



INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE

MTH 126
Pathology For Massage Therapy

Effective Term
Fall 2025/Spring 2026/Summer 2026

INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE

Part I: Course Information

Effective Term: Fall 2025/Spring 2026/Summer 2026

COURSE PREFIX: MTH 126 COURSE TITLE: Pathology for Massage Therapy

CONTACT HOURS: 2.0.2 CREDIT HOURS: 2

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE:

This course introduces the student to the basic pathophysiology of the body. It addresses the functional changes that accompany specific injuries, syndromes, diseases, and conditions commonly seen in the massage therapy setting and describes how the body responds to unexpected or undesired changes across the lifespan.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers basic pathology for massage therapy students. The course includes signs and symptoms of diseases with emphasis on recognition and identification, as prescribed in massage therapy.

PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:

Pre-requisites: C or better MTH 113, MTH 120 AND MTH 121

Co-requisites: MTH 128, MTH 132, MTH 135, MTH 136, & MTH 141

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Please visit the [BOOKSTORE](#) online site for most current textbook information.

Enter the semester, course prefix, number and section when prompted and you will be linked to the correct textbook.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Washable Bottle Holster Single - Bottle and Pump

Scrubs

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Access to Desire2Learn (D2L), HGTC's learning management system (LMS) used for course materials.

Access to myHGTC portal for student self-services.

College email access – this is the college's primary official form of communication.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION

Students enrolled in online courses will be required to complete identity verification. Please refer to your Instructor Information Sheet for information regarding this requirement.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

As a matter of courtesy to other students and your professor, please turn off cell phones and other communication/entertainment devices before class begins. If you are monitoring an emergency, please notify your professor prior to class and switch cell phone ringers to vibrate.

NETIQUETTE: is the term commonly used to refer to conventions adopted by Internet users on the web, mailing lists, public forums, and in live chat focused on online communications etiquette. For more information regarding Netiquette expectations for distance learning courses, please visit [Online Netiquette](#).

Part II: Student Learning Outcomes

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENTS*:

Module Subject	Learning Obejctives	Assignments/Assessm
Module 1 Fundamental Concepts in Pathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Define the Greek and Latin word roots related to pathology. •Describe the components of critical thinking, with examples related to massage therapy •Provide an example of an adverse effect related to massage therapy •Compare the terms cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization •Describe the purpose of standard precautions •Identify and discuss purpose, signs and symptoms and three major stages of inflammation 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 2 Integumentary System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Describe the structure and function of the skin •Describe the structure of the three main layers of skin •List and give examples of various types of skin lesions •Explain why damaged skin contraindicates massage therapy 	As assigned in D2L/Ma

Module 3 Musculoskeletal System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the structure of long bones, with definitions of osteoblast, osteoclast, trabecular bone, and Wolff' law. • Describe the structure of skeletal muscle, with the names of the connective tissue membranes found within and around them • Describe the purpose and location of articular cartilage • Name the cells that are found in fascia and describe the function 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 4 Nervous System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Recognize the most widely accepted definition of pain •Define central sensitization and list at least three conditions that may have this feature •Describe why it is important for massage therapists to be familiar with concepts about chronic pain •List three major cautions about working with clients who have nervous system problems, and explain how to accommodate for those cautions 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 5 Cardiovascular System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Describe the structure and function of the cardiovascular system •List and describe six general functions of the cardiovascular system <p>Describe the three layers of blood vessels, identifying the main tissue type in each layer</p> <p>Differentiate between the systemic and pulmonary circuits of the cardiovascular system</p> <p>Differentiate between the arterial and venous sides of the systemic circuit</p> <p>List the three types of blood cells or cell fragments and describe their function</p>	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 6 Lymphatic and Immune System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Describe the structure and function of the lymphatic and immune systems •Identify the source of interstitial fluid •Trace a droplet of interstitial fluid through both the lymphatic and cardiovascular systems •List five mechanisms for moving lymph through the lymphatic system •Explain the difference between specific and nonspecific immune system responses •Describe the origin and function of an antibody •Define "allergy" and list three common allergens •Define "autoimmune disease" and list three common examples 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 7 Respiratory System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Describe the structure and function of the respiratory system •List the six structures of the respiratory system in order from proximal to distal •Describe the basic mechanisms of efficient respiration, listing the muscles that are involved •Identify where in the lungs gaseous exchange takes place •Define the "mucous blanket" and describe why healthy cilia are important to its function 	As assigned in D2L/Ma

