

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

American Physical Therapy Association

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Program in Physical Therapy
Northern Arizona University
PO Box 15105
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

On October 25, 2022, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist education program at Northern Arizona University.

Status: **ACCREDITATION**

Action Taken: Continue Accreditation

Effective Date: October 25, 2022

**Information Used to
Make Decisions:** Compliance Report received September 6, 2022

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to continue accreditation status is based on the program's level of compliance with the Standards and Required Elements and on the expectation that the program will, within two years of first being cited, bring itself into compliance with the following element(s) noted in the Commission's Findings: **4G** and **4K**.

That compliance must be appropriately documented in a Compliance Report which will be used by the Commission to determine compliance with the elements noted in the Findings and to monitor compliance with all the required elements.

The program is reminded that the status of accreditation has been continued based on the program described in the materials reviewed by the Commission. The institution and program are responsible for notifying CAPTE of all substantive changes in the program prior to implementation. Unexpected substantive changes are to be reported immediately after they occur. (See Part 9 of CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedure for more information about reporting changes.)

Next Activity: Compliance Report due March 1, 2023

NOTICES

REQUIRED STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

Once a program has been accredited, and for as long as it remains accredited, the program must use the statement provided in §8.20 on all educational and promotional materials, including the institution/program web site, where the program's accreditation status is disclosed.

[INSERT Name of Program] at [INSERT Name of Institution] is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call [INSERT Direct Program Phone Number] or email [INSERT Direct Program Email Address].

NOTE: If the institution offers other physical therapy programs not subject to accreditation by CAPTE (e.g., transitional DPT, post-professional degree program, residency or fellowship), the above statement must be edited to clearly indicate that the additional programs are not accredited by CAPTE. Additionally, the information available to the public regarding these programs must clearly state that they are not accredited by CAPTE.

TWO YEAR LIMITATION ON BEING OUT OF COMPLIANCE

CAPTE's recognition by the United States Department of Education requires a limitation of two years for programs to be out of compliance with a required element [34 CFR 602.20(a)(2)(iii)]. When, after review of a Compliance Report, the program remains out of compliance with any required element and sufficient progress toward compliance has not been demonstrated, CAPTE may act to place the program on probationary accreditation or withdraw accreditation. CAPTE will place the program on probationary accreditation when a program remains out of compliance for 18 months. If the program continues to be out of compliance with any required element at the end of the two year period following the initial finding that the program is out of compliance, CAPTE will withdraw accreditation unless CAPTE judges the program, for good cause, to be making significant efforts to come into compliance with the standards and required elements. CAPTE defines a good cause effort as:

- (a) a completed comprehensive assessment of the problem/issue under review,
- (b) an appropriate plan for achieving compliance within a reasonable time frame not to exceed two years,
- (c) a detailed timeline for completion of the plan,
- (d) evidence that the plan has been implemented according to the established timeline, and
- (e) evidence that the implemented plan is showing results that provide reasonable assurance the program will achieve compliance within the allotted time frame.

It is the program's responsibility to make the case that a good cause effort has been made and continues to be in effect. During the extension for good cause, probationary accreditation status will be maintained and the program's progress will be monitored. In no case, however, will an extension for good cause be longer than two years.

ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION

The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or pre-accreditation status awarded to the program. Further, the United States Department of Education (USDE) requires all recognized accrediting agencies to provide for the public correction of incorrect or misleading information an institution or program releases about accreditation or pre-accreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or pre-accreditation actions with respect to the institution or program [34 CFR 602.23(d) and 602.23(e)]. If the institution or program chooses to disclose any additional information, beyond the accreditation or pre-accreditation status that is within the scope of the USDE rule, such disclosure also must be accurate. Any public disclosure of information within the scope of the rule must include the agency's street address, email address and phone number: Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; accreditation@apta.org; (703) 684-2782 or (703) 706-3245. If the Accreditation staff finds that an institution or program has released incorrect or misleading information within the scope of the USDE rule, then, acting on behalf of CAPTE the Accreditation staff will make public correction, and reserves the right to disclose this Summary of Action in its entirety for that purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF DECISIONS BY CAPTE

Following all decisions, including decisions to place a program on warning, probation or show cause, or to deny candidacy, withdraw candidacy, withhold accreditation, or withdraw accreditation, the Accreditation staff will, within 24 hours of the official notification of the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its web site.

RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT CHANGE(S)

The institution and program are responsible for notifying CAPTE of all reportable changes in the program prior to implementation. Unexpected changes are to be reported immediately after they occur. Reportable changes, some of which may require pre-approval, are described in Part 9 of CAPTE's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* (<https://www.capteonline.org/about-capte/policies-and-procedures/accreditation-handbook/rules-of-practice-and-procedure>). **It is the program's responsibility to be familiar with these expectations and to provide notification of program changes as required.**

Commission's Findings and Reasons for Decision:

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education judged the program to be in CONDITIONAL COMPLIANCE with the following required element(s). Conditional compliance means that the program has in place a substantial portion, but not all, of the components necessary to meet all aspects of the element(s).

1. Program Director

4G The program director demonstrates the academic and professional qualifications and relevant experience in higher education requisite for providing effective leadership for the program, the program faculty, and the students. These qualifications include all of the following:

- **is a physical therapist who hold an active, unrestricted PT license in any United States jurisdiction and the state where the program is located if required by that state's jurisdiction. For CAPTE accredited programs outside the United States, the program director is licensed or regulated as a PT in accordance with their country's regulations;**
- **has an earned academic doctoral degree or previous CAPTE-granted exemption;**
- **holds the rank of associate professor, professor, clinical associate professor, or clinical professor;**
- **has a minimum of six years of full time higher education experience, with a minimum of three years of full-time experience as a core faculty member in a CAPTE accredited entry-level physical therapist education program.**

Based on notification received on October 6, 2022, the program director is not currently licensed in the State of Arizona. It is unclear to the Commission if this is a jurisdictional requirement and therefore the Commission cannot determine compliance with this element.

In the Progress Report, provide evidence that the program director meets all of the requirements for this element.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

2. Collective Academic Faculty

4K The collective core and associated faculty include an effective blend of individuals with doctoral preparation (including at least 50% of core faculty with academic doctoral degrees) and individuals with clinical specialization sufficient to meet program goals and expected program outcomes as related to program mission, institutional expectations and assigned program responsibilities.

Based on review of the Compliance Report submitted, the program provided a list of all core faculty and their highest degree and date it was conferred. They now have a total of eight core faculty, three have academic doctorate degrees. The Commission noted that 37.5% have academic doctorate degrees. The Commission also noted a plan in place to hire two more core faculty members with academic doctorate degrees in 2023. Currently, they reported 16 applications have been received.

In the Compliance Report, provide evidence that at least 50% of the collective core faculty hold an academic doctoral degree. Provide a list of the names of all core faculty and indicate their highest degree including the date it was conferred. For any new core faculty hired, provide a CV and Faculty Scholarship Form using CAPTE's most recent templates. If appropriate, provide a detailed plan with a timeline for how the program plans to come into compliance with this required element.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE: