

Commission On Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education



BOD Y12-21-02-02 [Amended BOD Y06-21-02-04; BOD Y08-15-02-04; BOD Y06-14-03-04; BOD G12-11-06-03; BOD G12-11-06-02; BOD G07-10-02-04; BOD G07-09-12-10; BOD 09-06-02-03; BOD 03-06-27-69; BOD 03-05-21-59; BOD 09-04-02-03; BOD 08-02-02-04; BOD 02-02-26-43; BOD 03-01-25-84; BOD 11-98-26-94; BOD 03-96-34-100] [Policy]

Purpose: Pursuant to Association policy Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education Programs, the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education is the one agency for accreditation of professional physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs.

Commissioners and Terms:

CAPTE shall consist of an adequate number of commissioners and in accordance with U.S. Department of Education and Council for Higher Education Accreditation regulations, who shall serve terms as outlined in CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedures, plus ad hoc commissioners as needed to oversee the accreditation of physical therapy education programs. The commissioners, with the exception of ad hoc commissioners are elected by CAPTE. Ad hoc members commissioners are appointed by the Chair of CAPTE.

Commissioner Qualifications:

Elected and ad hoc commissioners, except for the public members serving as commissioners and the consumer member serving as a commissioner, must have made a minimum of three on-site visits in addition to having appropriate expertise. The public members and the consumer member elected to CAPTE shall attend a site visit or self-study workshop as an observer within six months of election as a commissioner.

Responsibilities:

1. Provide quality assurance as a support to consumer protection to ensure accredited education programs adequately prepare students to function successfully as physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.
2. Manage the preaccreditation and accreditation processes as identified in CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedures, including periodic review to identify areas for improvement and implement appropriate changes
3. Establish and maintain CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedures.
4. Communicate with internal and external communities of interest (e.g., APTA, CHEA, USDE, accrediting bodies, institutions/programs, the public), as appropriate, to inform them about the evaluative criteria, accreditation processes, and CAPTE decisions, and complaints about a program or agency.
5. Communication related to public policy positions, legislative and regulatory matters shall be processed in accordance with APTA processes.
6. Maintain recognition by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
7. Provide training for commissioners and of on-site reviewers.

Roles:

The American Physical Therapy Association is the parent organization for CAPTE and provides the legal/corporate and administrative infrastructure (i.e., budgetary accounting, facilities, insurance, personnel), within which the commission functions. The association does not instruct CAPTE or interfere with its judgment with respect to granting, denying, withdrawing or conditioning accreditation of any program. For legal and liability reasons, the commissioners and the management of APTA employees shall be separate; however, the chair of the commission shall be consulted at least semi-annually on performance of the director and issues of resource sufficiency to support CAPTE functions. APTA Board of Directors reviews and approves each annual

accreditation budget and work plan developed by staff, in consultation with the commission, to ensure that CAPTE has the necessary resources to conduct high quality accreditation activities and operations, consistent with the Board's fiduciary responsibilities. CAPTE shall have a Board of Directors liaison.

The Commission is autonomous in all aspects of its accreditation activities, including but not limited to: formulating, adopting; revising and implementing CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedures and accreditation standards; selecting and training site team members; conducting evaluation and onsite visits to programs; making decisions concerning the candidacy or accreditation status of programs; and monitoring accredited programs. CAPTE has the authority to set reasonable and appropriate accreditation fees to ensure the commission and accreditation staff can effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities, and that the commission can pay fair market value for its proportionate share of joint use (e.g., building services, human resources, legal services, technology); the joint use does not compromise the independence and confidentiality of the accreditation process. The chair of the commission shall meet with the APTA Board of Directors annually.

Amendment of this policy: This policy may be amended in the ordinary manner at CAPTE's request or by the Board in consultation with CAPTE.

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/month/year/page/vote in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure

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