

EDUCATIONAL DEGREE QUALIFICATIONS AND NOMENCLATURE FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS HOD P06-18-33-38 [Amended: HOD P06-12-15-04; HOD P06-03-22-18; Initial: HOD 06-60-00-03; Formerly Titled: Educational Degree Qualification for Physical Therapists] [Position]

Consistent with current Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) criteria, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) shall consider attainment of a doctor of physical therapy (DPT) degree the minimum professional education qualification for physical therapists who graduate from a program accredited by CAPTE in 2018 or thereafter.

When the DPT degree is awarded, it represents professional (entry-level) qualifications only, whether obtained following a professional (entry-level) education program or as part of a transition program, and is considered “physical therapist professional education.” The term “physical therapist postprofessional education” is used to refer to degree- and nondegree-based professional development for the physical therapist to enhance professional knowledge, skills, and abilities.

APTA shall consider attainment of an associate degree from a program accredited by CAPTE the minimum educational qualification for a physical therapist assistant.

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