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

Status: ACCREDITATION
Action Taken: Grant Accreditation
Effective Date: April 25, 2023
Information Used to Make Decisions:
- Self-study Report
- Visit Report with Institution Response
- Comments from the Program Director
- Comments from the Team Leader
- Additional Materials regarding clinical education information for the charter class

Reason for Decision: The Commission based its decision to grant accreditation status [for a period of five years] on the program's general compliance with the Standards and Required Elements.

The program is accredited during this period to implement the program described in the Self-study Report, especially as it relates to enrollment and resource levels consistent with the admission of one cohort of students annually unless and until the program seeks approval of substantive change(s).

Graduate Performance: Because the program has not yet graduated its first class, the Commission is unable to comment at this time on student achievement. The program is requested to provide additional information regarding the following elements noted in the Commission Findings: 1C1, 1C2, 1C3, 1C4, 1C5, 1C6.

Next Activity: Request for Additional Information due March 1, 2024
NOTICES

SCOPE OF COMMISSION REVIEW
Independent of any long-term plans described, or alluded to, by the program in its Self-study Report, the scope of the Commission’s review at the time of this decision to grant initial Accreditation was based on actual and verified resources and related considerations, and not on planned or projected program resource levels to address future program changes (e.g., expansion and other program offerings, the number of cohorts admitted annually, etc.). The program is limited to enrolling one cohort annually and to limiting enrollment growth to 10% or less of CAPTE set class size. Enrollment growth beyond these limits is a substantive change that requires pre-approval by CAPTE. (See Part 9 of the CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.)

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), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org; website: http://www.capteonline.org. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call [INSERT Direct Program Phone Number] or email [INSERT Direct Program Email Address].

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.

REQUIRED USE OF “ACCREDITED BY CAPTE” LOGO
Accredited programs are required to include the “Accredited by CAPTE” logo supplied by the Accreditation staff on the program home page or where the program’s accreditation information can be found to indicate that CAPTE has accredited the program. If the logo is not on the program’s home page, there needs to be easy access to the logo from the program’s home page. Programs are expected to contact the Accreditation staff to obtain instructions for adding the logo to the webpage. The logo may also be used on other institutional web pages where the program’s accreditation status is described. The supplied logo will be protected from use by anyone other than approved users. It may NOT be used, however, on any webpage where its use could imply that CAPTE accredits programs that are not subject to CAPTE accreditation (e.g., post-professional degree programs, residency or fellowships) unless there is clear language that indicates those programs 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 or withdraw 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, for good cause, to be making significant efforts to come into compliance with the standards and required elements. CAPTE defines a good cause 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 cause effort has been made and continues to be in effect. During the extension for good cause, probationary accreditation status will be maintained, and the program’s progress will be monitored. In no case, however, will an extension for good cause 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, 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; (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 judged the program to be in compliance with all of the Standards and Required Elements for Accreditation. The Commission appreciates the thorough and professional manner in which these obligations have been addressed.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Due March 1, 2024
Since the program has not yet graduated its first cohort, the Commission is unable to determine compliance with the following required element(s) and therefore requests additional information.

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

1.) 1C1 Graduation rates are at least 60%, averaged over two years. If the program admits more than one cohort per year, the two-year graduation rate for each cohort must be at least 80%. When two years of data are not available, the one-year graduation rate must be sufficient to allow the program to meet the expectation for a two-year graduation rate of at least 80%.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

2.) 1C2 Ultimate licensure pass rates are at least 85%, averaged over two years. 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%.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

3.) 1C3 Employment rates are at least 90%, averaged over two years. If the program admits more than one cohort per year, the two-year employment rate for each cohort must be at least 90%. When two years of data are not available, the one-year employment rate must be sufficient to allow the program to meet the expectation for a two-year employment rate of at least 90%.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

4.) 1C4 Students demonstrate entry-level clinical performance during clinical education experiences prior to graduation.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

---

1 Graduate and student achievement measures: The measures of outcome required by USDE (graduation rate, licensure pass rate, employment rate).

2 Graduation Rate: The percentage of students who are matriculated in the first technical course in the program after the add/drop period and who complete the program.

3 Licensure pass rate: The percentage of graduates who take and successfully pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE). Rates are considered to be stabilized one year after graduation.

4 Employment rate: The percentage of graduates who sought employment that were employed (full-time or part-time) as a physical therapist assistant within 1 year following graduation.
5.) **1C5** The program graduates meet the expected outcomes as defined by the program.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

6.) **1C6** The program meets expected outcomes related to its mission and goals.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE: