

Public Disclosure Notice

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

**Polk State College
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Winter Haven, FL**

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 Polk State 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 Polk State College:

Continue Accreditation and Place the Program on Probation

What is the program's Accreditation Status?

Probationary Accreditation

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to the program and the public that if the program does not address the identified conditions, accreditation will be withdrawn.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 continue accreditation and place the program on Probation is based on the program's inability to demonstrate compliance with the Standards and Required Elements; the program has been out of compliance with one or more elements for eighteen (18) months. The program was found to be out of compliance with the following element(s): **1C2, 4A, 4D, and 8A.**

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.

Acknowledgement of Proposed Public Notice

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

Orathai Northern
Name

Orathai Northern
Signature

VP, Workforce Education & Economic Development 25 May 2021
Position Date



May 25, 2021

Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
3030 Potomac Avenue
Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22305-3085

Dear Commission:

Polk State College acknowledges the receipt of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education's (CAPTE) Summary of Action and is aware of the notification requirements and the requirement for completion of a Compliance Report.

The College takes this issue very seriously and has already begun the process of addressing the concerns cited.

For Standard 1C2, which was determined to be non-compliant, the College continues to assess student learning outcomes at the course and program level, as well as implement a rigorous test prep prior to their taking the licensure exam.

The College expects to address the determination of conditional compliance for Standards 4A, 4D, and 8A regarding the credentials and expertise of core and associated faculty members and sufficient number of core faculty by the end of July 2021. A new program director, who is a licensed Physical Therapist with over eight years of clinical experience and has served as a clinical instructor for several DPT students, will begin the first week of June 2021 and the College is in the process of reviewing clinical coordinator candidates.

The specifics will be outlined in more detail in the College's Compliance Report; however, Polk State is confident that the significant structural changes to the program that are already in process will result in compliance. Structural changes for the program include adding a second cohort comprised of full-time students toward a completion time of 18 months, and converting the admissions process to a merit-based, competitive system.

Polk County's need for skilled Physical Therapist Assistants is growing and the College is committed to preserving and improving the program in order to serve the community and provide rewarding career opportunities for our graduates.

Regards,

Orathai Northern, Ph.D.

Vice President, Workforce Education and Economic Development