On April 25, 2023, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant education program at Florida Gateway College.

**Action Taken:** WITHDRAW ACCREDITATION

**Effective Date:** April 25, 2023 + 45 days (forty-five (45) days after the decision or thirty (30) days after the institution’s receipt of official notification of the accreditation decision, whichever is later

**Information Used to Make Decisions:**
- Compliance Report
- FSBPT scores received March 1, 2023

**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.

In sum, the program has been determined to have significant area(s) out of compliance such that there is reason to question the institution’s ability to offer the educational experiences and outcomes to meet the CAPTE standards.

Withdrawal of accreditation is an adverse decision and is eligible for reconsideration by CAPTE. 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 statues. 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, unless the program seeks reconsideration and the decision to withdraw accreditation is reversed.
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.

RECONSIDERATION/APPEAL/REAPPLICATION

The institution has the option of requesting reconsideration of the Commission’s action to withdraw accreditation. The Rules of Procedure for Reconsideration of Adverse Accreditation Status Decisions can be found in the Accreditation Handbook on the CAPTE webpage: http://www.capteonline.org. A copy of the relevant Rules is enclosed for your convenience.

Written notice of the institution’s request for reconsideration must be received by the Accreditation staff within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of this decision. Please note that should reconsideration be unsuccessful; the program will have the option of appeal as outlined in Part 14 of CAPTE’s Rules.

Alternatively, the institution and program may choose to reapply for accreditation at any time that the institution judges that corrections have been made in the deficiencies that led to the withdrawal of accreditation. Reapplication requires payment of the pre-accreditation fees current at the time of reapplication, submission of a new Application for Candidacy that meets the established deadlines, and a new candidacy visit.

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, 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; 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* (https://www.capteonline.org/globalassets/capte-docs/capte-rules-practice-procedure.pdf). It is the program’s responsibility to be familiar with these expectations and to provide notification of program changes as required.
Commission’s Findings and Reasons for Decision:

The program was judged to be in NON-COMPLIANCE with the following required elements. Non-compliance means that the program has in place less than a substantial portion of the components necessary to meet all aspects of the elements.

1.) 1C The program meets required student achievement measures and its mission and goals as demonstrated by actual program outcomes.

1C2 Ultimate licensure pass rates are at least 85%, averaged over two years. If the program admits more than one cohort per year, the ultimate two-year licensure pass rate for each cohort must be at least 85%. When two years of data are not available, the one-year ultimate rate must be sufficient to allow the program to meet the expectation for an ultimate two-year licensure pass rate of at least 85%.

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

Program Director

2.) 4G The program director is a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who demonstrates an understanding of education and contemporary clinical practice appropriate for leadership in physical therapist assistant education. These qualifications include all of the following:

- is a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who holds an active, unrestricted PT license or PTA license/certification in any United States jurisdiction and the state where the program is located if required by that state’s jurisdiction;
- a minimum of a master’s degree;
- a minimum of five years (or equivalent), full-time, post licensure experience that includes a minimum of three years (or equivalent) of full-time clinical experience within any US jurisdiction;
- didactic and/or clinical teaching experience;
- experience in administration/management;
- experience in educational theory and methodology, instructional design, student evaluation and outcome assessment, including the equivalent of nine credits of coursework in educational foundations, or previous CAPTE granted exemption.

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1 Program director: The individual employed full-time by the institution, as a member of the core faculty, to serve as the physical therapist assistant education program’s academic administrator: Chair, Director, Coordinator, etc.