



**Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association**

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
Adventist University of Health Sciences
671 Winyah Drive
Orlando, FL 32803-1226

On April 29, 2015, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the decision to Deny Candidacy regarding the physical therapist education program at Adventist University of Health Sciences. On May 21, 2015, the institution requested that the decision be reconsidered and that request was granted.

A Reconsideration Hearing was held at APTA Headquarters in conjunction with CAPTE's next regularly scheduled meeting. The following decision was made subsequent to the hearing:

Action Taken: **Reverse the Previous Decision;
GRANT CANDIDATE FOR ACCREDITATION**

Effective Date: November 11, 2015

**Information Used to
Make Decisions:** Reconsideration Hearing conducted November 6, 2015
Reconsideration Support Statement received September 28, 2015
Candidacy Visit Report with Institution Response received
March 22, 2015
Application for Candidacy received December 1, 2014

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to grant Candidate for Accreditation status is based on the program's demonstration of satisfactory progress, to date, toward achieving compliance with the evaluative criteria. The Commission's decision was also based on the belief that the program will bring the areas of deficiency noted in the Summary of Action into compliance. That compliance, as well as compliance with all of the evaluative criteria, must be appropriately documented in the Self-study Report.

Candidate for Accreditation status has been granted based on the program represented in the Application for Candidacy. Specifically, the decision was made in light of the following information:

One cohort of students per year (per §7.3(b) of CAPTE's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, April 2015)

Maximum Number of Students per Cohort: 23

Curricular Model: Hybrid

Intended Matriculation Date: TBD

Therefore, it is expected that the program will be implemented to reflect the information provided in the Application for Candidacy and that no substantive changes will be made. This includes no changes in cohort

size or the number of cohorts to be admitted per year until the program is eligible to seek approval of substantive changes.

Next Activity: Self-study Report and On-site Review: TBD

Accreditation Decision: TBD (based on expected graduation date)

Notices: Within 48 hours of receipt of this Summary of Action, the program must inform CAPTE staff of the following dates for the charter class: matriculation date, graduation date, start date of the penultimate term, end date of the penultimate term, start date of the last term, and end date of the last term.

The program is also advised to heed the following notices:

NOTICES

SCOPE OF COMMISSION REVIEW

Independent of any long term plans described, or alluded to, by the program in its Application for Candidacy, the scope of the Commission's review at the time of this decision to grant candidacy was based on actual and verified resources and related considerations, and not on planned or projected program resource levels to address future program changes (e.g., expansion and other program offerings, the number of cohorts admitted annually, etc.). As agreed to when the Application for Candidacy was submitted, the program is limited to enrolling one cohort annually and to maintaining class size at the approved number noted in this Summary of Action. Candidate programs are not eligible for substantive changes requiring pre-approval as described in Part 9 of CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANDIDACY AND ACCREDITATION

Achieving Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure the program will become accredited. The Commission's decision to grant accreditation will be based on the program's ability to demonstrate compliance with the evaluative criteria. Please bear in mind that the lack of comment about a specific criterion in this Summary of Action does not imply that the program is in compliance with that criterion; it only means that satisfactory progress toward compliance has been achieved. Therefore, the step the program must make from demonstrating progress toward compliance with the specific criteria addressed in the expectations for candidacy and demonstrating compliance with all of the criteria for accreditation is a significant one and you are urged to proceed accordingly.

REQUIRED STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE PROGRAM'S STATUS

The institution/program is expected to indicate on its website, in its publications, or in correspondence related to recruitment or admissions that Candidacy status has been granted, using the statement provided in §7.22 of CAPTE's *Rules*:

Effective (insert date), (insert Name of Program/Institution) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

IMPLICATIONS OF SUMMER GRADUATION

If the program plans for the charter class to graduate in July, August or September, the program is required to include information regarding the implications of a summer graduation relative to the timing of graduation and the ability to sit for the licensure exam. The statement provided in §7.8(g) of CAPTE's *Rules* is to be used for this purpose.

ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION

The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation 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, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; 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 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 notifying the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its web site.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE provides public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices are in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education. The front page of this Summary of Action will be used for this purpose.

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 on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association**

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Atenas College
PO Box 365
Manati, PR 00674

On November 11, 2015, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at Atenas College.

Action Taken: Grant **CANDIDATE FOR ACCREDITATION**

Effective Date: November 11, 2015

Information Used to Make Decisions: Application for Candidacy received June 1, 2015
Candidacy Visit Report with Institution Response received September 11, 2015
Comments from the Program Director
Comments from the Candidacy Reviewer

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to grant Candidate for Accreditation status is based on the program's demonstration of satisfactory progress, to date, toward achieving compliance with the evaluative criteria. The Commission's decision was also based on the belief that the program will bring the areas of deficiency noted in the Summary of Action into compliance. That compliance, as well as compliance with all of the evaluative criteria, must be appropriately documented in the Self-study Report.

Candidate for Accreditation status has been granted based on the program represented in the Application for Candidacy. Specifically, the decision was made in light of the following information:

One cohort of students per year (per §7.3(b) of CAPTE's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, April 2014)

Number of students per cohort: 25

Curricular Model: Constructivist Theory

Intended Matriculation Date: January, 2016

Therefore, it is expected that the program will be implemented to reflect the information provided in the Application for Candidacy and that no substantive changes will be made. This includes no changes in cohort size or the number of cohorts to be admitted per year until the program is eligible to seek approval of substantive changes.

Next Activity: Self-study Report and On-site Visit in Fall 2017

Accreditation Decision: Spring 2018 (based on expected graduation March, 2018)

Notices: The program is advised to heed the following notices:

NOTICES

SCOPE OF COMMISSION REVIEW

Independent of any long term plans described, or alluded to, by the program in its Application for Candidacy, the scope of the Commission's review at the time of this decision to grant candidacy was based on actual and verified resources and related considerations, and not on planned or projected program resource levels to address future program changes (e.g., expansion and other program offerings, the number of cohorts admitted annually, etc.). As agreed to when the Application for Candidacy was submitted, the program is limited to enrolling one cohort annually and to maintaining class size at the approved number noted in this Summary of Action. Candidate programs are not eligible for substantive changes requiring pre-approval as described in Part 9 of CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANDIDACY AND ACCREDITATION

Achieving Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure the program will become accredited. The Commission's decision to grant accreditation will be based on the program's ability to demonstrate compliance with the evaluative criteria. Please bear in mind that the lack of comment about a specific criterion in this Summary of Action does not imply that the program is in compliance with that criterion; it only means that satisfactory progress toward compliance has been achieved. Therefore, the step the program must make from demonstrating progress toward compliance with the specific criteria addressed in the expectations for candidacy and demonstrating compliance with all of the criteria for accreditation is a significant one and you are urged to proceed accordingly.

REQUIRED STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE PROGRAM'S STATUS

The institution/program is expected to indicate on its website, in its publications, or in correspondence related to recruitment or admissions that Candidacy status has been granted, using the statement provided in §7.22 of CAPTE's *Rules*:

Effective (insert date), (insert Name of Program/Institution) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

IMPLICATIONS OF SUMMER GRADUATION

If the program plans for the charter class to graduate in July, August or September, the program is required to include information regarding the implications of a summer graduation relative to the timing of graduation and the ability to sit for the licensure exam. The statement provided in §7.8(g) of CAPTE's *Rules* is to be used for this purpose:

IMPLICATIONS OF [JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER] GRADUATION

The developing [physical therapy/physical therapist assistant] program at [Institution] is planning for a charter class graduation in [July/August/September], [year]. Initial accreditation decisions are acted upon at the next regularly scheduled Fall Meeting of the Commission following the on-site visit, which must occur during the penultimate term when the charter class is enrolled. CAPTE will not make exceptions to its Rules to accommodate graduation dates that precede regularly scheduled CAPTE meeting dates, e.g., graduation in the summer. A summer graduation does not allow the initial accreditation decision to occur prior to the graduation date. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) sets the dates for licensing exams. The first sitting for which students with [an/a] [July/August/September] graduation date would be in January. Therefore, the timing of the planned graduation date increases the likelihood of a significant financial disadvantage for students due to an approximate six-month delay in possible employment as a [physical therapist or physical therapist assistant].

ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION

The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation 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, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; 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 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 notifying the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its web site.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE provides public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices are in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education. The front page of this Summary of Action will be used for this purpose.

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 on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association**

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Holmes Community College
1060 Avent Drive
Grenada, MS 38901

On November 11, 2015, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at Holmes Community College.

