

Commission On Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education



BOD Y05-25-01-01 [Amended BOD Y12-21-02-02; 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]

I. Purpose

Pursuant to association policy [Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education Programs](#), the American Physical Therapy Association codifies that the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education is the one agency for accreditation of physical therapy education programs.

II. CAPTE Board of Commissioners, Including Composition, Eligibility, Terms, and Term Limits

A. Size of the CAPTE Board of Commissioners: 13 members

B. Composition of the CAPTE Board of Commissioners and Commissioner Eligibility

1. Ten commissioners are physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who are APTA members in good standing and one is a higher education administrator; and in accordance with U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation regulations, shall meet conditions as outlined in CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedures as well as served on the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program review panel for a minimum of two years.

2. Two commissioners are public members, and each individual shall not be a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

C. Selection of CAPTE Board of Commissioners

1. The commissioners identified in II., B. 1., above are elected by the CAPTE Board of Commissioners, CAPTE review panelists, and CAPTE program reviewers in accordance with standard operating procedures as determined by the CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.

2. The commissioners identified in II., B. 2., above are appointed by the CAPTE Board of Commissioners.

D. Length of Term and Term Start Date: three years with each term beginning on January 1.

E. Maximum Number of Consecutive Full Terms: two with partial terms not considered a full term.

III. Responsibilities of the CAPTE Board of Commissioners

A. Provides 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.

- B. Manages the pre-accreditation and accreditation processes as identified in CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including periodic reviews to identify areas for improvement and implements appropriate changes.
- C. Formulates, adopts, revises, and implements CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedures and accreditation standards.
- D. Establishes and maintains CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedures.
- E. Makes decisions independently concerning the pre-accreditation or accreditation status with respect to monitoring, granting, denying, withdrawing, or conditioning accreditation of any program.
- F. Selects review panelists in concert with current review panelists and the cadre of reviewers as determined by the CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure.
- G. Ensures that commissioners, review panelists, and program reviewers are trained sufficiently to meet the needs of CAPTE in accordance with CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedure.
- H. Engages with internal and external communities of interest (e.g., APTA, CHEA, USDE, accrediting bodies, institutions/programs, the public), as appropriate, especially in the areas of the standards and required elements, accreditation processes, CAPTE decisions, and complaints about a program or agency.
- I. Communicates publicly in accordance with APTA processes regarding policy positions and other legislative and regulatory matters.
- J. Maintains recognition by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
- K. Sets reasonable and appropriate fees to ensure that CAPTE can carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively, and that the commission can cover the allocated 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.

IV. Responsibilities of the APTA Board of Directors

- A. Assumes legal and fiduciary obligations on behalf of the American Physical Therapy Association, including the outcomes resulting from CAPTE action or inaction.
- B. Approves the annual budget, including the program budget and related work plans for CAPTE that ensures CAPTE has the necessary resources to conduct high quality accreditation services.
- C. Reviews complaints related to CAPTE's adherence to its Rules of Practice and Procedure.
- D. Ratifies selection of CAPTE Board of Commissioners for indemnification purposes.
- E. Conducts periodic reviews of CAPTE, which occur at least annually.
- F. Provides CAPTE with a liaison from the APTA Board of Directors.

V. Governance Structure and Autonomy

- A. APTA is the legal entity responsible for CAPTE, which functions as a part of APTA.

- B. APTA provides the legal/corporate and administrative infrastructure (i.e. budget, accounting, facilities, insurance, personnel) to CAPTE.
- C. CAPTE acts in alignment with APTA bylaws and policies and in doing so shall be autonomous in meeting its responsibilities as identified in III., above.
- D. The CAPTE Board of Commissioners and any groups appointed by CAPTE shall not direct or manage APTA employees; however, the Chair of the CAPTE Board of Commissioners shall be consulted by the supervisor of the program director at least semi-annually on the performance of the program director of CAPTE and resource sufficiency to support CAPTE functions.
- E. The Chair of the CAPTE Board of Commissioners is accountable to the APTA Board of Directors.

VI. Amendment of This Policy

Amendments to this policy are made at the discretion of the Board of Directors and may be requested by the CAPTE Board of Commissioners. The APTA Board shall consult with the CAPTE Board of Commissioners before making a policy change.

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P06-22-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2022 Board of Directors meeting minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

E: Binding Ethical Document | P: Position | Y: Policy

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