

DATE: May 20, 2020

TO: Enrolled Students in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Lake Area Technical Institute

FROM: Chris Barrett, PT, M.Ed., PTA Program Director

SUBJECT: Probationary Accreditation Status

On April 28, 2020, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) placed the physical therapist assistant education program at Lake Area Technical Institute on Probationary Accreditation status. Probationary Accreditation is an accredited status, but it does signal a compliance issue in the program that is significant enough that, if not addressed, may result in accreditation being withdrawn. CAPTE has reached this decision after a thorough review of materials provided by the program. The compliance issue has been clearly identified in CAPTE's Summary of Action and a time line for addressing the issue has been established. Normally, Probationary Accreditation does not extend beyond two years; CAPTE can, however, withdraw accreditation at any time a program is on probation if the situation warrants such an action.

Because Probationary Accreditation is an accredited status, students currently enrolled in the program who graduate in a timely manner will graduate from an accredited program. Similarly, prospective students who are admitted to the program are admitted to an accredited program. However, if in the future CAPTE withdraws accreditation, only students enrolled in the final twelve months of the program at the time of the final decision to withdraw accreditation will be considered by CAPTE to be graduates of an accredited program.

In the interest of the public trust that the accreditation process serves, all enrolled students are hereby notified that the accreditation status of the physical therapist assistant education program at Lake Area Technical Institute is in jeopardy if the identified compliance issues are not adequately addressed in the time provided.

The unmet criterion is related to graduate passage of the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE). This standard requires that the program have an average pass rate of 85% in a two year time period. I would like to explain the situation by sharing the passing rates of the program.

Graduating class statistics	Pass rate	Two year average
2017 – 20 out of 23 students	87%	2017/2018 = (37/45) 82.22%
2018 – 17 out of 22 students	77 %	
2019 – 15 out of 17 students	88 %	2018/2019 = (32/39) 82.05 %

Please note that some students attempted the exam only one time and chose to modify their career plan instead of retesting.

The program has put into place strategies to assist students to be successful on the NPTE, including the purchase of exam study materials, practice exams and attendance at an exam study workshop.

Additionally, tutoring with the PTA Program Director or practicing PTs/PTAs who have an interest in assisting the student has been offered.

An assessment of the program's admission process, curriculum, and the individual courses has been completed to ensure that all entry level information is taught to the level of competency and students who enter the program have the scholastic aptitude to be successful.

Lake Area Technical Institute administration and faculty want to assure you that every effort is being made to re-establish compliance with this accreditation standard. We are concerned and are confident that with subsequent graduate's performance on the NPTE that this issue will be resolved.

A copy of this letter and a list of all individuals to whom it has been distributed are being sent to CAPTE at its request. CAPTE expects that the program will provide students with accurate information about the program's status of Probationary Accreditation and reasonable information about the identified deficiencies. In addition, CAPTE reserves the right to disclose the Probationary Accreditation status to the public.

Questions about the compliance issues resulting in probation should be directed to the program faculty. Questions regarding the accreditation process may be directed to the Department of Accreditation, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, American Physical Therapy Association, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.