

American Council of Academic Physical Therapy

Board of Directors Position Statement on RC 11-16 CHARGE: INVESTIGATION AND PLAN TO ADDRESS STUDENT DEBT IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

*That the American Physical Therapy Association investigate the effect of student loan debt upon the physical therapy profession, and develop and implement a plan with feasible options to address it, by June 2018.*

The Board of Directors of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) recognize that student loan debt is a complex and multifactorial issue in higher education. At present, there are limited data on the amount of debt incurred by graduating physical therapists, including both their undergraduate and graduate (DPT) education. There is also little known about the effect of such debt on lifestyle decisions including the clinical setting where graduates choose to work and pursuing residency or graduate education. The ACAPT, as an organization of physical therapist education institutions, is well-positioned to take the lead in a study of debt in physical therapist education, and to partner with the American Physical Therapy Association in efforts to address issues of financial literacy, indebtedness, loan repayment, and the cost of physical therapist education.