



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

ACAPT Task Force on the Needs of the DPT Class of 2020

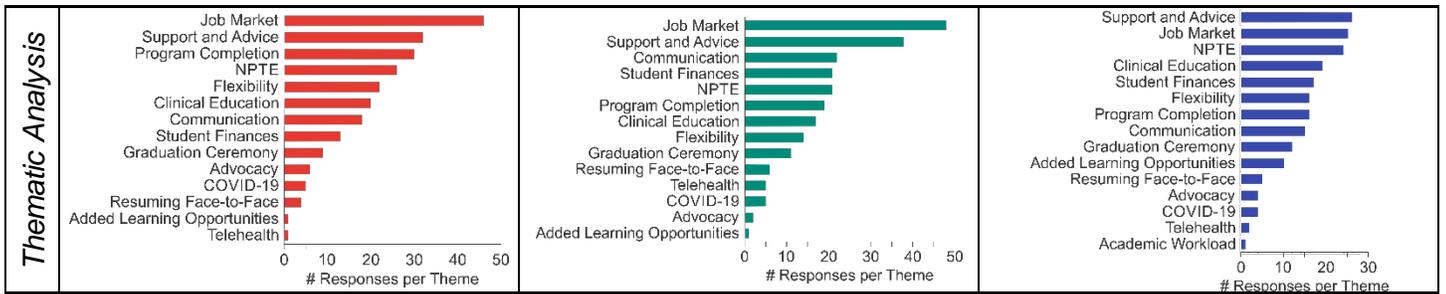
May 19, 2020

In order to determine the needs of the graduating DPT class of 2020, a Qualtrics survey was sent to leading representatives of the class, including all 2020 inductees into the ACAPT National Student Honor Society, and to the executive board and the core ambassadors of the APTA Student Assembly. In total, the survey was sent to 328 students, with one reminder after a few days and a 1-week deadline for completion; there were 172 responses (53% response rate). In addition to seeking responses to the survey, students were asked if they would like to serve on an ACAPT task force to prepare recommendations on this topic; 86 respondents (50%) were willing to serve. A task force of 16 students was selected based on complete and thorough responses to every question on the survey, a range of viewpoints and issues representing responses overall, and a range of programs spanning geographic distributions and types of institutions.

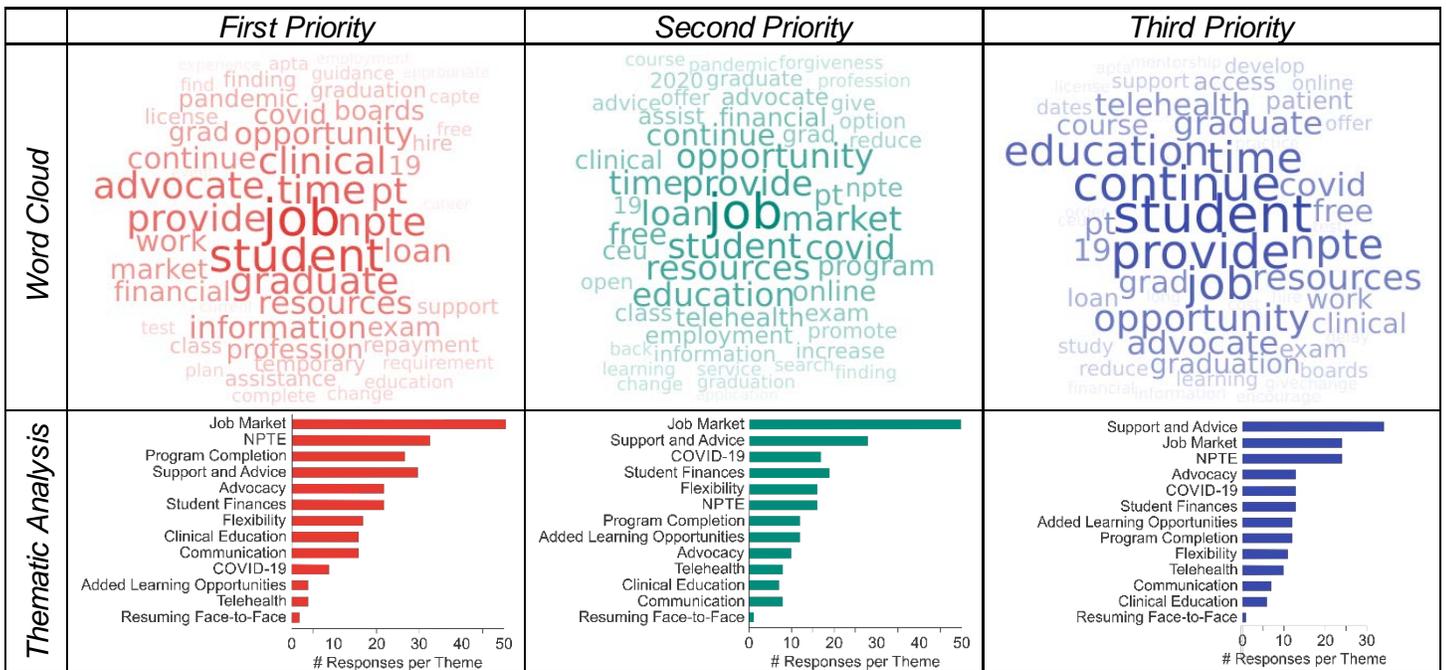
The survey consisted of 3 questions requesting open ended responses (see below for exact wording of each question). Based on key words, the text was analyzed for themes based on frequency of responses. Responses associated with each theme were analyzed and adjusted to best reflect the apparent intent. Many comments represented more than one theme. The results are presented as word clouds constructed from the original responses and as frequency counts. Further description of the themes is provided at the end of the results.

