



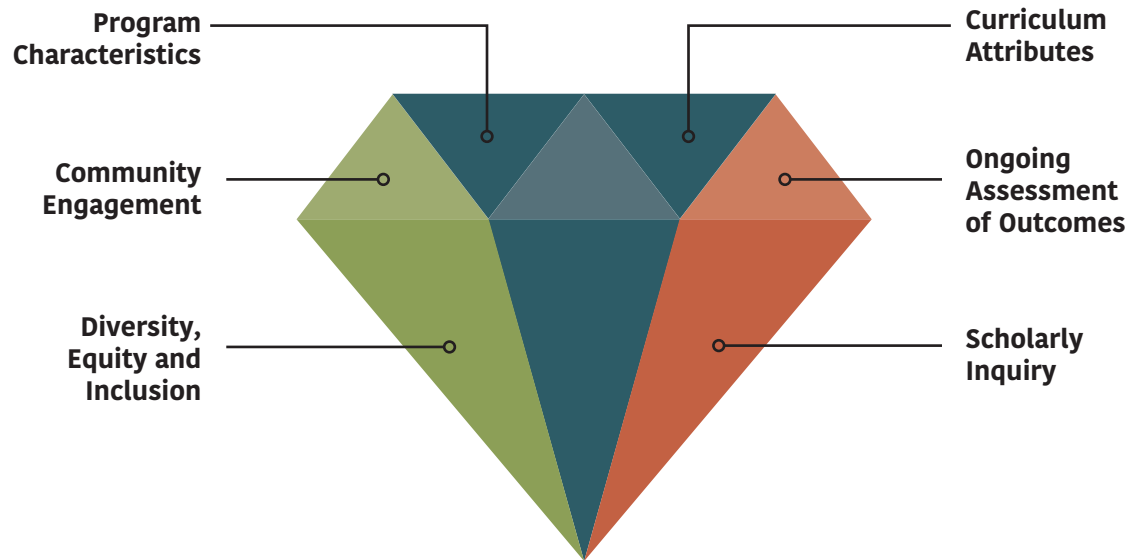
A DEFINITION OF EXCELLENCE

Excellence is an aspiration rather than a destination and is characterized by continual improvement. An excellent academic program demonstrates a culture of excellence by continually and intentionally striving to **transform learners, advance knowledge, and improve societal health.**

Excellence in transforming learners, advancing knowledge, and improving societal health is achieved when the academic culture supports the ongoing development and integration of three domains: **Inquiry, inclusion, and innovation.** Excellence is also a multi-faceted construct that respects and supports differences among academic programs while inspiring ongoing self-assessment and growth.

INQUIRY	INCLUSION	INNOVATION
<p>Refers to a culture that seeks to develop new knowledge and to translate knowledge into more effective ways of helping patients, teaching students, and serving our communities. This culture places a high value on developing and using scientific evidence in clinical decision-making. It also encourages questioning of assumptions by learners, teachers, and practitioners.</p>	<p>Refers to a culture that welcomes diversity and recognizes that, to be more effective, physical therapy must strive to learn from all communities, especially those that are underserved. An inclusive culture goes beyond ‘cultural competence’ – it seeks to learn from diverse communities and to transform itself. An inclusive culture is, above all, humble.</p>	<p>Refers to a culture that strives continually for improvement and learning, which includes content that supersedes ‘good enough’. An innovative culture encourages learners to question orthodoxy, take risks, and engage in critical thinking. A spirit of innovation is essential to break down the pervasive structural and cultural barriers to building diverse academic and clinical communities. Most of all, innovation expresses our motivation to transform ourselves – as teachers, learners, patients, communities, and society.</p>

EXCELLENCE IS MULTI-FACETED



PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

- Strong and visionary leadership
- Access to appropriate resources and clinical practice
- Motivated, engaged learners
- Culture of continual assessment and improvement
- Continual faculty growth and development
- Faculty and administrators serve as role models

CURRICULUM ATTRIBUTES

- Signature pedagogy
- Strong pedagogical underpinnings
- Interprofessional education and practice
- Practice-based learning within and outside the classroom
- Creates adaptive, life-long learners
- Invests in professional formation
- Fosters leadership development

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Authentic, collaborative, inclusive community partnerships
- Leadership and modeling skills to transform communities
- Responsive to contemporary societal needs
- Invested in local, regional, and global health
- Invested from pre-admission through professional and post-professional education
- Responsive to societal health needs

ONGOING ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES

- Includes relevant stakeholders
- Reflects the continuum of education through practice
- Reflects shared vision, transformation of learners, community collaboration, and institutional commitment

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- Commits resources to assure a diverse student body
- Invests in diverse faculty, staff, and administrators
- Collaborates with diverse stakeholders
- Sustains intentional structures and processes to promote DEI

SCHOLARLY INQUIRY

- Engages community in a shared vision of inquiry
- Disseminates scholarly discoveries
- Promotes multiple research paradigms
- Invests resources to drive research
- Promotes implementation of discoveries
- Fosters pursuit of advanced education in research

The Excellence Framework in Academic Physical Therapy is designed as a resource to guide and support wide engagement of ACAPT stakeholders. It will help direct the work of the Center for Excellence in Academic Physical Therapy and builds upon the ACAPT Criteria for Excellence.



**Center for Excellence in
Academic Physical Therapy**
Powered by innovation, inquiry & inclusion

12 CATEGORIES OF THE EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

1. Cultivates transformative, influential and visionary leadership
2. Embraces innovation and risk-taking
3. Sustains a culture of continual assessment and improvement
4. Supports and sustains a culture of collegiality, collaboration, and role modeling
5. Inspires motivated and engaged learners
6. Promotes a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion
7. Sustains a spirit of scholarly inquiry
8. Employs contemporary, evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning
9. Promotes adaptive, lifelong learning and professional formation
10. Embraces leadership development
11. Promotes authentic, collaborative inclusive community partnerships
12. Inspires social responsibility, investing in local, regional and global health and addressing contemporary societal needs through advocacy

ACAPT envisions that PT educators can use the framework to create new and innovative ways of measuring excellence using individual framework criteria as a guide. We hope this will spark conversations and motivate continuous improvement amongst all engaged in academic physical therapy. See the full framework at acapt.org/excellence