On April 25, 2023, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant education program at Hazard Community & Technical College and Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College.

**Status:** ACCREDITATION

**Action Taken:** WITHHOLD APPROVAL OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

**Effective Date:** April 25, 2023

**Information Used to Make Decisions:** Application for Approval of Substantive Change (AASC)

**Reason for Decision:** The Commission based its decision to withhold approval of the Application for Approval of Substantive Change due to significant concerns about the program's ability to comply with the following Standards and Required Elements: 3A, 3B, 3C-3H, 4A, 4D, and 5B.

**Next Activity:** Resubmission of the AASC at the Institution’s Discretion

Self-study Report and On-site Review in Spring 2029
NOTICES

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 Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education has significant concerns about the following Standards and Required Element areas:

- Application is incomplete in a number of areas and/or provides conflicting information. Examples are: 2D (long-term plan); 3A/3B – no approvals from state or accreditor or statement that approval is not needed; 3C-3H (faculty workload); 4A/4D – no faculty available or assigned for all courses in the first year; 5B – information provided to students is not addressed; 8D5 – technology needs)
- Only one core faculty member and one associated faculty member are in place for the proposed two sites at Whitesburg and Middlesboro. Based on the narrative, no program director or clinical education coordinator are yet in place. The program asserts other positions are to be hired, but none are yet in place and no specific timeline was provided for filling positions. Commission is unable to determine from information submitted that faculty who are yet to be hired will have the appropriate experience for assigned content or that appropriate leadership will be available for the program. There is no explanation as to how the number of faculty needed was determined. Based on the narrative, there is no full-time core faculty member currently hired for the Middlesboro site.
- A number of required appendices were missing or incomplete and the Commission was unable to determine preparedness or adequacy (e.g., required policies, CVs for all core faculty (not yet hired); copies of materials provided to prospective and enrolled students; copies of policies and procedures related to the rights, responsibilities, safety, privacy, and dignity of program students; copies of policies and procedures related to retention and progression through the program; samples of learning experiences in the first year/written exam/practical exam and rubric/written assignment and rubric; policies related to distance education)
- There was little/no evidence that impact on the clinical education program has been fully determined, that analysis of need for additional clinical sites has been completed or that available sites will be sufficient. One list in the appendices (PTA MOA Listing) listed 18 agencies, while the MOA annual review list showed 35.
- One program objective (1C, p. 8) is to incorporate distance learning, but this concept is not developed, documented, or explained further in the proposal, and none of the other information relative to distance education was provided.
- The proposed budget requires further explanation. The consortium currently supports two cohorts of 12 each, and the proposed structure would support two cohorts of 12 each. However, the proposed budget is approximately 58% of the current budget to support the same number of students. The only income source listed is student tuition and fees, which account for only 45% of the program’s cost for 2023-2024 and 77% of program costs for 2024-2025.
- No evidence that additional required equipment is either in place or on order.