CAPTE 2026 Third Quarter Newsletter



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News to Know

CAPTE Department of Education Recognition

CAPTE Chair Kathryn Zalewski and Vice President of Accreditation Mary Romanello attended the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, or NACIQI, on Sept. 23. NACIQI and Department of Education staff recommended to the senior department official to accept CAPTE's compliance report and consider CAPTE in compliance with requirements of C.F.R. §602. CAPTE expects to receive the senior department official's decision by mid-December.

CAPTE Chair Kathryn Zalewski and APTA President Kyle Covington, PT, DPT, PhD, issued a joint letter and held an Oct. 13 webinar to update program directors and component leaders on how CAPTE and APTA are discussing the Department of Education's revised proposed standards. The department posted the final regulations on Oct. 30, with implementation by July 1, 2027.

CAPTE-ABPTRFE Merger

The CAPTE and ABPTRFE board of commissioners met on July 26. Meeting outcomes included a combined board structure effective Jan. 1, 2027, pending actions at the APTA Board of Directors November meeting; adding residency and fellowship candidacy/initial, reaffirmation, and request for additional information (RAI/AASC) panels, similar to the three PT and three PTA panels; and charging a task force to revise the existing CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure to include PT, PTA, residency, and fellowship. The joint group will hold four board meetings per year. Program decisions will occur during the spring and fall meetings. January residency and fellowship program reviews will occur as scheduled in 2027. Next actions involve sunsetting ABPTRFE, amending the APTA-CAPTE board policy, and training new panel and board members. Until January 2027, ABPTRFE and CAPTE continue to function as two accreditation bodies for physical therapy education.

Faculty Scholarship Form

An updated physical therapist scholarship paper and scholarship form are posted on the CAPTE Accreditation Resource Document website. The file is the Physical Therapy Scholarship Position Paper and Form – July 2026, posted at the bottom of the resource page.

CAPTE Standards Review Update

The revised 2024 Standards and Required Elements for Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Education Programs are published on the CAPTE Accreditation Handbook page. The revised standards become effective Jan. 1, 2027. Follow the revised standards. The CAPTE board will provide further instructions for those programs submitting for review in fall 2027. CAPTE recognizes the challenges of the transition period. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

The CAPTE board voted during its summer meeting to approve the Standard Review Group, or SRG, modification recommendations as presented for elements 2B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6D-PT, and 6C-PTA bullets 4 and 5, 7C3, 7D20, 7D22-PT, 7D11-PTA, and 1C2-PTA. All pertain to both PT and PTA unless indicated otherwise above.

Other Items of Interest

Annual Accreditation Report

The portal for submitting the Annual Accreditation Report opened on Oct. 1. Programs are to complete and submit their report by Dec. 1. Instructions for completing the Annual Report are available on the CAPTE Accreditation Resources page.

Programs submitting a self-study report are required to complete and submit an annual report in the same year they submit a self-study report.

2027 Invoices

Program invoices for 2027annual fees are available in the portal. To access your program invoice, log in to your main page and navigate to "My Orders." For questions, contact Fenos Judd, accreditation office manager.

Financial Fact Sheet

An ADA formatted blank 2026 Financial Fact Sheet form is available on the CAPTE Accreditation Resources page. The financial fact sheet must be completed and posted within one click of the program's main page. Programs may duplicate the fact sheet on a web page if their institution requires it.

CAPTE 2028 Program Review Calendar

Programs scheduled for program review in 2028 will receive notification of potential site visit dates in December. Program directors should log into the portal and accept the suggested dates. The program may decline the suggested dates and propose alternative dates that work for the program and institution. Mary Romanello will work with programs to finalize program review dates. For questions, contact Mary Romanello.

Calculating NPTE Pass Rate

CAPTE reminds programs that the NPTE pass rate should be calculated using raw numbers rather than the weighted average when determining the two-year ultimate pass rate.

- Submit the program's basic score report.
- Calculate the NPTE pass rate for a graduating cohort by dividing the number of graduates who passed the NPTE by the number of graduates who took the exam.
- Report the two-year average*

*NOTE: The CAPTE board voted in July to change 1C2 compliance for PTA programs to a three-year average, effective Jan. 1, 2027.

FSBPT Healthy Practice Resource

FSBPT offers a healthy practice resource to support healthcare providers' well-being. Share it with your students, faculty, and clinical instructors.

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