**When Should I Call the DCE/ACCE About My Physical Therapy Student?**

**Guidance for a Clinical Instructor**

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When you provide a clinical education experience for a physical therapy student, the DCE/ACCE for that program is always available to you as a resource. There is no right or wrong time to call if you need information or direction for the clinical education process. If issues arise with a student, the DCE/ACCE should always be informed as early as possible even if you do not require assistance to address the situation. While not comprehensive, the following list may help you determine when it might be appropriate to call the DCE/ACCE:

1. Student is unsafe in the clinical setting.
2. Student has poor communication skills.
3. Student is disorganized, has difficulty focusing, or struggles with staying on task.
4. Student is defensive and does not implement constructive criticism from the clinical instructor.
5. Student is not performing as expected for the academic level or past clinical experiences; i.e. does not have the knowledge or skills expected, needs more supervision than expected.
6. Student demonstrates ANY unprofessional behavior that goes against the Code of Ethics or the Core Values of the profession.
7. Student has a sudden and significant unexplained change in performance.
8. Student is having a mental health crisis (see Guide for Recognizing Students in Distress).
9. Student is injured at or away from the clinical site. The DCE/ACCE will help determine the plan of action in case the student needs a medical leave of absence or requires restrictions to be put in place before returning to the clinic.
10. Clinical instructor is unsure of the expectations/goals of the academic program for the student.