



Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association
SUMMARY OF ACTION

Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
 Bellarmine University
 2001 Newburg Road
 Louisville, KY 40205-1863

On November 12, 2014, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist education program at Bellarmine University.

Status: ACCREDITATION

Action Taken: Reaffirm Accreditation

Effective Date: November 12, 2014

Information Used to

Make Decisions: Self-study Report received 5/23/2014
 Visit Report with Institution Response received 8/29/2014
 Comments from the Program Director
 Comments from the Team Leader

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to reaffirm accreditation status is based on the program's compliance with the intent of all of the Evaluative Criteria.

Graduate Performance: The Commission notes the following:

- 1) The program is meeting its mission as evidenced by data that confirm graduates are well prepared for clinical practice and reflect the values and mission of the University and program.
- 2) The performance of the program graduates, as reported by the program in the 2011-2013 Annual Accreditation Reports unless otherwise noted. (Data is included only from those years for which there is complete national data.)

Student Achievement	Program Graduates	National Data		
		Mean	Range	Standard Deviation
Graduation Rate for students graduating in 2009, 2010, 2011	95.07%	91.64	69.9 - 100	6.15
Licensure Examination Pass Rate-ultimate Pass rate for students graduating in 2011, 2012, 2013*	97.12%	97.72	72.88 - 100	5.64
Employment Rate for students graduating in 2010, 2011, 2012	100%	99	85 - 100	1.79

*Reported by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy; data current as of September 30, 2014

Next Activity: Self-study Report and On-site Review in Spring 2024

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 web site, 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 .
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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.

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 web site.

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.

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 Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists. The Commission appreciates the thorough and professional manner in which these obligations have been addressed.

Consultative Comments:

1. The Self-study Report provided a completed Assessment Report for 2012-2013, which is an institution requirement that addresses how well the program is meeting its mission in light of the stated goals for the program, the faculty and students/graduates and uses data from multiple sources. Based on this report, there is clear evidence that the program is meeting its mission. However, the response did not address ongoing formal assessment of other components of criterion P-4; specifically, program policies and procedures; individual core faculty; collective core faculty; clinical education faculty; associated faculty; communication; resources, admissions criteria and prerequisites; curriculum plan; and clinical education program. Since the assessment of these areas are addressed in other criteria, the Commission is confident that the assessment process is comprehensive. However, the Commission recommends that the program develop a written, comprehensive plan that addresses all components of criterion P-4. This comprehensive plan would be particularly important in terms of potential turnover of faculty and especially for the three new faculty when they are hired so that they will have an easily accessible overall view of the total process. (Criterion P-4)
2. The Self-study Report response to criterion CP-3 referenced some of the same data sources used for the Assessment Report (P-4). Survey information was provided from a 2007 and a 2012 survey of employers and a 2007 and 2013 survey of alumni. The CP-3 response, with clarification from the program director via telephone, shows that alumni are surveyed at one, two and three years using the same survey. The survey results did not include response rate totals and did not appear to identify year of graduation, which would make assessment of recent curriculum changes difficult to tease out. The employer survey is done every five years and also does not appear to be specific to any particular graduation years of employees as the only related question appears to be how many Bellarmine graduates the employer employs. The Commission did not have access to the sampling process and this information could have also been addressed in a cover letter to employers. Based on stated program goals and expected outcomes, it would appear that the program might gain additional insights specific to outcomes related to active involvement in the profession, participation in community service, and continued learning using survey items for 2nd and 3rd year graduates that are different from 1st year graduates. While, for the most part, all survey responses were very positive, the survey instruments do not appear to be sensitive enough to clarify issues should they show up in the results. As an example, without knowing what year(s) graduate the employer is assessing, should the survey result in negative responses, the program would have difficulty trying to make an accurate diagnosis. The program is encouraged to revisit their survey instruments and process to ensure that responses can be appropriately sorted. Revising surveys would be especially appropriate in light of the graduation of the first DPT class. (Criterion CP-3)

Commendation:

The Commission commends the program for the quality of its Self-study Report. The program submitted a well-written, thorough, concise and comprehensive Self-study Report, which clearly conveyed the nature and scope of the educational experience.