

CAPTE 2025 First Quarter Newsletter

CAPTE

Commission on Accreditation
in Physical Therapy Education



News to Know

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News to Know

- **US Department of Education**

CAPTE continues to monitor executive orders and communications from the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education. As a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors, CAPTE joined over 30 other representatives of specialized accreditors on a virtual meeting with representatives from the Department of Education, who informed participants that no personnel in the accreditation department had been lost by the reorganization of the Department of Education. Staff indicated they could not answer many of the questions posed until more conversation with the Secretary of Education could occur. CAPTE continues to be recognized as the accrediting agency for physical therapy education by both the Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education.

CAPTE recently sent all PT and PTA program directors information on meeting CAPTE's 2024 Accreditation Standards on justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging, and anti-racism, and, inadvertently, a parenthesis was included on the link to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit. [Access the toolkit here.](#)

- **CAPTE Program Review**

Accreditation staff recently completed the scheduling of initial and reaffirmation program reviews for 2026. All programs with scheduled program review dates are reminded to log in to the CAPTE portal to edit known conflicts.

Per CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure 4.12(b), CAPTE defines conflicts as follows:

- (a) By CAPTE policy, a conflict of interest exists when conditions or circumstances preclude or interfere with an individual's capacity to make an objective decision. Conditions or circumstances that create a conflict of interest include situations in which a commissioner, document reviewer, on-site reviewer, or Accreditation staff member:
1. Has a monetary or personal interest in the outcome of the accreditation decision.
 2. Is an employee of the institution on a full-time or part-time basis.
 3. Is serving or has recently served in the capacity as clinical faculty or adjunct faculty.
 4. Is a graduate of the institution.
 5. Is an employee of an institution that is funded from the same source.
 6. Has or has had **close** personal or professional relationships with individuals at the institution.
 7. Lives or works in close geographical proximity (typically defined as within the same state and does not apply to staff).
 8. Has access to "unofficial" program information.
 9. Has acted as a paid consultant to the program under consideration within the past 10 years.

- **Annual Check of Program Websites**

Accreditation staff continue to complete annual webpage checks. CAPTE expects programs to post their financial fact sheet and program outcomes within one click of the program's main page. Staff also will confirm whether the program URL entered in the Annual Accreditation Report provides the correct link to the program's main webpage. Accreditation staff communicates with program leadership when any of the required items fail to meet the outlined requirements. A program's failure to meet the requirements can result in CAPTE assigning administrative probationary status, applying a sanction fee of \$500, or citing the program director for failing to meet accreditation requirements. CAPTE reminds programs that posted information must be accurate. This aligns with CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedures 1.3 Expectations of Program/Institutional Integrity.

- **2024 Standards and Required Elements**

As a reminder to programs, the 2024 Standards and Required Elements for Physical Therapist Education Programs and the 2024 Standards and Required Elements for Physical Therapist Assistant Education Programs become effective Jan. 1, 2026. All programs scheduled for an initial or reaffirmation program review during fall 2025 and to be reviewed by the CAPTE board at its 2026 spring meeting will be reviewed on the 2024 Standards and Required Elements.

- **APTA Supply and Demand Forecast 2022-2037**

Good news for DPT students and the profession: Workforce projections suggest strong demand for physical therapist services over the next 13 years.

APTA has released two reports related to the adequacy of the physical therapy workforce in the U.S. The first is an article published in PTJ: Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Journal that projects supply and demand for PT services from 2022 to 2037. Authors used APTA member survey data, as well as data from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, national and state population projections, the American Community Survey, and other data to project the number of PTs working and the demand for PT services in the future. The microsimulation is run under various scenarios, such as more or fewer DPT graduates entering the profession and earlier or delayed retirement for PT workers. The key takeaway: All forecasts, including the baseline and five alternative scenarios, project a physical therapist shortage for most years from 2022 to 2037. By 2037, demand for physical therapy services is expected to grow by 14.7%, outpacing the population growth rate of 8%. The APTA companion report to the PTJ article describes future research needs that will allow for more accurate estimates and forecasts, including of PTAs; provides results from the APTA 2024 Workforce Survey and the supply and demand forecasts, including alternative forecasts using varied assumptions; and lists current policy initiatives that could address PT shortages.

Educators and students may be particularly interested in learning what APTA is doing to reduce student loan debt, as well as the PTJ reports' supply and demand analysis broken down by state and geographic area. Share the reports with your colleagues and students so they can join APTA in fighting for the future of the profession.

Now available: Read a summary about the workforce forecasts in this recently published APTA news article, "PTJ: New Workforce Forecast Projects PT Shortages

Through 2037." To learn more, sign up now for an APTA Live event, "Understanding the APTA Workforce Forecast Model: Insights and Discussion with Authors," on May 1, 10:30 a.m. ET, [in person](#) (limited availability) or [online](#).

- **Mary Jane Harris Distinguished Service Award**

CAPTE will honor Neal Henning, PhD and Patricia Brown, PT, DPT, MS with the Mary Jane Harris Distinguished Service Award for their outstanding and prolonged contributions to the CAPTE accreditation process.

- **PT Fact Sheet Published**

The physical therapy program aggregate data is now accessible in the posted [2024 PT Fact Sheet](#). The PTA Fact sheet will be posted in the second quarter.

- **Voluntary Program Closures**

- Mount Wachusett Community College PTA Program: effective Aug. 31, 2025
- Lakeland Community College PTA Program: effective Aug. 15, 2025
- Unitek College PTA Program: effective Dec. 19, 2025
- Indiana Wesleyan University DPT Program: will graduate its last cohort in 2027

CAPTE Recent Activities

Accreditation staff conducted five self-study workshops and two developing program workshops since Jan. 1, 2025; there were 311 individuals participating in either the in-person or virtual workshops. The Accreditation staff will deliver additional in-person and virtual PT and PTA workshops on the 2024 Standards and Required Elements. Register for workshops through the [APTA Learning Center](#).

Dates to Remember in 2025

Meeting	Format	Dates / Times
CAPTE Panel	Virtual	April 1-11
CAPTE Board	Virtual In person	April 25-26 April 28-29
CAPTE PTA Town Hall	Virtual via Zoom	June 10, 4-5:30 p.m. ET Zoom link at end of table
CAPTE PT Town Hall	Virtual via Zoom	June 11, 4-5:30 p.m. ET

Meeting	Format	Dates / Times
		Zoom link at end of table
PT Initial/Reaffirmation Workshop	In person, Alexandria, Va.	June 17-18
CAPTE Board	In person, Alexandria, Va.	July 27-29
Current PT program reviewer training	In person, Alexandria, Va.	July 30
Current PTA program reviewer training	In person, Alexandria, Va.	July 31
PTA Initial/Reaffirmation Workshop	In person, Alexandria, Va.	Aug. 11-12
PT Developing Program Workshop	In person, Alexandria, Va.	Aug. 13-14
PTA Initial/Reaffirmation Workshop	Virtual with asynchronous modules	Sept. 17
CAPTE Panel	Virtual	Sept. 24-Oct. 8
CAPTE Board	Virtual In person	Oct. 31-Nov. 1 Nov. 3-4
CAPTE PTA Town Hall	Virtual via Zoom	Dec. 2, 4-5:30 p.m. ET
CAPTE PT Town Hall	Virtual via Zoom	Dec. 3, 4-5:30 p.m. ET

[PTA Town Hall, June 10](#)

[PT Town Hall, June 11](#)