



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

SUMMARY OF ACTION

Physical Therapist Assistant Program
University of Pittsburgh at Titusville
504 East Main Street
Titusville, PA 16354-0287

On November 3, 2020, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at University of Pittsburgh at Titusville.

Action Taken: **WITHDRAW ACCREDITATION**

Effective Date: December 18, 2020

Information Used to

Make Decisions: Compliance Report received August 27, 2020
FSBPT Third Quarter Report, received by CAPTE on September 29, 2020

Reason for Decision: The Commission based its decision to withdraw accreditation from the program on significant concerns about the program's compliance with the Standards and Required Elements.

The program was judged to be out of compliance with the following required elements: **1C2 and 4G.**

In sum, the program has remained out of compliance since Spring 2018 with licensure pass rate requirements (Element 1C2) such that there is reason to question the institution's ability to offer the educational experiences and outcomes to meet CAPTE standards.

The decision to withdraw accreditation is final. The program did not seek reconsideration of the decision. Students who are enrolled in the final year of the program will be considered graduates of an accredited program and, therefore, should be eligible to sit for the licensure exam, subject to individual state statutes. Those students must successfully complete the program in the original time frame scheduled for their graduation, i.e., the twelve-month period following the date of action to withdraw accreditation. However, prospective students who are admitted to the program, and students who are enrolled in the early phases of the program, will not be considered graduates of an accredited program and, therefore, will not be eligible to sit for the licensure exam.

NOTICES

NOTIFICATION OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC

It is the obligation of the institution to notify the students enrolled in the physical therapist [assistant] education program, and those seeking admission, that the Commission has acted to withdraw accreditation from the program. A sample memorandum to students accompanies this Summary of Action. A copy of the actual memorandum sent by the program and a list of the individuals to whom it was sent must be provided to the Accreditation staff within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Summary of Action.

Further, it is the institution's responsibility to revise all educational and promotional materials, including the institution/program website, to reflect CAPTE's action to withdraw accreditation and to provide information regarding the institution's plans to address the issues identified in the Summary of Action. Should the institution decide not to pursue accreditation of the program, all references to accreditation by CAPTE must be removed from such materials.

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.

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.**