic diseases and disabilities.

Competences

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Apply quality-assurance mechanisms in physiotherapy practice, in accordance with the recognised and validated criteria.
- Design the physiotherapy intervention plan in accordance with the criteria of appropriateness, validity and efficiency.
- Display knowledge of the morphology, physiology, pathology and conduct of both healthy and sick people, in the natural and social environment.
- Display knowledge of the physiotherapy methods, procedures and interventions in clinical therapeutics.
- Evaluate the functional state of the patient, considering the physical, psychological and social aspects.
- Express ideas fluently, coherently and correctly, both orally and in writing.
- Integrate, through clinical experience, the ethical and professional values, knowledge, skills and attitudes of physiotherapy, in order to resolve specific clinical cases in the hospital and non-hospital environments, and primary and community care.
- Make changes to methods and processes in the area of knowledge in order to provide innovative responses to society's needs and demands.
- Make the most correct decisions in given situations.
- Participate in drawing up physiotherapy protocols on the basis of scientific evidence, and promote professional activities that facilitate physiotherapy research.
- Solve problems.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Work in teams.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse a situation and identify its points for improvement.
2. Analyse the sex- or gender-based inequalities and the gender biases present in one's own area of knowledge.
3. Apply suitable physiotherapy assessment procedures in geriatrics, in order to determine the degree of damage and its possible functional repercussions.
4. Apply the basic physiotherapy methods, procedures and interventions to the different clinical specialisations that treat typical conditions in geriatrics.
5. Communicate using language that is not sexist.
6. Consider how gender stereotypes and roles impinge on the exercise of the profession.
7. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
8. Describe and analyse the evidence-based physiotherapy protocols for geriatric disorders.
9. Describe and analyse the quality-assurance mechanisms of physiotherapy in geriatrics.
10. Describe the injuries and diseases in geriatrics, identifying the symptoms that appear during the process, their etiology and the associated medical, surgical and rehabilitation treatments.
11. Describe the principles behind assessment in geriatrics.
12. Design therapeutic exercises and activities for geriatric diseases and injuries.
13. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
14. Express ideas fluently, coherently and correctly, both orally and in writing.
15. Identify situations in which a change or improvement is needed.
16. Make the most correct decisions in given situations.
17. Propose new methods or well-founded alternative solutions.
18. Propose new ways to measure success or failure when implementing innovative proposals or ideas.
19. Propose projects and actions in accordance with the principles of ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights, diversity and democratic values.
20. Solve problems.
21. Use physiotherapy to treat clinical cases involving geriatric conditions.
22. Weigh up the impact of any long- or short-term difficulty, harm or discrimination that could be caused to certain persons or groups by the actions or projects.
23. Weigh up the risks and opportunities of suggestions for improvement: one's own and those of others.
24. Work in teams.

Content

- Geriatrics and gerontology. Historic antecedents. Profiles of elderly patients.
- Demographics and epidemiology of aging.
- Physiological changes associated with aging in organs and systems.
- Theories of aging: concepts of chronological and biological age.
- Prevention in geriatrics. Healthy aging concept. Vaccines
- Psychological changes and social characteristics of the elderly population.
- General principles of rehabilitation in geriatrics. Factors of functional recovery prognosis.
- Teamwork in geriatrics and gerontology. Interdisciplinary team
- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (I): Concept and definition. Elements and basic principles of the evaluation geriatric The medical evaluation. Geriatric clinical history.
- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (II): Functional capacity, concept, meaning and evaluation tools. The state mental (cognitive and emotional), concept and instruments of evaluation.
- Social evaluation and its meaning.
- Physical activity benefits and prevention.
- Psychomotor activity.
- Communication with the elderly and family patient.
- Most common diseases in elderly patients.
- Geriatric syndromes
 - 1 - Basic principles of pharmacology adapted to the elderly patient. Polypharmacy.
 - 2- Frailty: concept and assessment.
 - 3- Dementia
 - 4- Gait impairment. Balance.
 - 5- Falls: epidemiology, causes and consequences. Risk factors. Falls assessment. Intervention and prevention.
 - 6- Immobility syndrome. Pathophysiological consequences of the thinning. Complications of the immobility.
 - 7- Pressure ulcers. Risk assessment Medical aspects of prevention and treatment.
 - 8- Infections
 - 9- Delirium. Definition, clinics, predisposing and precipitating factors, treatment and outcomes.
 - 10- Strategies to improve the detection and treatment of pain.
 - 11- Nutrition in the elderly. Anorexia in the elderly.
 - 12 - Depression in the elderly
 - 13 - Urinary incontinence in the elderly population. Type of incontinence.
 - 14 - Constipation.
- The geriatric illness in terminal situation: definition, criteria and attitudes. Failure to thrive.
- Support products and the environment.
- Ethics in geriatrics.
- Mistreatment and abuse in the elderly
- Rehabilitation assistance levels

