

PROPOSED BY: Julie Tilson, University of Southern California

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT: No significant financial impact to ACAPT

TITLE: Full Transparency of DPT Education Program Quality

MOTION: The ACAPT Board shall make a formal written request to CAPTE that all accredited DPT programs be required to publish their entire Annual Accreditation Report (excluding salary data) on their website in a comprehensible, standardized format, just as CAPTE now requires all DPT programs to publish a Financial Fact Sheet on their website.

SUPPORT STATEMENT: The purpose of this motion is to improve the quality of DPT education by making available the relevant data that is used by CAPTE to assess the quality of all DPT programs. These data include, for example, the number and quality of faculty, their qualifications to teach across the breadth and depth of contemporary physical therapist practice, the quality and quantity of resources such as space and clinical sites, and the degree of budgetary and administrative control that DPT program leaders have over their programs. This information is provided annually to CAPTE in the Annual Accreditation Report (AAR). If the physical therapy educational and clinical communities had access to the data in the AAR, programs could be meaningfully assessed and compared, both by members of the professional community *and by prospective students*.

Alan Jette, editor-in-chief of the *Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Journal*, endorsed this concept in a recent editorial.¹ He wrote, "...it is critical for the profession (as well as for prospective applicants to physical therapist professional education programs) to have CAPTE make publicly available all accreditation data (except for salary data)."

As a first step toward transparency, CAPTE recently instituted new rules requiring programs to post a Financial Fact Sheet on their websites detailing tuition and cost of attendance in standardized ways. This is a welcome step, but it shows only half the value equation (value = quality/cost). True transparency requires not just easily accessible information about cost, but also information about the quality of the education provided. Publication of information about quality would allow prospective students to understand what their tuition pays for in a way that is comparable across academic programs. Furthermore, by emphasizing education quality, we elevate graduates' impact on societal health and strengthen our collective argument for reimbursement reflective of a doctoring profession.²

There is ample precedent that a petition to CAPTE by the ACAPT Board can have a significant impact. CAPTE voted to require posting of the Financial Fact Sheet in January 2022. This decision came less than two years after the ACAPT Board sent a letter to CAPTE requesting that CAPTE require all programs to submit a Financial Fact Sheet as part of the AAR and post that information on their websites. In its letter, ACAPT provided a sample Financial Fact Sheet, which had been developed in collaboration with the Educational Leadership Partnership (ELP). The Financial Fact Sheet that CAPTE adopted is virtually identical to the one originally recommended by ACAPT and the ELP. Thus, there is good evidence that a strong message from ACAPT and other stakeholders on an issue of fundamental importance to the profession can have a strong impact on CAPTE.

REFERENCES:

1. Jette AM. Reflections on "Storm Clouds on the Horizon": Supply and Demand for Physical Therapists. *Phys Ther.* Jun 5 2023;103(6)doi:10.1093/ptj/pzad050
2. Gordon J, Tilson J. On "Storm Clouds on the Horizon: The 3 Perils Of Unconstrained Academic Growth In Physical Therapist Education." Deusinger SS, Landers MR. *Phys Ther.* 2022;102:pzac046. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ptj/pzac046>. *Phys Ther.* Oct 3 2022;doi:10.1093/ptj/pzac127