Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
American Physical Therapy Association

SUMMARY OF ACTION
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
William Carey University
710 William Carey Parkway
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

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

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 concerns about the program’s ability to comply with the following Standards and Required Elements: 1C, 3A, 3B, 4D, 8A, 8B, and 8C.

Next Activity: Resubmission of the AASC at the Institution’s Discretion
Self-study Report and On-site Review in Fall 2024
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 program’s ability to comply with the following Standards and Required Elements: 1C2, 3A, 3B, 4D, 8A, 8B, and 8C.

- Minimal needs assessment conducted, with no sources cited.
- Unclear whether program plans to track outcomes for bridge vs. on-campus programs other than licensure pass rates. (1C2)
- Program did not provide evidence that state authorization and institutional accreditor authorization are not required. (3A, 3B)
- One associated faculty, Dr. Brook, has a DPT degree but no evidence was provided of qualifications to teach assigned content in gross anatomy and exercise physiology. (4D)
- Program plan was to offer the bridge program using core faculty teaching overloads as well as associated faculty and only one new core faculty member (DCE) was proposed for the bridge cohort. This plan does not appear to be sustainable. (8A)
- Program did not describe how courses for the bridge cohort would be covered in year 2 and 3 without hiring new core faculty. Program provided no explanation about the number of faculty needed for each year of the curriculum through full implementation. (8A)
- Program is supported by 1.5 admin staff and no plan to hire more. Program stated that this was sufficient for a combined student body of 50 students. However, the student body at full implementation of the AASC would be 90 on-campus students plus 75 bridge students for a total of 165 students. (8B)
- Budget form indicates 185 students at full implementation; however, current class size is 30, and planned new cohort would be 25; 90 + 75 = 165. Income projections are based on 185 students. (8C)
- Additionally, the submitted budget form showed the identical core faculty and an FTE of 13.3 for the next 4 years indicating no new faculty. (8C)