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
HUMAN CLINICAL CARE PRACTICE (PCAh)	7	0.28	7, 2, 1, 9, 11, 10, 13, 14, 15, 23, 16, 19, 20, 24, 6, 22
LABORATORY PRACTICE (PLAB)	8	0.32	3, 9, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 21, 20, 24
THEORY (TE)	30	1.2	4, 3, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 21
Type: Autonomous			
SELF-STUDY	70	2.8	4, 3, 9, 8, 10, 12, 21
works delivery	34	1.36	4, 9, 8, 10, 14, 24

Teaching is based on theoretical classes, laboratory practice and clinical practice.

It should be noted that there may be changes in the methodology and evaluation depending on the health situation due to COVID-19.

Note: 15 minutes of a class (included in the calendar established by the center/degree) will be reserved for students to fill in the evaluation surveys of the teaching staff and the subject.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Attendance and active participation in class and practice	10%	0	0	7, 2, 1, 4, 3, 5, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 20, 24, 6, 22
Narrative records:portfolio	40%	0	0	4, 3, 9, 8, 11, 10, 12, 14, 16, 21, 20, 24
Written assessments with objective tests: multiple choice tests	50%	1	0.04	4, 9, 8, 11, 10, 16, 21, 20

This subject does not provide the single assessment system

The written test will last for an hour and will be a multiple answer test with 40 questions (4 options for question with penalty incorrect answer -0.25). Minimum grade to approve 5 out of 10.

Continuous assessment will be done through the participation and evaluation of the seminars as well as the activities indicated which can be individual or in groups. Minimum grade to pass 5 out of 10. (40%)

For this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks, such as bibliographic or information search. The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated with this technology, specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced both the process and the final result of the activity. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in this evaluable activity will be considered academic dishonesty and may result in a partial or total penalty on the activity's grade, or more severe sanctions in serious cases.

Art 116.8. When it is considered that the student has not been able to provide sufficient evidences of evaluation, this subject will be recorded as non-evaluable.

For students who do not pass the subject, a recovery test will be scheduled according to the calendar.

There may be modifications to this evaluation system depending on the health alert situation due to COVID-19.

Bibliography

1. Guillén Llera, F., Pérez del Molino, J., Petidier Torregrossa, R. *Síndromes y cuidados en el paciente geriátrico*. 2^a ed. Barcelona: Elsevier Masson, SA, 2008.
2. Abizanda P, Rodriguez-Mañas L. Tratado de Medicina Geriátrica: Fundamentos de la Atención Sanitaria a los mayores. Eds. Elsevier España, S.L.U. Barcelona, 2015.
3. Rebelatto, Jose Rubens Da, Fisioterapia en geriatría. Interamericana. Mc Graw-Hill. Madrid 2005.
4. Montagut, F / Flotats G. Rehabilitación domiciliaria: principios e indicaciones y programas terapéuticos. Masson. Barcelona 2005.
5. Dotte, Paul. Método de movilización de los pacientes. Masson. Barcelona 2010.
6. Geriatrics at your fingertips : 2024 / David B. Reuben,et al. American Geriatrics Society | 2018 | 26th Edition. Disponible a la biblioteca presencial J Laporte.
7. www.segg.es (Sociedad Española de Geriatría y Gerontología)
8. www.americangeriatrics.org (American Geriatrics Society)
9. www.fisioterapeutes.com

Software

There's no need specific software

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	201	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	202	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	203	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(TE) Theory	201	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	afternoon