



CAPTE is getting questions from PT and PTA program directors about code 668.43 (a)(5)(v) of the federal regulations governing accredited institutions.

34 CFR 668.43 (a)(5)(v) states:

(v) If an educational program is designed to meet educational requirements for a specific professional license or certification that is required for employment in an occupation, or is advertised as meeting such requirements, information regarding whether completion of that program would be sufficient to meet licensure requirements in a State for that occupation, including—

(A) A list of all States for which the institution has determined that its curriculum meets the State educational requirements for licensure or certification;

(B) A list of all States for which the institution has determined that its curriculum does not meet the State educational requirements for licensure or certification; and

(C) A list of all States for which the institution has not made a determination that its curriculum meets the State educational requirements for licensure or certification;

Code 668.43 is related to institutional eligibility to participate in the Title IV funding program through the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid office. Since CAPTE is not a Title IV gate keeper, our contact with the Department of Education had indicated that programs should work with the financial aid office at their institution to ask the Federal Student Aid office questions related to code 668.43 or student financial aid, as they are the experts on these issues. Meanwhile, our Department of Education contact reached out to the Federal Student Aid office and found that code 668.43 is concerned with "educational" requirements for licensure, while the term "curriculum" refers to the content of the program. She indicated that a CAPTE-approved program that enables a student to meet the state licensure or certification requirement meets this regulation. Any state licensure or certification requirements beyond that, such as criminal background checks and professional liability insurance, is not covered by this regulation. After receiving this information from our Department of Education contact, CAPTE reached out to Rich Woolf of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and APTA's legal and governmental affairs offices, and we offer the following information:

With respect to code 668.43 (a)(5)(v), CAPTE-accredited physical therapist and physical therapist assistant programs may consider offering the following information to prospective students:

The program has determined that its curriculum meets the state educational requirements for licensure or certification in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands secondary to its accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, based on the following:

CAPTE accreditation of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program satisfies state educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Thus, students graduating from CAPTE-accredited physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs are eligible to take the National Physical Therapy Examination and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information regarding state qualifications and licensure requirements, refer to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy website at www.fsbpt.org.