

## Public Disclosure Notice

The following public information is provided by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) regarding the

**Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Huertas College  
Caguas, PR**

CAPTE is a specialized accrediting agency that accredits physical therapy educational programs across the United States. The information presented below is in accord with CAPTE's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to the physical therapist assistant education program at Huertas College.

On April 27, 2021, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at Huertas College:

### SHOW CAUSE – CONTINUE PROBATIONARY ACCREDITATION

**What is the program's Accreditation Status?**

Probationary Accreditation

Show Cause shall be considered notice of impending Withdrawal of Accreditation if evidence of sufficient improvement is not submitted by the institution prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of CAPTE. Probationary Accreditation is an accredited status; students who graduate from the program while it is on probation are considered to be graduates of an accredited program. Probationary accreditation indicates that there are conditions at the program that place the program's accreditation in jeopardy and provides notice to the program and the public that if the program does not address the identified conditions, accreditation will be withdrawn.

**Why is the program on probation?**

CAPTE's decision to Show Cause and Continue Probationary Accreditation is based on clear evidence of continuing circumstances that jeopardize the ability of the institution to sustain an accredited program as well as the program's inability to demonstrate compliance with the Standards and Required Elements. The program was found to be out of compliance with the following element(s): **1C2**.

**What options does the program have to respond?**

The decision to place a program on probation may not be appealed. The program has been asked to file a Compliance Report due September 1, 2021 that addresses the issues identified by the Commission. The Commission will review the Compliance Report at its October 29 – November 2, 2021 meeting. Upon review of the report, the Commission may

- remove probation if the report satisfies the Commission's concerns, or
- continue probation if the report satisfies some but not all of the Commission's concerns, or
- withdraw accreditation if the report does not satisfy the Commission's concerns and the Commission believes that the program is not making a good cause effort to do so.

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### Acknowledgement of Proposed Public Notice

I have received and reviewed the Public Notice comments. A response is attached:  Yes  No

Bitzel Hidalgo, PT  
Name DPT ATTC

[Signature]  
Signature

Program Director  
Position

May 25, 2021  
Date



## HUERTAS COLLEGE

INSTITUCIÓN LÍDER, FORJANDO LÍDERES

May 24, 2021

To whom it may concern:

### **HUERTAS COLLEGE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMENTS**

According to official Didaxis statistics in Puerto Rico, on December 2020, 177 students from PTA's programs took the Spanish Licensure exam and only 19 passed successfully for a 11% overall PR pass rate from accredited and nonaccredited high education Institutions. Huertas College can proudly say that from 19 students from PR accredited and nonaccredited high education Institutions that passed the PR licensure exam 6 are from our PTA program. Also, one 2020 graduate student who took the FSBPT licensure exam in January 2021 passed it successfully on his first attempt.

The overall PR licensure exam's statistics demonstrate that the passing rate of PTA students in Puerto Rico continues to be extremely low and that this situation should be address not only in the Academy but also in other governmental forums. To this date 4 out of 6 PTA programs received a Probatory accreditation status which means that we still are accredited. Huertas College received a Probatory Show Cause accreditation.

CAPTE commission have a very strict set of rules to guarantee that the excellency of educational experience is not in jeopardy. Huertas College PTA program educational effectiveness is continuously assessed to improve and support our student experiences in the classroom and clinical practice settings according with the institutional mission. The academic excellency of our program was recognized by CAPTE when the maximum years of accreditation was awarded in July 2018. Huertas College Program next step to resolve our probatory show cause status is to submit evidence in a CAPTE compliance

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report due on September 1, 2021. This report will include the detailed action that is in place to comply successfully with licensure pass rate and resolve our probatory accreditation status as soon as possible. In accordance to maintain our compromise in the honesty and truthfulness of Huertas College PTA program announcements and communications, we will follow up CAPTE rules and procedures to give the proper orientation to our current cohorts, graduates and prospective students.

Huertas College and PTA Faculty top priority is to continue to offer an accredited program that complies with the CAPTE, interregional and interinstitutional policies and to support our students throughout their educational experience.

Cordially,

  
Ritzel Hidalgo, PT DPT ATRIC  
Program Director  
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