On April 25, 2023, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant education program at South University - Columbia.

**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: 2B3, 2D, 4H, 8A.

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 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.) 8A The collective core faculty is sufficient in number to allow each individual core faculty member to meet teaching and service expectations and to achieve the expected program outcomes through student advising and mentorship, admissions activities, educational administration, curriculum development, instructional design, coordination of the activities of the associated faculty, coordination of the clinical education program, governance, clinical practice, and evaluation of expected student outcomes and other program outcomes. Minimally, the program employs at least two, preferably three, full-time core faculty members dedicated to the PTA program. One of the full-time core faculty members must be a physical therapist who holds a license to practice in the jurisdiction where the program operates.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

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.

2.) 2B3 The collective core, associated and clinical education faculty meet program and curricular needs.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

3.) 2D The faculty is engaged in formal short- and long-term planning for the program which guides its future development. The planning process considers program assessment results, changes in higher education, the healthcare environment, and the nature of contemporary physical therapy practice.

4.) INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

4H The program director provides effective leadership for the program including, but not limited to, responsibility for communication, program assessment and planning, fiscal management, and faculty evaluation.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE: