



Pediatric Vestibular Rehabilitation: A Competency-Based Course

Sponsored by The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Department of Physical Therapy &
The American Physical Therapy Association

April 30-May 3, 2026

UAB School of Health Professions
1716 9th Ave South
Birmingham, AL 35243

Course Description

This intense, evidence-based, four-day course is designed for physical therapists, occupational therapists, audiologists and physicians. The course consists of lecture and laboratory sessions with additional self-study sessions. All participants will be expected to demonstrate a variety of skills to the faculty including 1) the oculomotor examination with emphasis on the identification of nystagmus and canal involvement, 2) balance, gait, gross motor development assessments, 3) appropriate treatment procedures for BPPV affecting posterior, anterior and horizontal canals for both cupulolithiasis and canalithiasis, 4) treatment procedures for unilateral and bilateral peripheral vestibular disorders, and 5) treatment procedures for central vestibular disorders including concussion. Emphasis will be on utilizing assessment results to develop an effective treatment plan. The course will include written and practical examinations.

Two certificates may be given in this course – one for attendance (37 CEUs) and one for achievement (+3 CEUs for a total of 40). It is our intent that the certificate of achievement signifies that, at the time the course was given, the student demonstrated proper performance of certain skills (based on practical exams) and understood basic information (based on the written exam) related to vestibular rehabilitation for children. The granting of the certificate of achievement in no way certifies that the student retains those skills and knowledge or applies them appropriately in the future.

Audience: This course was designed specifically for physical therapy and occupational therapy professionals. However, we welcome any medical professional who works with children with vestibular dysfunction.

Please delay arranging air travel until you have received separate, written confirmation from our staff that your placement has been confirmed and approved by our course director.

Level of Learner: Intermediate.

UAB
School of Health Professions

Course Prerequisites: The course director will provide prerequisite reading material (3 articles and a podcast). It is strongly recommended that participants have a working knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology of the vestibular system. If participants would like to review vestibular rehabilitation prior to attendance, the textbook *Vestibular Rehabilitation, 4th Edition* by Dr. Susan Herdman and Dr. Richard Clendaniel is available through multiple online bookstores and sites.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Describe** developmental anatomical components and physiology of the peripheral and central vestibular system.
2. **Explain** the physiology of normal and abnormal nystagmus.
3. **Examine** and **interpret** results of tests for vestibular deficits & related impairments.
4. **Identify** pathologies known to affect vestibular function in children
5. **Identify** impairments and rehab potential for children, based on vestibular diagnostic testing.
6. **Diagnose** conditions affecting vestibular function in pediatric clients.
7. **Describe** vestibular-related impairments in children.
8. **Discuss & demonstrate** appropriate interventions for vestibular-ocular reflex (**VOR**) and vestibulospinal (**Vsp**) impairments in children.
9. **Identify** the mechanisms underlying recovery of vestibular function.
10. **Demonstrate** basic skill in evaluation and treatment of vestibular function and related impairments

Faculty

Jennifer B. Christy, PT, PhD, FAPTA
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Bree Corbin, MSPT
Anacortes, WA

Kristen Janky, AuD, PhD, CCC-A
Boys Town National Research Hospital
Omaha, NE

Lisa Farrell, PT, PhD
Symmetry Alliance, Inc.
Weston, FL

Rose M. Rine, PT, PhD
Jacksonville, FL

UAB
School of Health Professions

Day 1: 04/30/2026		FACULTY
7:30-8:00	Check in	
8:00-8:30	Introduction and Orientation	J. Christy
8:30-9:30	Lecture 1: Anatomy, Physiology & Development of the Vestibular System	J. Christy
9:30-10:30	Lecture 2: Pathology, Etiology and Incidence of Vestibular Disorders in Children	K. Janky
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45-11:45	Lecture 3: History of Pediatric Vestibular Rehabilitation	R. Rine
11:45-1:00	Lunch Provided	
1:00-2:30	Lecture 4: Clinical Exam: history and oculomotor exam	J. Christy
2:30-4:30	Practicum 1: Clinical Exam (oculomotor)	All Faculty
4:30-4:45	Break	
4:45-6:00	Lecture 5: Clinical Exam: Gross Motor Development, Balance, and Gait Assessment	J. Christy
Day 2: 05/01/2026		FACULTY
7:00-8:00	Open Practice	
8:00-9:30	Practicum 2: Clinical Exam: Gross Motor Development, Balance, and Gait.	All Faculty
9:30-10:00	Lecture 6: Vestibular Function Testing in Children	K. Janky
10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15-12:00	Practicum 3: Vestibular Function Tests – rotary chair, vHIT & VEMP rotations	All Faculty
12:00-1:00	Lunch Provided	
1:00-2:30	Lecture 7: BPPV Evaluation and Treatment	B. Corbin
2:30-4:00	Practicum 4: BPPV Evaluation and Treatment	All Faculty
4:00-5:00	Break and Practice	
5:00-7:00	Competency testing – Oculomotor Examination – scheduled times	All Faculty
Day 3: 5/02/2026		FACULTY
7:00-8:00	Open Practice	
8:00-8:45	Lecture 8: Incorporating mindfulness into vestibular rehabilitation	L. Farrell
8:45-9:45	Lecture 9: Treatment Theory and Interventions for Gaze Stability Impairments and Motion Sensitivity	J. Christy
9:45-10:30	Lecture 10: Interventions for Balance and Gross Motor Impairments	J. Christy
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45-12:00	Practicum 5: Treatment for Gaze Stability & Balance Impairments: vestibular hypofunction focus	All Faculty
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-2:00	Lecture 11: Management of Central Vestibular Dysfunction	J. Christy
2:00-2:30	Lecture 12: Management of Pediatric Vestibular Migraine	L. Farrell