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Name the structures that enable passive exhalation 	
Module 8 Digestive System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Describe the structure and function of the digestive system •Name the sections of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract in the correct order •Identify the structure that separates the esophagus from the stomach •Identify the structure that separates the stomach from the small intestine •Describe the chemical environment inside the stomach and small intestine •Identify the portal vein and describe its function •Describe how stress can lead to digestive discomfort 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 9 Endocrine System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •List the major organs and hormones of the endocrine system •Identify the single structure that controls most endocrine system function •Describe an example of an endocrine system negative feedback loop •Identify the functions of paired hormones 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 10 Urinary System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Describe the structure and function of the urinary system •Describe the parts of the urinary system •Identify the structures involved in the first exchange of fluid between the cardiovascular system and the urinary system •Name the basic structural unit of the kidney •Describe how the kidneys contribute to normal blood cell production •Describe the relationship between normal blood pressure and healthy kidney function, and between hypertension and kidney damage 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 11 Reproductive System Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Describe the structure and function of the male and female reproductive systems. •Label the parts of the female and male reproductive systems •Name two sources of the hormones that govern the female reproductive cycle •Describe the pathway of an ovum from beginning to end •Identify the location where most ova are fertilized •Explain why the testes are located outside the pelvic cavity 	As assigned in D2L/Ma
Module 12 Cancer Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Define external versus internal factors in development of cancer •Define “carcinogen” and list at least four •Name at least five viruses associated with cancer •Recognize 10 common signs that indicate the possibility of cancer •In the TNM protocol, identify what each letter stands for and describe the staging system •In the “0 to IV” protocol, define what stage 0 and stage IV means •Define what grading means •List and describe treatment strategies 	As assigned in D2L/Ma

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare lymphedema with typical edema • Identify and explain four risks of massage therapy in the context of cancer | |
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****Students – please refer to the Instructor’s Course Information sheet for specific information on assessments and due dates.***

Part III: Grading and Assessment

EVALUATION OF REQUIRED COURSE MEASURES/ARTIFACTS*:

Students’ performance will be assessed, and the weight associated with the various measures/artifacts are listed below.

EVALUATION*

Tests/Quiz	10%
Assignments Massage Prep	45%
Discussions	30%
Final Exam	15%
	100%

****Students, for the specific number and type of evaluations, please refer to the Instructor’s Course Information Sheet.***

GRADING SYSTEM:

State the College’s or departmental grading system as delineated in the Catalog. Please note the College adheres to a 10-point grading scale A = 100 – 90, B = 89- 80, C = 79 – 70, F = 69 and below.

Grades earned in courses impact academic progression and financial aid status. Before withdrawing from a course, be sure to talk with your instructor and financial aid counselor about the implications of that course of action. Ds, Fs, Ws, WFs and Is also negatively impact academic progression and financial aid status.

The Add/Drop Period is the first 5 days of the semester for **full term** classes. Add/Drop periods are shorter for accelerated format courses. Please refer to the [academic calendar](#) for deadlines for add/drop. You must attend at least one meeting of all your classes during that period. If you do not, you will be dropped from the course(s) and your Financial Aid will be reduced accordingly.

Part IV: Attendance

Horry-Georgetown Technical College maintains a general attendance policy requiring students to be present for a minimum of 80 percent (80%) of their classes in order to receive credit for

any course. Due to the varied nature of courses taught at the college, some faculty may require up to 90 percent (90%) attendance. Pursuant to 34 Code of Federal Regulations 228.22 - Return to Title IV Funds, once a student has missed over 20% of the course or has missed two (2) consecutive weeks, the faculty is obligated to withdraw the student, and a student may not be permitted to reenroll. **Instructors define absentee limits for their class at the beginning of each term; please refer to the Instructor Course Information Sheet.**

For online and hybrid courses, check your Instructor's Course Information Sheet for any required on-site meeting times. Please note, instructors may require tests to be taken at approved testing sites, and if you use a testing center other than those provided by HGTC, the center may charge a fee for its services.

Part V: Student Resources



THE STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER (SSTC):

The SSTC offers to all students the following **free** resources:

1. Academic tutors for most subject areas, Writing Center support, and Academic Coaching for college success skills.
2. Online tutoring and academic support resources.
3. Professional and interpersonal communication coaching in the EPIC Labs.

Visit the [Student Success & Tutoring Center](#) website for more information. To schedule tutoring or coaching, contact the SSTC at sstc@hgtc.edu or self-schedule in the Penji iOS/Android app or at www.penjiapp.com. Email sstc@hgtc.edu or call SSTC Conway, 349-7872; SSTC Grand Strand, 477-2113; and SSTC Georgetown, 520-1455, or go to the SSTC [Online Resource Center](#) to access on-demand resources.



STUDENT INFORMATION CENTER: TECH Central

TECH Central offers to all students the following **free** resources:

1. Getting around HGTC: General information and guidance for enrollment, financial aid, registration, and payment plan support!
2. In-person and remote assistance are available for Desire2Learn, Student Portal, Degree Works, and Office 365.

