

Public Disclosure Notice

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

**Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
University of South Alabama
Mobile , AL**

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 education program at University of South Alabama.

On November 2, 2021, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist education program at University of South Alabama:

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to the program and the public that if the program does not address the identified conditions, accreditation will be withdrawn.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): **4G**.

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 March 1, 2022 that addresses the issues identified by the Commission. The Commission will review the Compliance Report at its Spring 2022 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 due to Accreditation staff no later than 14 calendar days following receipt of the decision, along with the official comments from the program or institution in regard to the decision, if any.
CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure §4.5(c)(5)

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

Susan Gordon-Hickey
Name


Signature

Interim Dean
Position

12.9.2021
Date



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Response to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapist Education's decision to place the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of South Alabama into the status of **Continued Accreditation with Probation** as of November 2, 2021.

The Commission found that one required standard, 4G, was conditionally compliant.

4G specifies the credentials of the Program Director.

Following the departure of the program director, we did not have faculty who met all of the program director criteria specified by the CAPTE. We are actively searching for a new program director, including engaging with an external search firm to seek qualified candidates in a timely manner. We aim to fill the position early in 2022.