

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report from the Carver College of Medicine's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program at the University of Iowa.

Executive Summary: The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, which has been accredited since 2003, (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the evaluative criteria defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The Program was accredited for the maximum period of ten years. The accrediting body identified two evaluative criteria out of 125 that were out of compliance and requested that a progress report be submitted by August 2006. The accrediting body expects the program to be in compliance with the evaluative criteria within two years. This report addresses the Board's Strategic Plan objective to "offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students" (1.1.).

Background:

- ◇ **Description.** The Doctor of Physical Therapy program provides a professional clinical entry-level 2½ year curriculum including 37 weeks of full-time clinical education experience. Satisfactory completion of the curriculum qualifies the graduates to take a state-administered national licensing examination.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- ◇ **Review Process.** The self-study prepared by the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program contained the responses to the appropriate evaluative criteria required by the accrediting body – institution and program integrity and capacity; and curriculum plan, evaluation, content, and outcomes.
- ◇ **On-Site Team Report.** In September 2005, the visiting team determined that the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program sufficiently met the evaluative criteria required by the American Physical Therapy Association.
- ◇ **Sample Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.**
 - ☑ "Despite times when state education budgets are being continually trimmed, the program has been able to sustain itself and grow substantially, with much credit due to the director's ability to persist in his pursuit of funds."
 - ☑ "The faculty appears to evaluate the curriculum in meaningful ways that promote change and enhancement of the curriculum."
 - ☑ "Faculty members incorporate practice opportunities for skills learned in class to prepare students for clinical experiences."
 - ☑ "Didactic and clinical experiences appear to be integrated."

- ◇ Sample Concerns Identified by the Visiting Team.
 - ☑ “No course objectives for Human Anatomy or Pharmacology for DPT candidates were provided. Measurable course objectives, stated in behavioral terms, were not provided for eight other courses.” *The Progress Report met this requirement.*
 - ☑ “There is no written policy (e.g., excerpt of a student manual) that requires a minimum of two different internships at clinical sites with different primary classifications.” *The Progress Report met this requirement.*

- ◇ Consultative Comments.
 - ☑ “The Commission encourages the program to scrutinize the grading criteria for practical exams to ensure they are sufficiently reliable and rigorous to determine that students are competent and safe to progress through the curriculum and engage in clinical education.” *The faculty recognizes that as students progress through the program they will be expected to perform closer to that of an entry-level clinician, and that new students will build on their clinical effectiveness, efficiency, and communication skills, as well as their rationale for the examination/intervention skill on which they are being tested. This is one of the primary reasons the program has not adopted a universal laboratory examination format and grade sheet.*
 - ☑ “The Commission encourages the development of a formal mentoring process for a professor to ensure successful progression of a scholarly agenda.” *A formal faculty development plan was developed.*

- ◇ Accreditation Status. In May 2006, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association awarded accreditation to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program for the maximum period of ten years. The program was required to submit a progress report by August 15, 2006, indicating how the evaluative criteria not in compliance have been addressed. The progress report has been submitted to the Commission and the criteria have been met.

Details about the accreditation report are available in the Board Office.