May 28, 2014

Jonna Schengel, PT, MA, Program Director
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
College of the Sequoias
915 S Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277

Dear Ms Schengel:

At its April 25-30, 2014 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) considered the materials submitted by the physical therapist assistant education program at College of the Sequoias. Enclosed please find a copy of the Summary of Action describing the results of the Commission’s review.

The Summary of Action has two parts. The first part provides general information about the action taken by the Commission, including notices to the program. The second part provides a detailed description of the Commission’s findings related to the program’s compliance with individual evaluative criteria. In the interest of public disclosure of accreditation actions, the first part of the Summary of Action may be provided to the public on request. Additionally, a list of all actions taken at the April 25-30, 2014 meeting is being posted on CAPTE’s web page: http://www.capteonline.org.

If you have any questions or need further assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Doug Clarke, Lead PTA Programs Specialist, or Mary Jane Harris, Director, Accreditation Department, at the above address.

Best wishes in your endeavors toward a high quality physical therapist assistant education program.

Sincerely,

Claire Peel, PT, PhD, FAPTA
Chair, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

cc: Stan A Carrizosa, President/Superintendent
    Jennifer V La Serna, PhD, Vice President, Academic Services
    Cindy DeLain, RN, MSN, Dean
Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association

SUMMARY OF ACTION
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
College of the Sequoias
915 S Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277

On April 30, 2014, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist assistant education program at College of the Sequoias.

Status: ACCREDITATION

Action Taken: Remove Probation and Continue Accreditation

Effective Date: April 30, 2014

Information Used to Make Decisions: Compliance Report received 2/19/2014

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to remove probation and continue accreditation status is based on the program's demonstration of general compliance with the intent of the Evaluative Criteria and on the professional manner in which the program has addressed the Commission's previous concerns.

The program is reminded that the status of accreditation has been continued based on the program described in the materials reviewed by the Commission. The institution and program are responsible for notifying CAPTE of all substantive changes in the program prior to implementation. Unexpected substantive changes are to be reported immediately after they occur. (See Part 9 of CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedure for more information about reporting changes.)

Next Activity: Self-study Report and On-site Visit in Fall 2016

Notices: The program is advised to heed the following notices which are appended:
ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION
REQUIRED STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS
PUBLIC NOTICE OF DECISIONS BY CAPTE
PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS
RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT CHANGE(S)
NOTICES

ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION
The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or preaccreditation 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 preaccreditation 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 Department of Accreditation 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 Department will make public correction, and reserves the right to disclose this Summary of Action in its entirety for that purpose.

REQUIRED STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS
Once a program has been accredited, and for as long as it remains accredited, the program must use the following statement on all educational and promotional materials, including the institution/program website, where the program’s accreditation status is disclosed:

[Name of Program] at [Name of Institution] is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: www.capteonline.org.

NOTE: If the institution offers other physical therapy programs not subject to accreditation by CAPTE (e.g., transitional DPT, postprofessional degree program, residency or fellowship), the above statement must be edited to clearly indicate that the additional programs are not accredited by CAPTE. Additionally, the information available to the public regarding these programs must clearly state that they are not accredited by CAPTE.

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 Department of Accreditation will, within 24 hours of notifying the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its website.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS
Effective November 2014, pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE will provide public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices will be in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education.

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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.
College of the Sequoias  
Summary of Action  
April 30, 2014

Commission’s Findings:

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education judged the physical therapist assistant education program to be in compliance with the intent of the following previously cited evaluative criterion: 4.1.3.

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education judged the program to be in compliance with the intent of all the Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapist Assistants. The Commission appreciates the thorough and professional manner in which these obligations have been addressed.

Consultative Comments:

1. According to updated information on the College of the Sequoias about the institution’s accreditation status: “On February 10, 2014, College of the Sequoias received its action letter from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The commission has removed COS from “show cause” status and reduced our sanction level to warning”, it goes on to state “three recommendations must be further pursued and a follow-up report issued by the college Oct. 15”. The Commission appreciates the program and institution’s transparency about the outstanding issues for the college and advises the program to notify the Commission if there are is any further change in the accreditation status for the college. (Criterion 1.1.2.)

2. After review of the Compliance Report with the institutions responses it is noted that the program has included all the components requested for compliance with this criteria. However, while the Assessment Process Documentation Grid submitted in the Compliance Report now includes measureable goals and thresholds for all of the required resource areas identified in the evidence of compliance for this criterion, the document was difficult to follow. It would be helpful for the program to consider reviewing the document and creating headers for each column to allow for ease of use and review. (Criterion 4.1.3.)