

AC-3-12: POSITION: NEW PHYSICAL THERAPY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Required for Adoption: Majority Vote

FINAL - PASSED (ATTACHMENT 6)

V-4 Whereas, there will be increased pressure to educate more physical therapists due to increased market demand including the need for increased access with health care reform;

Whereas, market demand has been the catalyst for the expansion of existing programs and development of new physical therapist education programs;

Whereas, there is a documented shortage of required resources in physical therapist education, including program directors, qualified faculty, and clinical instructors at clinical education sites; and

Whereas, this resource shortage can compromise the quality of physical therapist education in the United States;

Resolved, that institutions must have in place an appropriate budget, a qualified director and faculty, necessary clinical education sites and commitments, and all the necessary physical resources for physical therapist entry-level education, before an institution approves expansion of an existing physical therapist education program or develops a new physical therapist education program.

Resolved, in order to meet the societal needs for more physical therapists, the Council supports increased class size of established programs that have all the appropriate resources.

ORIGINAL (Proposed by Academic Council Board of Directors)

That the following position be adopted:

Whereas, there will be increased pressure to educate more physical therapists due to increased market demands, including the need for increased access to with health care reform;

Whereas, market demand has been the catalyst for the development of new physical therapist education programs;

Whereas, there is a documented shortage of required resources in physical therapist education, including program directors, qualified faculty, and clinical instructors at clinical education sites; and

Whereas, this resource shortage can compromise the quality of physical therapist education in the United States;

Resolved, that the Academic Council recommends careful consideration before an institution develops a new physical therapist education program, and that the development of the program proceeds only when the program can retain a qualified program director and faculty, has all of the necessary physical resources required for physical therapist entry-level education, and has committed support in the clinical education community to sustain excellence in physical therapy education.