



MOTION TEMPLATE

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PROPOSED BY: Pamela Levangie

MC X

That the following be adopted:

ACAPT implement a task force to explore the possibility of a common, standardized set of expected graduate outcomes to be adopted by all programs.

Support Statement:

1. THERE SHOULD BE EVIDENCE THAT THE MOTION IS OF NATIONAL SCOPE OR IMPORTANCE:

As part of the accreditation process physical therapist educational programs are required to identify expected outcomes for their graduates. Expected outcomes are defined as “competencies that the program expects students to have achieved at completion of the program.” There are, however, no uniform and consistent guidelines for setting expected outcomes for graduates. According to accreditation guidelines, expected graduate outcomes are meant to reflect the mission of the program which, in turn, must be consistent with the institutional mission. Therefore, expected outcomes vary across programs.

Given that professions are derived from society’s recognition of the special status, unique knowledge and the right to practice-autonomy of its members, there is an underlying duty for professionals to meet certain obligations. It seems reasonable to assume that these obligations would not differ significantly among physical therapists or be conditional on the educational program from which one graduated.

The concept of a set of uniform outcomes with a standardized measurement tool has been discussed among members of the physical therapist education community long before ACAPT was an organization. Looking forward to a time when we might realize the hope of a single outcomes assessment tool for all graduates, an important starting point would be to have agreement that there should be common, standardized expected graduate outcomes. Adoption of common graduate outcomes would lead to future discussion of what those outcomes should be and the development of a tool to measure them.

2. MOTIONS AND ACCOMPANYING SUPPORT STATEMENTS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE ADEQUATE BACKGROUND RESEARCH OF THE ISSUE, WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH AND ACTIVITY:

In spring 2014, a published paper in the Journal of Physical Therapy Education reported on a qualitative study whose purpose was to identify common themes among physical therapist education programs in terms of their expected graduate outcomes. This study obtained documents from 40% of ACAPT members at the time. Respondents were from all regions of the country, all Carnegie classifications and both public and private institution. The study used a conventional content analysis to identify core concepts in programs’ expected graduate outcomes. The authors were able to identify 10 common



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themes among the documents, suggesting that a modest degree of agreement on expected graduate outcomes already exists.

3. DETERMINE PROBABLE FISCAL IMPACT OF ADOPTING THE MOTION

No fiscal implications for ACAPT.

RELATIONSHIP TO PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACAPT:

The motion reflects the vision of ACAPT in achieving and sustaining excellence in academic physical therapy, and its mission to lead academic physical therapy by promoting excellence. The motion addresses the strategic goal of leading the exploration and creation of best practice standards in academic physical therapy.

RELEVANT POSITION/STANDARD/GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE:

[Include current standard, position, guideline, policy or procedure if applicable]

N/A

Submit this form to Lisa McLaughlin at lisamclaughlin@apta.org