3. Chat with our staff on TECH Talk, our live chat service. TECH Talk can be accessed on the student portal and on TECH Central's website, or by texting questions to (843) 375-8552. Visit the Tech Central website for more information. Live Chat and Center locations are posted on the website. Or please call (843) 349 – TECH (8324), Option # 1.



HGTC LIBRARY:

Each campus location has a library where HGTC students, faculty, and staff may check out materials with their HGTC ID. All three HGTC campus libraries have librarians and staff who can aid with research, computers to support academic research and related school-work, and individual/group study rooms. Printing is available as well at each location. Visit the [Library](#) website for more information or call (843) 349-5268.

STUDENT TESTING:

Testing in an **online/hybrid** course and in **make-up exam** situations may be accomplished in a variety of ways:

- Test administered within D2L.
- Test administered in writing on paper.
- Test administered through Publisher Platforms (which may have a fee associated with the usage)

Furthermore, tests may have time limits and/or require a proctor.

Testing candidates must make their appointments 24 hours in advance.

Students must bring a physical ID in order to take a test.

Proctoring can be accomplished either face-to-face at an approved site or online through our online proctoring service. To find out more about proctoring services, please visit the [Online Testing](#) section of the HGTC's Testing Center webpage.

The **Instructor Information Sheet** will have more details on test requirements for your course.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

HGTC is committed to providing an accessible environment for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations are encouraged to visit HGTC's [Accessibility and Disability Service webpage](#) for detailed information.

It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as needing accommodations and to provide

appropriate documentation. Once documentation is submitted, the student will participate in an interactive process with Accessibility and Disability Services staff to determine reasonable accommodations. Students may begin the accommodations process at any time; however, accommodations are **not retroactive** and will only be applied from the point at which they are approved. Students must contact the office **each semester** to renew their accommodations.

For assistance, please contact the Accessibility and Disability Services team at disabilityservices@hgtc.edu or 843-796-8818 (call or text).

COUNSELING SERVICES:

HGTC Counseling Services strives to optimize student success through managing personal and academic concerns that may interfere with achieving educational goals. Staff are available to every student for assistance and guidance on personal matters, academic concerns and other areas of concern. HGTC offers free in-person and telehealth counseling services to students. For more information about counseling services, please reach out to counseling@hgtc.edu or visit the website the [Counseling Services webpage](#).

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Our sincere commitment to both effective business management and equitable treatment of our employees requires that we present this Policy Statement as an embodiment of that commitment to the fullest.

Discrimination is conduct that includes unjust or prejudicial treatment based upon an individual's sex, race/color, religion, national origin, age, disability, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including, but not limited to, lactation, genetic information, genetic identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation that excludes an individual from participation in, denies the individual the benefits of, treats the individual differently, or otherwise adversely affects a term or condition of a person's working or learning environment. This includes failing to provide reasonable accommodation, consistent with state and federal law, to persons with disabilities.

INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NON-DISCRIMINATION/TITLE IX POLICIES:

Student and prospective student inquiries concerning Section 504, Title II, Title VII, and Title IX and their application to the College or any student decision may be directed to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Dr. Melissa Batten, VP Student Affairs

Title IX, Section 504, and Title II Coordinator

Building 1100, Room 107A, Conway Campus

PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066
843-349-5228
Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu

Employee and applicant inquiries concerning Section 504, Title II, and Title IX and their application to the College may be directed to the Vice President for Human Resources.

Jacquelyne Snyder, VP Human Resources

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator

Building 200, Room 205B, Conway Campus
PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066
843-349-5212
Jacquelyne.Snyder@hgtc.edu

TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination.

HGTC prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and will provide students, faculty, and staff with necessary information regarding prevention, policies, procedures, and resources.

Any student, or other member of the college community, who believes that they have been a victim of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may file a report with the college's Title IX Coordinator or campus law enforcement*.

*Faculty and Staff are required to report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator when involving students. The only HGTC employees exempt from mandatory reporting are licensed mental health professionals (only as part of their job description such as counseling services).

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PREGNANCY ACCOMMODATIONS

Under Title IX, colleges must not exclude a pregnant student from participating in any part of an educational program. Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to ensuring that pregnant students receive reasonable accommodations to ensure access to our educational programs.

Students should advise the Title IX Coordinator of a potential need for accommodations as soon as they know they are pregnant. It is extremely important that communication between student, instructors, and the Title IX Coordinator begin as soon as possible. Each situation is unique and will be addressed individually.

Title IX accommodations DO NOT apply to Financial Aid. Financial Aid regulations do not give the College any discretion in terms of Financial Aid eligibility.

Certain educational programs may have strict certification requirements or requirements mandated by outside regulatory agencies. Therefore, in some programs, the application of Title IX accommodations may be limited.

To request pregnancy accommodations, please complete the *Pregnancy Intake Form* that can be found [here](#).