CERTIFIED NEURO SPECIALIST
CNS® CERTIFICATION COURSE

CERTIFIED NEURO
SPECIALIST

CNS Orlando 2025
Saturday, August 2, 2025

Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport
9300 Jeff Fuqua Blvd, Orlando, FL 32827

COURSE FEE: $875
Register Online: www.neurospecialist.org

THE NEURO SPECIALIST INSTITUTE
info@neurospecialist.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The CNS® Certification Course is a 30-hour continuing education course that includes 20 hours of online (self-study) content and 10 hours of lab (in-person).
It covers evidence-based interventions for the stroke and brain injury populations. Participants will receive hands-on education on treating multiple systems, including the physical, cognitive, perceptual, psychosocial, and environmental systems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Evaluate the clinical presentation and pathophysiology of upper motor neuron conditions using standardized assessments.
- Develop best-practice intervention strategies across various systems: motor, sensation, cognition, language, psychosocial, and environment.
- Integrate remedial and compensatory strategies to improve physical, functional, biomechanical, and neurological outcomes.
- Design comprehensive treatment plans that utilize innovative technologies and devices in clinical practice.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Participants will engage in a variety of interactive and hands-on workshops. Topics include the following:

- Neurological Foundations
- Evaluation Tools, Clinical Measures, Imaging
- The Physical System: Motor Control, Movement
- The Perceptual System: Sensation, Vision, Communication
- The Cognitive System: Attention, Memory, Executive Functions
- The Psychosocial System: Emotion, Social Cognition, Mental Health
- The Environmental System: Home, Work, Community Integration
- Technologies & Devices: Physical Agents, EMG, Virtual Reality

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

- Full course attendance (SELF-STUDY & LAB) is required to earn the CNS designation.
- Participants must complete the SELF-STUDY (20 hours) before the In-Person LAB (10 hours).
- Labs must be completed in-person and may not be completed remotely. Participants must sign in and out each day.
- Hands-on participation is required for all labs.
- Participants must demonstrate proficiency in all labs (as measured by a competency checklist) to meet the CNS certification standards.
- Participants must complete a final assessment (CNS Certification Exam) within 7 days of their scheduled lab date.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The CNS Certification Course is an advanced-level course. Participants are required to demonstrate hands-on competency, and will be expected to develop, design, and integrate complex treatment protocols by the end of the course.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Lectures, labs, videos, demonstrations, discussion, case studies, role-play scenarios, blended/hybrid.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This certification course is intended as an advanced-level course for Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapists, & Physical Therapist Assistants. Other healthcare professionals are welcome to attend. Please verify with your State or National Board for CEU eligibility.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

I. Complete the CNS Certification Course:

- SELF-STUDY: 20-hours of online content (self-paced)
- LAB: 10-hours of hands-on learning activities (in-person)

II. Complete the CNS Certification Exam:

- There are NO extra fees for the CNS Certification Exam.
- Participants must receive a passing score of 80% to obtain the CNS designation and earn continuing education credits.
- Participants will have access to the web-based certification exam immediately after the in-person lab; participants must pass the exam within 7 days of their scheduled lab date.
- Participants who do not pass the exam on the first attempt will have an opportunity to remediate on the same day.

III. Renewal

- After the initial five-year certification period, a renewal application and application fee ($65.00) is required to maintain certification status every five years. Individuals must provide documentation of the following continuing education (CE) requirements (24 hours total):
  - Minimum of 8 hours from any CNS Advanced Course. Note: Practitioners who complete any CNS Advanced Course will earn the designation "CNS-Advanced."
  - Remaining 16 hours of continuing education may be completed from any course related to neurological conditions or deficits.
  - If audited, applicants must submit evidence of continuing education hours. Approved documentation may include CE transcripts, letters, or certificates from organizations, courses, seminars, workshops, etc.

CONTACT HOURS & CEUS

30 contact hours (3.0 AOTA CEUs) for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants via the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Approved Provider Program; please see the list of participating states at aota.org.

30 contact hours for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants through California Education Connection (Approval Number: CEC-1066) in the State of California and other states where pre-approval is not required. Please verify with your individual State Board for CEU/PDU eligibility.

The American Physical Therapy Association does not pre-approve continuing education courses. The Neuro Specialist Institute only seeks pre-approval from the Physical Therapy State Board for its host state. Individual participants are responsible for submitting documentation to their individual State Board for license renewal.

Important: This course involves 20 hours of Self-Study (i.e. "home study"); some State Boards limit the amount of home study hours participants may earn during their license renewal period.