UAB
School of Health Professions

2:30-3:30	Practicum 5 (cont'd): Treatment for Gaze Stability & Balance Impairments: central vestibular focus	All Faculty
3:30-3:45	Break	
3:45-4:45	Lecture 13: Management of Children and Adolescents with Concussion	B. Corbin and L. Farrell
5:00-7:00	Competency Testing: Balance Exam & BPPV Evaluation/Treatment – scheduled times	All Faculty
Day 4: 5/03/2026		FACULTY
7:00-8:00	Open Practice	
8:00-9:00	Lecture/Discussion: Optometry and Audiology Management for Children with Vestibular Dysfunction	K. Weise K. Janky
9:00-10:00	Practicum 6: Examination and Treatment for Concussion	All Faculty
10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15-12:00	Cases and Patient Demos: application	All Faculty
12:00-1:15	Lunch Provided	
1:15-2:15	Case Discussion Round Tables	All Faculty
2:15-2:45	Q&A. Wrap Up.	All Faculty
3:00-5:00	Competency Testing: Interventions	All Faculty

Course Tuition, Fees & Policies

Register <u>on or before</u> April 1, 2026	Register <u>after</u> April 1, 2026
\$2,600	\$2,800

**Medical Physicians & OTs: MDs, please note that CMEs are not given for this course. OTs, please note that you must receive accreditation through your professional accreditation agency.*

Included in the price of tuition:

- Coffee, tea, drinks throughout the day
- Break Snacks
- Lunch each day (order the week before the course)
- Dinner is not provided. A list of restaurants close to the course location will be provided.

Course Materials

- Lecture notes will **not** be printed for participants.
- Materials required for laboratory (practicum) sessions will be printed and provided in a binder.
- The week prior to the course, you will receive electronic access to course lectures & readings through an online platform provided by UAB.

UAB
School of Health Professions

- During the course, Wi-Fi will be provided to access the week's lectures and materials. You are encouraged to bring a personal laptop or tablet to view materials.
- Participants who prefer a hard-copy of the lecture notes should print these prior to the course and bring them to the course.

Course Registration & Payment

Instructions and Policies

- **All** registration must occur using the online registration/payment portal. Paper registration will not be accepted.
- Full payment is due at time of online registration and may be made by credit card or check.
- Partial payments, "down payments," or pre-payments are not accepted.
- Cancellations **prior to April 1, 2026** will result in a full refund, less \$350.00 per person/cancellation. Refunds will be issued within 30 days of the course's end date.
- Cancellations **on or after April 1, 2026** will result in loss of full tuition.
- Cancelled or bounced checks will result in a \$250.00 charge.
- **Checks** must be received within 10 business days of your registration, or your spot within the course will be forfeited.

Travel and Accommodations

ALL REGISTRANTS ARE ADVISED TO DELAY ARRANGING AIR TRAVEL UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED A SEPARATE, EMAIL CONFIRMATION FROM JENNIFER CHRISTY THAT YOUR PLACEMENT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

Course Location and Accommodations:

- The course location is: 1716 9th Ave. South. Birmingham, AL, 35243.
- Course participants must make their own hotel arrangements. Two hotels within 0.2 mile walking distance of the course location include:
 - Hilton Birmingham Downtown at UAB: [Website Link](#)
 - Residence Inn by Marriott Birmingham Downtown at UAB: [Website Link](#)
 - There are many other hotels within walking distance of the course location. Search and find one that you like!

Flight Information:

Flights into Birmingham, AL will arrive at Birmingham Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM), which is located 5 miles from the UAB School of Health Professions (course location).

Ground Transportation:

In addition to Uber, Lyft and taxis, there are shuttles from the hotels to the School of Health Professions.