

CRITERIA FOR EXCELLENCE



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>

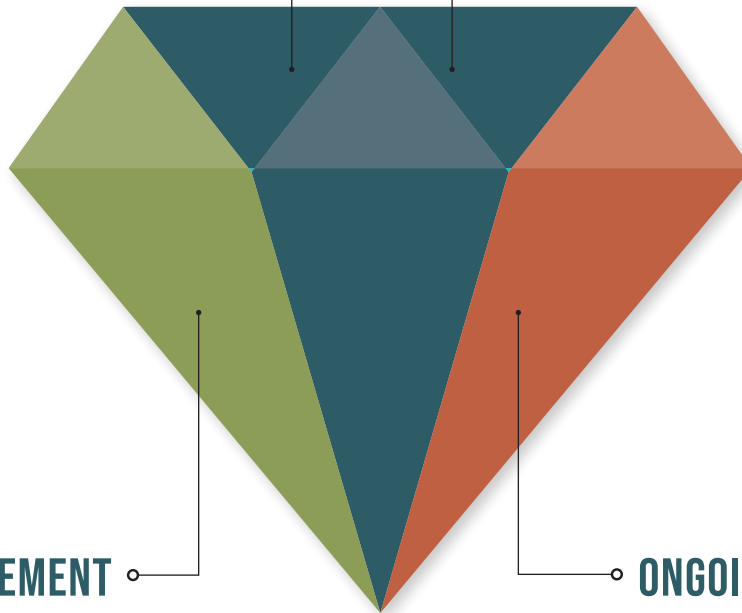
EXCELLENCE IS MULTI-FACETED

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

- Strong and visionary leadership
- Access to appropriate resources and clinical practice
- Motivated, engaged learners
- Cultural 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

To view the full report, visit acapt.org/excellence

