On April 25, 2023, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapy education program at Samford University.

**Status:** ACCREDITATION  
**Action Taken:** Continue Accreditation  
**Effective Date:** April 25, 2023  
**Information Used to Make Decisions:** Compliance Report  

**Reason for Decision:** The Commission's decision to continue accreditation status is based on the program's level of compliance with the Standards and Required Elements and on the expectation that the program will, within two years of first being cited, bring itself into compliance with the following element(s) noted in the Commission's Findings: **4K**.

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.

The program is reminded that the status of accreditation has been continued based on the program described in the materials reviewed by the Commission. The institution and program are responsible for notifying CAPTE of all substantive changes in the program prior to implementation. Unexpected substantive changes are to be reported immediately after they occur. (See Part 9 of CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedure for more information about reporting changes.)

**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 and 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.
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 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.

1. Collective Academic Faculty
   4K The collective core and associated faculty include an effective blend of individuals with doctoral preparation (including at least 50% of core faculty with academic doctoral degrees) and individuals with clinical specialization sufficient to meet program goals and expected program outcomes as related to program mission, institutional expectations and assigned program responsibilities.

INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education is unable to determine compliance with the following required element(s) and therefore requests additional information:

1. 4A Each core faculty member, including the program director and clinical education coordinator, has doctoral preparation, contemporary expertise in assigned teaching areas, and demonstrated effectiveness in teaching and student evaluation. In addition, core faculty who are PTs and who are teaching clinical PT content hold an active, unrestricted PT license in any United States jurisdiction and the state where the program is located if required by that state’s jurisdiction. For CAPTE accredited programs outside the United States, core faculty who are PTs and who are teaching clinical PT content are licensed or regulated in accordance with their country's regulations. (PROVISO: CAPTE began enforcing the requirement for doctoral preparation of all core faculty effective January 1, 2020, except for individuals who are enrolled in an academic doctoral degree program on that date, in which case the effective date will be extended to December 31, 2025; this will be monitored in the Annual Accreditation Report.)

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1 Core faculty: Those individuals appointed to and employed primarily in the program, including the program director, the director of clinical education (DCE) and other faculty who report to the program director. If not appointed to and employed primarily in the DPT Program, the majority of the individual's work at the institution must involve the DPT Program. The core faculty have the responsibility and authority to establish academic regulations and to design, implement, and evaluate the curriculum. The core faculty may hold tenured, tenure track, or non-tenure track positions. Members of the core faculty typically have full-time appointments, although some part-time faculty members may be included among the core faculty.

2 Doctoral preparation: Earned doctorate, including the DPT.

3 Contemporary expertise: Expertise beyond that obtained in an entry-level physical therapy program that represents knowledge and skills reflective of current practice. Longevity in teaching or previous experience teaching a particular course or content area does not by itself necessarily constitute expertise.

4 Academic doctoral degree: A PhD or other doctoral degree that requires advanced work beyond the master's level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial scholarly achievement. Definition adapted from IPED definition found at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/?charindex=D; last accessed 1/12/15.
INSTITUTION RESPONSE:

CONSULTATIVE COMMENT

1. **Important Advisory Notice:**
   If CAPTE determines that the program remains out of compliance after review of the next Compliance Report, the program will have been out of compliance for 18 months with a specific element. The Commission reminds the program of the two-year limit to come into compliance and advises the program to review the expected timelines outlined in the *Accreditation Handbook*, Sub-Part 8F, 8.26 (b) (2) and in the Notice entitled *Two Year Limitation On Being Out Of Compliance* included in this Summary of Action. **As stated in this Notice, CAPTE will place a program on probationary accreditation when a program remains out of compliance for 18 months.** This relates to the element(s) cited as being out of compliance in this Summary of Action: **4K.**