Action Taken: Grant **CANDIDATE FOR ACCREDITATION**

Effective Date: November 11, 2015

Information Used to Make Decisions: Application for Candidacy received June 1, 2015
Candidacy Visit Report with Institution Response received September 9, 2015
Comments from the Program Director
Comments from the Candidacy Reviewer

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to grant Candidate for Accreditation status is based on the program's demonstration of satisfactory progress, to date, toward achieving compliance with the evaluative criteria. The Commission's decision was also based on the belief that the program will bring the areas of deficiency noted in the Summary of Action into compliance. That compliance, as well as compliance with all of the evaluative criteria, must be appropriately documented in the Self-study Report.

Candidacy for Accreditation status has been granted based on the program represented in the Application for Candidacy. Specifically, the decision was made in light of the following information:

One cohort of students per year (per §7.3(b) of CAPTE's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, April 2014)

Number of students per cohort: 15

Curricular Model: Integrated

Intended Matriculation Date: January 2016

Therefore, it is expected that the program will be implemented to reflect the information provided in the Application for Candidacy and that no substantive changes will be made. This includes no changes in cohort size or the number of cohorts to be admitted per year until the program is eligible to seek approval of substantive changes.

Next Activity: Self-study Report and On-site Visit in Spring 2017

Accreditation Decision: Fall 2017 (based on expected graduation December 2017)

Notices: The program is advised to heed the following notices:

NOTICES

SCOPE OF COMMISSION REVIEW

Independent of any long term plans described, or alluded to, by the program in its Application for Candidacy, the scope of the Commission's review at the time of this decision to grant candidacy was based on actual and verified resources and related considerations, and not on planned or projected program resource levels to address future program changes (e.g., expansion and other program offerings, the number of cohorts admitted annually, etc.). As agreed to when the Application for Candidacy was submitted, the program is limited to enrolling one cohort annually and to maintaining class size at the approved number noted in this Summary of Action. Candidate programs are not eligible for substantive changes requiring pre-approval as described in Part 9 of CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANDIDACY AND ACCREDITATION

Achieving Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure the program will become accredited. The Commission's decision to grant accreditation will be based on the program's ability to demonstrate compliance with the evaluative criteria. Please bear in mind that the lack of comment about a specific criterion in this Summary of Action does not imply that the program is in compliance with that criterion; it only means that satisfactory progress toward compliance has been achieved. Therefore, the step the program must make from demonstrating progress toward compliance with the specific criteria addressed in the expectations for candidacy and demonstrating compliance with all of the criteria for accreditation is a significant one and you are urged to proceed accordingly.

REQUIRED STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE PROGRAM'S STATUS

The institution/program is expected to indicate on its website, in its publications, or in correspondence related to recruitment or admissions that Candidacy status has been granted, using the statement provided in §7.22 of CAPTE's *Rules*:

Effective (insert date), (insert Name of Program/Institution) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

IMPLICATIONS OF SUMMER GRADUATION

If the program plans for the charter class to graduate in July, August or September, the program is required to include information regarding the implications of a summer graduation relative to the timing of graduation and the ability to sit for the licensure exam. The statement provided in §7.8(g) of CAPTE's *Rules* is to be used for this purpose:

IMPLICATIONS OF [JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER] GRADUATION

The developing [physical therapy/physical therapist assistant] program at [Institution] is planning for a charter class graduation in [July/August/September], [year]. Initial accreditation decisions are acted upon at the next regularly scheduled Fall Meeting of the Commission following the on-site visit, which must occur during the penultimate term when the charter class is enrolled. CAPTE will not make exceptions to its Rules to accommodate graduation dates that precede regularly scheduled CAPTE meeting dates, e.g., graduation in the summer. A summer graduation does not allow the initial accreditation decision to occur prior to the graduation date. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) sets the dates for licensing exams. The first sitting for which students with [an/a] [July/August/September] graduation date would be in January. Therefore, the timing of the planned graduation date increases the likelihood of a significant financial disadvantage for students due to an approximate six-month delay in possible employment as a [physical therapist or physical therapist assistant].

ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION

The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation 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, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; 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 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 notifying the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its web site.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE provides public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices are in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education. The front page of this Summary of Action will be used for this purpose.

