

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

American Physical Therapy Association

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Keiser University - West Palm Beach
2085 Vista Parkway
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

On October 25, 2022, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant education program at Keiser University - West Palm Beach.

Status: PROBATIONARY ACCREDITATION

Action Taken: SHOW CAUSE

Effective Date: October 25, 2022

Information Used to Make Decisions: Compliance Report received September 1, 2022

Reason for Decision: The Commission has placed the program on Show Cause; the accreditation status of the program remains Probationary Accreditation. This decision was made in order to allow the program to: 1) submit evidence which documents compliance with the Standards and Required Elements; and 2) demonstrate why accreditation should not be withdrawn at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Commission's decision to place the program on Show Cause is based on clear evidence of continuing circumstances that jeopardize the ability of the institution to sustain an accredited program and that the institution has not been able to mitigate. The program was judged to be out of compliance with the following required element(s): **1C2**.

Show Cause shall be in effect only until the next regularly scheduled meeting of CAPTE at which time CAPTE will act on the information available to it. Show Cause shall be considered notice of impending Withdrawal of Accreditation if evidence of improvement is not submitted by the institution prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of CAPTE.

The Commission's decision is also based on the belief that the program will, within two years, bring itself into compliance with the elements noted in the Commission's Findings. 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. Failure to provide evidence of compliance in the identified areas will place the program in jeopardy of having their accreditation withdrawn.

Next Activity: Compliance Report due March 1, 2023

NOTICES

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC

It is the obligation of the institution to notify the students enrolled in the physical therapist [assistant] education program, those seeking admission and the public, that the program has been granted probationary accreditation until such time as probation is removed. A sample memorandum to students accompanies this Summary of Action. A copy of the actual memorandum sent by the program and a list of the individuals to whom it was sent must be provided to the Accreditation staff within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Summary of Action along with information about how the public is being notified.

REQUIRED STATEMENT OF PROBATIONARY STATUS

Once a program has been placed on probation, and for as long as it remains on probation, the program must use the statement provided in §8.20(a)(3) on all educational and promotional materials, including the institution/program web site, used by the program/institution.

[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>. The program's current status is probationary accreditation; for more information see <http://www.capteonline.org/WhatWeDo/RecentActions/PublicDisclosureNotices/>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call [INSERT Direct Program Phone Number] or email [INSERT Direct Program Email Address].

CONTINGENCY PLAN

The program is advised to consider development of a contingency plan for students who are accepted into the next class. If the program is unable to address the issues identified in this Summary of Action and accreditation is withdrawn, and after all due process has been exhausted, the decision has not been reversed, only those students who are enrolled in the final year of the program will be considered graduates of an accredited program. Those students must successfully complete the program in the original time frame scheduled for their graduation, i.e., the twelve-month period following the date of the action to withdraw accreditation.

NOTICE TO USDE, INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCY AND STATE HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Pursuant to USDE regulation, a copy of this Summary of Action is being sent to the [Secretary, the appropriate State licensing or authorizing agency, and the appropriate accrediting agencies](#) at the same time as it is being sent to the program.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR PROBATION

In accordance with USDE requirements, no later than sixty (60) days after the date of any decision to place or maintain a program on probation, CAPTE will publish on its web site a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the decision and the official comments, if any, that the program may make with regard to the decision. **A copy of what we intend to publish is enclosed with this summary of action.** Acknowledgement that the institution has reviewed the intended public notice must be received by the Accreditation staff no later than fifteen (15) days following receipt of the decision, along with the official comments from the program or institution in regard to the decision, if any. Notices related to programs on probation will be removed from the website when probation is no longer in effect.

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* (<http://www.capteonline.org/AccreditationHandbook/>). **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 compliance with the following previously cited required element(s): **5A**. The Commission appreciates the thorough and professional manner in which these obligations have been addressed.

The program was judged to be in NON-COMPLIANCE with the following required elements. Non-compliance means that the program has in place less than a substantial portion of the components necessary to meet all aspects of the elements.

1C The program meets required student achievement measures¹ and its mission and goals as demonstrated by actual program outcomes.

1C2 Ultimate licensure pass rates² are at least 85%, averaged over two years. If the program admits more than one cohort per year, the ultimate two-year licensure pass rate for each cohort must be at least 85%. When two years of data are not available, the one-year ultimate rate must be sufficient to allow the program to meet the expectation for an ultimate two-year licensure pass rate of at least 85%.

¹ **Graduate and student achievement measures:** The measures of outcome required by USDE (graduation rate, licensure pass rate, employment rate).

² **Licensure pass rate:** The percentage of graduates who take and successfully pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE). Rates are considered to be stabilized one year after graduation.