Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association

SUMMARY OF ACTION
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
North Iowa Area Community College
500 College Drive
Mason City, IA 50401-7213

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

Status: ACCREDITATION

Action Taken: Reaffirm 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

Reason for Decision: The Commission's decision to reaffirm accreditation status [for a period of ten years] 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 the following elements noted in the Commission's Findings: 1C4, 7D13, 7D22, 7D23b, 7D23c, 7D24c, 7D24d, 7D24e, 7D24g, 7D24i.

That compliance must be appropriately documented in a Compliance Report which will be used by the Commission to determine compliance with the elements noted in the Findings and to monitor compliance with all the required elements.

Next Activity: Compliance Report due September 1, 2023
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), 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.

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; 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 judged the program to be in compliance with all of the Standards and Required Elements for Accreditation except those noted below.

The program was 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.

1C The program meets required student achievement measures¹ and its mission and goals as demonstrated by actual program outcomes.

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

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

7D Courses within the curriculum include content designed to prepare program students to:

2.) 7D13 Participate in professional and community organizations that provide opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy and leadership.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

3.) 7D22 Contribute to the discontinuation of episode of care planning and follow-up processes as directed by the supervising physical therapist.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

4.) 7D23b Demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist. Interventions include:
Application of Devices and Equipment: assistive / adaptive devices and prosthetic and orthotic devices

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

5.) 7D23c Demonstrate competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist. Interventions include:
Biophysical Agents: biofeedback, electrotherapeutic agents, compression therapies, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, superficial and deep thermal agents, traction and light therapies

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

6.)  7D24c  Demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests and measures (before, during and after interventions) for the following areas: Mental Functions: detect changes in a patient’s state of arousal, mentation and cognition

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

7.)  7D24d  Demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests and measures (before, during and after interventions) for the following areas: Assistive Technology: identify the individual’s and caregiver’s ability to care for the device; recognize changes in skin condition and safety factors while using devices and equipment

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

8.)  7D24e  Demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests and measures (before, during and after interventions) for the following areas: Gait, Locomotion, and Balance: determine the safety, status, and progression of patients while engaged in gait, locomotion, balance, wheelchair management and mobility

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

9.)  7D24g  Demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests and measures (before, during and after interventions) for the following areas: Joint Integrity and Mobility: detect normal and abnormal joint movement

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

10.)  7D24i  Demonstrate competence in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care by administering appropriate tests and measures (before, during and after interventions) for the following areas: Neuromotor Development: detect gross motor milestones, fine motor milestones, and righting and equilibrium reactions

INSTITUTION RESPONSE: