Welcome!
Welcome to PHTH 711, Leadership and Practice Management. This course will be delivered in an online format.

My name is Ru Gakhar, and as your course instructor, I would like to take this opportunity to share some information about myself. I have been a physical therapist for the past 16 years and have worked both in the private and government sectors. I am passionate about developing physical therapists into the talented leaders they are meant to be. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and being outdoors.

REQUIRED TEXTS

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS

Technology Requirements
The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the “Technology Support and Requirements” section in the CE Online Orientation document (http://www.usd.edu/continuing-and-distance-education/upload/Online-Orientation-Guide.pdf).

General Course Schedule
The course consists of approximately 12 lecture sessions.

General Course Requirements and Expectations:
This is a two-credit course, which would normally constitute two hours of meeting time per week (15 weeks) in a face-to-face class. As this is an online course, we will not be meeting face-to-face, so this engagement will be reproduced by weekly discussion board posts. As you work your way through this course, you will be asked to reflect on your strengths and areas of need, and you will develop a leadership development plan as well as a quality improvement management project to reflect what you have learned in this course.

My hope is that through this course you will contemplate your personal leadership attributes and develop plans for professional growth, demonstrate the ability to work through a strategic planning
process, explore your role as an advocate and change agent, and engage in discussions about liability, risk management and regulation.

Please refer to the syllabus for more information about the requirements and expectations for this course.

**Getting Started**

First, you should familiarize yourself with the CE Online Orientation, which can be found at the following URL: [http://www.usd.edu/-/media/files/USD online/online orientation guide.ashx?la=en](http://www.usd.edu/-/media/files/USD online/online orientation guide.ashx?la=en). It contains important information on accessing USD’s resource online.

Next, you will want to access the course in Desire2Learn (D2L). This can be done via the student portal, or directly via [https://d2l.sdbor.edu](https://d2l.sdbor.edu). You should see the course listed under the current term.

**IMPORTANT:** You will NOT be able to access the course until the start date listed in WebAdvisor. **

**IMPORTANT:** You MUST log in to this course during the first week of class, since it is an acknowledgement of your enrollment in the course and a signal that you are in “attendance”.

Once in the course, you should do the following:

1. Orient yourself to the course components: Content (where all the lectures will reside), Discussions, etc.
2. Read through the items under “Getting Started,” on the top, left-hand side of the course homepage.
3. Familiarize yourself with the syllabus (found in “Content”) and course requirements.

**Contacting Support for Your Questions**

My contact information is listed at the top of this document. If you have a question specific to course deadlines, content, or lecture, contact me. The best way to contact me is through email. The second best is via phone – and please leave a message if there is no answer. I am committed to promoting a positive and enriching learning opportunity for you and will do my best to respond to your requests within 24-hours during the weekdays, or at least 48-hours on the weekends. It cannot be guaranteed that weekend emails will gain my attention; however, it is frequently the case that I may log on during the weekend and may respond to your email questions. Your questions about email, login/password, D2L issues, or computer issues should be directed to the USD Help Desk at 605.677.5028 (or helpdesk@usd.edu). Overall program questions can be directed to the Director of the tDPT program, Patti Berg-Poppe, at Patti.Berg@usd.edu or 605.658.6366.

Again, welcome to PHTH 711! I look forward to working with you in shaping your professional growth as leaders and managers!