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 on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association**

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
National University College
National University College Plaza Building
Carr. #2 km 11.2
Bayamon, PR 00961

On April 29, 2015, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the decision to Deny Candidacy regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at National University College. On August 11, 2015, the institution requested that the decision be reconsidered and that request was granted.

A Reconsideration Hearing was held at APTA Headquarters in conjunction with CAPTE's next regularly scheduled meeting. The following decision was made subsequent to the hearing:

Action Taken: **Reverse the Previous Decision;
GRANT CANDIDATE FOR ACCREDITATION**

Effective Date: November 11, 2015

Information Used to Make Decisions: Reconsideration Hearing conducted November 6, 2015
Reconsideration Support Statement received October 6, 2015
Candidacy Visit Report with Institution Response received May 22, 2015
Application for Candidacy received March 1, 2015

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to grant Candidate for Accreditation status is based on the program's demonstration of satisfactory progress, to date, toward achieving compliance with the evaluative criteria. The Commission's decision was also based on the belief that the program will bring the areas of deficiency noted in the Summary of Action into compliance. That compliance, as well as compliance with all of the evaluative criteria, must be appropriately documented in the Self-study Report.

Candidate for Accreditation status has been granted based on the program represented in the Application for Candidacy. Specifically, the decision was made in light of the following information:

One cohort of students per year (per §7.3(b) of CAPTE's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, April 2015)

Maximum Number of Students per Cohort: 20

Curricular Model: Traditional

Intended Matriculation Date: TBD

Therefore, it is expected that the program will be implemented to reflect the information provided in the Application for Candidacy and that no substantive changes will be made. This includes no changes in cohort

size or the number of cohorts to be admitted per year until the program is eligible to seek approval of substantive changes.

Next Activity: Self-study Report and On-site Review: TBD

Accreditation Decision: TBD (based on expected graduation date)

Notices: Within 48 hours of receipt of this Summary of Action, the program must inform CAPTE staff of the following dates for the charter class: matriculation date, graduation date, start date of the penultimate term, end date of the penultimate term, start date of the last term, and end date of the last term.

The program is also advised to heed the following notices, which are appended:

NOTICES

SCOPE OF COMMISSION REVIEW

Independent of any long term plans described, or alluded to, by the program in its Application for Candidacy, the scope of the Commission's review at the time of this decision to grant candidacy was based on actual and verified resources and related considerations, and not on planned or projected program resource levels to address future program changes (e.g., expansion and other program offerings, the number of cohorts admitted annually, etc.). As agreed to when the Application for Candidacy was submitted, the program is limited to enrolling one cohort annually and to maintaining class size at the approved number noted in this Summary of Action. Candidate programs are not eligible for substantive changes requiring pre-approval as described in Part 9 of CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANDIDACY AND ACCREDITATION

Achieving Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure the program will become accredited. The Commission's decision to grant accreditation will be based on the program's ability to demonstrate compliance with the evaluative criteria. Please bear in mind that the lack of comment about a specific criterion in this Summary of Action does not imply that the program is in compliance with that criterion; it only means that satisfactory progress toward compliance has been achieved. Therefore, the step the program must make from demonstrating progress toward compliance with the specific criteria addressed in the expectations for candidacy and demonstrating compliance with all of the criteria for accreditation is a significant one and you are urged to proceed accordingly.

REQUIRED STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE PROGRAM'S STATUS

The institution/program is expected to indicate on its website, in its publications, or in correspondence related to recruitment or admissions that Candidacy status has been granted, using the statement provided in §7.22 of CAPTE's *Rules*:

Effective (insert date), (insert Name of Program/Institution) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

IMPLICATIONS OF SUMMER GRADUATION

If the program plans for the charter class to graduate in July, August or September, the program is required to include information regarding the implications of a summer graduation relative to the timing of graduation and the ability to sit for the licensure exam. The statement provided in §7.8(g) of CAPTE's *Rules* is to be used for this purpose.

ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION

The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation 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, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; 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 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 notifying the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its web site.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE provides public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices are in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education. The front page of this Summary of Action will be used for this purpose.

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 on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association**

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
South University - Columbia
9 Science Court
Columbia, SC 29203

On November 11, 2015, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at South University - Columbia.

