



**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**  
**John Muir 129**  
**Visalia, CA 93277**

On April 26, 2017, 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:** Reaffirm Accreditation

**Effective Date:** April 26, 2017

**Information Used to Make Decisions:** Self-study Report received August 24, 2016  
Visit Report with Institution Response received November 22, 2016

**Reason for Decision:** The Commission's decision to reaffirm accreditation status is based on the program's general compliance with the intent of the Standards and Required Elements and on the expectation that the program can and will, within the next two years, bring itself into compliance with all of the Standards and Required Elements. The program is asked to provide additional information, in the form of a Compliance Report, regarding the following:

Practical Exam Grading Rubric

**Graduate Performance:** The Commission notes the following:

- 1) The program is meeting its mission as evidenced by high grad/pass rate.
- 2) The performance of the program graduates, as reported by the program in the 2016 Annual Accreditation Reports unless otherwise noted. (Data is included only from those years for which there is complete national data.)

Student Achievement	Program graduates
Graduation Rate for students graduating in 2013, 2014	97.6%
Licensure Examination Pass Rate- ultimate Pass rate for students graduating in 2014, 2015*	92.68%
Employment Rate for students graduating in 2014, 2015	95%

\*Reported by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy; data current as of March 31, 2017

**Next Activity:** Compliance Report due August 15, 2017

## NOTICES

### REQUIRED STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

Once a program has been accredited, and for as long as it remains accredited, the program must use the statement provided in §8.20 on all educational and promotional materials, including the institution/program web site, where the program's accreditation status is disclosed.

[INSERT Name of Program] at [INSERT 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](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

NOTE: If the institution offers other physical therapy programs not subject to accreditation by CAPTE (e.g., transitional DPT, post-professional 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.

### TWO YEAR LIMITATION ON BEING OUT OF COMPLIANCE

CAPTE's recognition by the United States Department of Education requires a limitation of two years for programs to be out of compliance with a required element [34 CFR 602.20(a)(2)(iii)]. When, after review of a Compliance Report, the program remains out of compliance with any required element and sufficient progress toward compliance has not been demonstrated, CAPTE may act to place the program on probationary accreditation. CAPTE will place the program on probationary accreditation when a program remains out of compliance for 18 months. If the program continues to be out of compliance with any required element at the end of the two year period following the initial finding that the program is out of compliance, CAPTE will withdraw accreditation unless CAPTE judges the program to be making a good faith effort to come into compliance with the standards and required elements. CAPTE defines a "good faith effort" as:

- (a) a completed comprehensive assessment of the problem/issue under review,
- (b) an appropriate plan for achieving compliance within a reasonable time frame not to exceed two years,
- (c) a detailed timeline for completion of the plan,
- (d) evidence that the plan has been implemented according to the established timeline, and
- (e) evidence that the implemented plan is showing results that provide reasonable assurance the program will achieve compliance within the allotted time frame.

It is the program's responsibility to make the case that a good faith effort has been made and continues to be in effect. During the extension for good faith, probationary accreditation status will be maintained and the program's progress will be monitored. In no case, however, will an extension for good faith be longer than two years.

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE provides public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices are in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education. The front page of this Summary of Action will be used for this purpose.

#### **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](mailto: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.**

**Commission's Findings:**

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education judged the program to be in compliance with the intent of all the Standards and Required Elements for Accreditation of Physical Therapist Assistant Education Program except those noted below.

**The program was judged to be in CONDITIONAL COMPLIANCE with the following required element. Conditional compliance means that the program has in place a substantial portion, but not all, of the elements necessary to meet all aspects of the required element.**

1. **6E The curriculum plan includes course syllabi that are comprehensive and inclusive of all CAPTE expectations.**

The Commission acknowledges that the program has provided evidence of a Practical Exam Grading Rubric that is based on a point system and identifies critical safety elements (red flag criteria), in order to ensure consistency in grading practical exams. However after reviewing the rubric, the Commission was unable to locate statements indicating the minimal score needed to pass the practical exam or the ramification of not meeting minimal expectations of a red flag criterion.

In the Compliance Report, provide evidence of instructions that would accompany practical exam rubrics highlighting explanations of the critical safety elements and what determines a passing score.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

**Consultative Comment:**

After reviewing the college website for availability of A & P classes the Commission confirmed the team's concern regarding the 2 semester to 2 year wait list for students. The Commission encourages the institution to address this delay as the PTA Program is likely losing qualified applicants due to the delay in entering the program from lack of A & P completion (Element 6B).