AOTA COURSE APPROVAL ID#: 02708
CA PT/PTA APPROVAL#: CEC-1066
FLORIDA BOARD OF OT#: 20-1245736 (CE Broker#: 50-44998)
FLORIDA BOARD OF PT#: CE25-1239706 & CE24-1225036
TEXAS TPTA APPROVAL#: 79365TX

The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA or indicate AOTA approval of a certification or other professional recognition. Accreditation of this course does not necessarily imply the FPTA supports the views of the presenter or the sponsors.

PROGRAM OUTLINE – SELF-STUDY (20 HOURS) ONLINE

Topic	Video Time
Introduction	11 Min.
Overview of Course	
Part 1 – Neurological Foundations	1 Hr. 5 Min.
Overview of Stroke	
Overview of Brain Injuries	
Neuroplasticity	
Literature Review of Neuro Rehabilitation	
Mixed Method Approaches	
Part 2 – Evaluation, Clinical Measures, & Imaging	2 Hr. 27 Min.
Clinical Assessments	
Structural & Functional Brain Scans	
Understanding Motor Control, Synergies, and Spasticity	
Fugl-Meyer Assessment – Upper & Lower Extremities	
Modified Tardieu Scale	
Part 3 – The Physical System: Motor Control & Movement Analysis	49 Min,
Motor Relearning Strategies and Interventions	
Movement Analysis	
Task Analysis	
Forced-Use Therapy	
Part 4 – The Physical System: Facilitation of Movement	2 Hr. 45 Min.
Lit. Review of Traditional Techniques	
Facilitation of Complex Movement via Task Analysis	
Mobilization and Traction	
Therapeutic Taping	
Electrical Stimulation	
Secondary Conditions: Winging, Subluxation, & Impingement	
Part 5 – The Perceptual System	1 Hr. 38 Min.
Sensation vs. Perception	
Understanding Various Agnosias	
Neuroscience of Somatosensory Pathways	
Multi-Sensory Integration	
Vision and Visual Perception: Intervention Strategies	
Pusher's Syndrome	
How Sensory Impacts Motor	

Topic	Video Time
Part 6 – The Cognitive System	2 Hr. 58 Min.
Correlation between Cognitive & Motor Systems	
Glasgow Coma Scale	
Rancho Los Amigos Levels of Cognitive Functioning	
Attention & Memory: Neuroscience & Intervention Strategies	
Rivermead Behavioral Memory Test	
Executive Functions	
Action Observation Therapy	
Mental Practice	
Mirror Visual Feedback	
Mental Timing	
Part 7 – Language & Communication & Physical Implications	1 Hr. 23 Min.
How Language Impacts Physical Rehabilitation	
Neuroscience of Communication	
Aphasia, Apraxia, & Dysarthria	
Aphasia Interventions	
Part 8 – The Psychosocial System & Physical Implications	2 Hr. 30 Min.
How Psychosocial Conditions Impact Physical Rehabilitation	
Social Cognition & Self-Awareness	
Behavior Management	
Cognitive Control of Emotions	
Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, and Lability	
Substance Abuse and Disorders	
Part 9 – The Environmental System	2 Hr. 37 Min.
ADA & FHA Standards	
Home Assessments	
Workplace Evaluations	
Conditioning vs. Hardening vs. Transitional Work	
Part 10 – Technologies & Devices	1 Hr. 48 Min.
Common Orthotic Devices	
Custom Devices for Dual Conditions	
Electromyography (EMG)	
Virtual Reality	
The Future of Neurorehabilitation	
TOTAL TIME	20 Hr. 11 Min.

PROGRAM OUTLINE – LAB (10 HOURS) IN-PERSON

Time	Topic
7:15 - 8:00 AM	Registration
8:00 - 8:10 AM	Introduction & Lab Overview
8:10 - 9:10 AM	Facilitation of Movement
9:10 - 11:30 AM	Mobility - Gait, Stairs, Environment
11:30 - 12:30 PM	Cognition
12:30 - 1:15 PM	Lunch Break
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Therapeutic Taping
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Electrical Stimulation/EMG
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Virtual Reality
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Orthotics
5:15 – 6:15 PM	Other Technologies
6:15 – 6:30 PM	Q&A, Conclusion

NOTES

- Please note that the lab schedule is subject to change.
- Participants may be divided into small groups.
- There is a 45-minute lunch break on your own (food not provided).

