



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

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Connors State College - Indian Capital Technology Center
2403 N 41st Street East
Muskogee, OK 74403

On July 21, 2017, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at Connors State College - Indian Capital Technology Center.

Action Taken: Grant **CANDIDATE FOR ACCREDITATION**

Effective Date: July 21, 2017

**Information Used to
Make Decisions:**

Application for Candidacy received December 2016
Candidacy Visit Report with Institution Response received May 2017
Comments from the Program Director July 2017
Comments from the Candidacy Reviewer July 2017

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 standards and required elements. 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 standards and required elements, 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 for each Cohort until eligible to seek approval of a substantive change: 16

Curricular Model: 1+1

Intended Matriculation Date: 01/2018

Therefore, it is expected that the program will be implemented as guided through this Summary of Action and that no substantive changes will be made. This includes no changes in original cohort size and that only one cohort will be admitted per year until the program is eligible to seek approval of substantive changes.



Next Activity: Progress Report due October 1, 2017

Accreditation Decision: Fall 2018 (based on expected graduation 12/2018)

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 for the original cohort. 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 standards and required elements. The lack of comment about a specific required element in this Summary of Action does not imply that the program is in compliance with that required element; 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 elements addressed in the expectations for candidacy and demonstrating compliance with all of the elements for accreditation is a significant one with programs needing to demonstrate compliance at the time of consideration for accreditation.

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(d)(vi) 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 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, 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 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.



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.**