Action Taken: Grant **CANDIDATE FOR ACCREDITATION**

Effective Date: November 11, 2015

Information Used to Make Decisions: Application for Candidacy received June 1, 2015
Candidacy Visit Report with Institution Response received September 15, 2015
Comments from the Program Director
Comments from the Candidacy Reviewer

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to grant Candidate for Accreditation status is based on the program's demonstration of satisfactory progress, to date, toward achieving compliance with the evaluative criteria. The Commission's decision was also based on the belief that the program will bring the areas of deficiency noted in the Summary of Action into compliance. That compliance, as well as compliance with all of the evaluative criteria, must be appropriately documented in the Self-study Report.

Candidacy for Accreditation status has been granted based on the program represented in the Application for Candidacy. Specifically, the decision was made in light of the following information:

One cohort of students per year (per §7.3(b) of CAPTE's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, April 2014)

Number of students per cohort: 24

Intended Matriculation Date: October 2016

Therefore, it is expected that the program will be implemented to reflect the information provided in the Application for Candidacy and that no substantive changes will be made. This includes no changes in cohort size or the number of cohorts to be admitted per year until the program is eligible to seek approval of substantive changes.

Next Activity: Self-study Report and On-site Visit in Spring 2017

Accreditation Decision: Fall 2017 (based on expected graduation December 2017)

Notices: The program is advised to heed the following notices:

NOTICES

SCOPE OF COMMISSION REVIEW

Independent of any long term plans described, or alluded to, by the program in its Application for Candidacy, the scope of the Commission's review at the time of this decision to grant candidacy was based on actual and verified resources and related considerations, and not on planned or projected program resource levels to address future program changes (e.g., expansion and other program offerings, the number of cohorts admitted annually, etc.). As agreed to when the Application for Candidacy was submitted, the program is limited to enrolling one cohort annually and to maintaining class size at the approved number noted in this Summary of Action. Candidate programs are not eligible for substantive changes requiring pre-approval as described in Part 9 of CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANDIDACY AND ACCREDITATION

Achieving Candidate for Accreditation status does not assure the program will become accredited. The Commission's decision to grant accreditation will be based on the program's ability to demonstrate compliance with the evaluative criteria. Please bear in mind that the lack of comment about a specific criterion in this Summary of Action does not imply that the program is in compliance with that criterion; it only means that satisfactory progress toward compliance has been achieved. Therefore, the step the program must make from demonstrating progress toward compliance with the specific criteria addressed in the expectations for candidacy and demonstrating compliance with all of the criteria for accreditation is a significant one and you are urged to proceed accordingly.

REQUIRED STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE PROGRAM'S STATUS

The institution/program is expected to indicate on its website, in its publications, or in correspondence related to recruitment or admissions that Candidacy status has been granted, using the statement provided in §7.22 of CAPTE's *Rules*:

Effective (insert date), (insert Name of Program/Institution) has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidate for Accreditation is a pre-accreditation status of affiliation with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education that indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.

IMPLICATIONS OF SUMMER GRADUATION

If the program plans for the charter class to graduate in July, August, or September, the program is required to include information regarding the implications of a summer graduation relative to the timing of graduation and the ability to sit for the licensure exam. The statement provided in §7.8(g) of CAPTE's *Rules* is to be used for this purpose:

IMPLICATIONS OF [JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER] GRADUATION

The developing [physical therapy/physical therapist assistant] program at [Institution] is planning for a charter class graduation in [July/August/September], [year]. Initial accreditation decisions are acted upon at the next regularly scheduled Fall Meeting of the Commission following the on-site visit, which must occur during the penultimate term when the charter class is enrolled. CAPTE will not make exceptions to its Rules to accommodate graduation dates that precede regularly scheduled CAPTE meeting dates, e.g., graduation in the summer. A summer graduation does not allow the initial accreditation decision to occur prior to the graduation date. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) sets the dates for licensing exams. The first sitting for which students with [an/a] [July/August/September] graduation date would be in January. Therefore, the timing of the planned graduation date increases the likelihood of a significant financial disadvantage for students due to an approximate six-month delay in possible employment as a [physical therapist or physical therapist assistant].

ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION

The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation 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, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; 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 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 notifying the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its web site.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE provides public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices are in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education. The front page of this Summary of Action will be used for this purpose.

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.