SPECIAL NEEDS & ACCOMMODATIONS

If participants require special needs or accommodations, please contact The Neuro Specialist Institute at least 60 days prior to the course via email: info@neurospecialist.org.

AGREEMENTS

By registering, participants agree to the **Important Information & Disclaimers**, **Terms & Conditions**, and **Privacy Policy**, accessible online at www.neurospecialist.org/certification.

CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT POLICY

Participants will have immediate access to digital content for the SELF-STUDY component of the course; therefore, all sales are FINAL and participants are not eligible for any refund. If participants wish to postpone their LAB date, they must notify The Neuro Specialist Institute in writing at least 90 days prior to their lab. A $150 postponement fee will apply. Postponement is not guaranteed and is dependent on availability. The Neuro Specialist Institute is unable to accommodate postponement requests made after the 90-day period. Registrants who do not attend their scheduled LAB will forfeit their course fee, and are not eligible to complete the certification process.

LIABILITY WAIVER & ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Course location is subject to change due to Covid-19 or other global issues/conflicts/pandemics. The Neuro Specialist is not responsible for any attendee expenses including, but not limited to, travel and lodging. Participants must adhere to all Federal/State/County regulations; comply with safety protocols set by the venue; and sign a liability waiver.

DISCLAIMERS

The "CNS" designation indicates that a healthcare practitioner has completed advanced-level training in neurological rehabilitation through a series of workshops/seminars, and has successfully passed a certification examination. Certification indicates that a person has met the specific requirements of the certification process, but is not a guarantee of any treatment processes, results, or outcomes. The "CNS" designation does not expand a professional's scope of practice. It does not qualify a healthcare professional to offer or provide professional services without appropriate licensure or credentials.

The Neuro Specialist Institute shall not be liable for any loss, damage, injury, claim, or otherwise, whether an action in contract or tort and shall further not be liable for any lost profits, or direct, indirect, special, punitive, or consequential damages of any kind (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and expenses).

The Neuro Specialist Institute reserves the right to screen applicants prior to registration in order to determine if they meet professional, legal, and ethical requirements. Only applicants in good standing (not subject to any sanction, suspension, or disciplinary censures) and without history of any legal/ethical/academic disciplinary actions will be given consideration to take any course by The Neuro Specialist Institute.

SPEAKERS

Claire Manansala

DPT, PT, CNS, CBIS, CEEAA

Claire is a physical therapist who has worked in several acute care hospitals in Los Angeles and has experience in acute, inpatient, and outpatient therapy. She developed physical therapy programs and protocols for a variety of units, including: oncology, telemetry, orthopedics, neurology, cardiology, and transplant. Claire is the Supervising Therapist for Health Onsite and oversees post-operative rehabilitation for orthopedic clients.

Claire is an expert in vestibular rehabilitation, and works extensively with the post-craniotomy population. She is also an expert in wound care management using pulse lavage technology, and has extensive experience in myofascial release interventions. She is a Credentialed Clinical Instructor with the American Physical Therapy Association, an FMT Blades Certified Therapist, a Taichi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Instructor, and a Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults from the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy.

Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: Claire Manansala is compensated by The Neuro Specialist Institute as an instructor for the CNS Certification Course.

Non-financial: Claire Manansala is a licensed Physical Therapist in the State of California, and is employed at Kaiser Permanente.

Michael Ang

OTD, OTR/L, CNS, CBIS, HTC, PAM, SWC, CKTP, CAPS, PWR!, LSVT-BIG, AIB-VRC

Michael earned his Doctor of Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. Subsequently, he created the Outpatient Occupational Therapy Program at St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he specialized in treating neurological and upper extremity conditions. He holds several advanced practice certifications in neurological rehabilitation, and has clinical experience in acute care, intensive care, transitional care, inpatient rehab, outpatient rehab, skilled nursing, assisted living, and home health occupational therapy.

Michael is a former professor at the University of Southern California's Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy where he won the Penelope Louise Richardson Award for Teaching in 2014. Michael currently teaches at West Coast University's Occupational Therapy Program. Michael won a RAISE Award (Raising Awareness in Stroke Excellence) with the National Stroke Association in 2018, the Occupational Therapy Faculty of the Year Award in 2019, and the inaugural NBCOT Impact Award in 2021.

Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: Michael Ang is compensated by The Neuro Specialist Institute as an instructor for the CNS Certification Course, and is the Institute's Executive Director.

Non-financial: Michael Ang is a Professor of Occupational Therapy at West Coast University in Los Angeles.