Question 1. Please list the top three things you think your academic program could do to help the DPT Class of 2020 during this time.

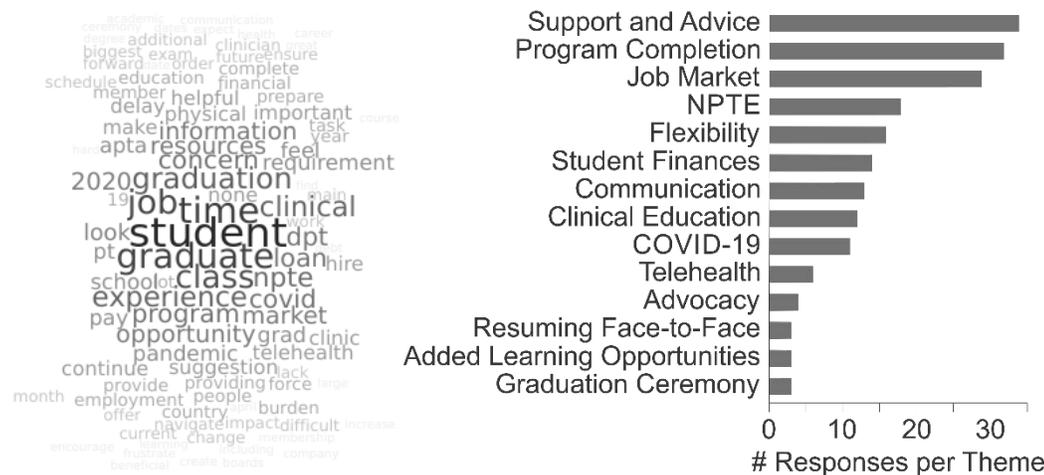
	<i>First Priority</i>	<i>Second Priority</i>	<i>Third Priority</i>
<i>Word Cloud</i>			



Question 2. Please list the top three things you think the APTA and the PT Profession in general could do to help the DPT Class of 2020 during this time.



Question 3. Any other suggestions to help the DPT Class of 2020 that you think the task force should consider?



Key to Themes:

Category	What students want	Key words used in text analysis
Job Market	Help navigating and entering the job market in the midst of very uncertain and unexpected conditions. Guidance on how to apply and interview under the circumstances.	job, career, hire, interview, interviewing, search, employment, market, network
Support and Advice	Support and advice on how to cope with the disruptions and unexpected changes they are experiencing.	support, advice, resources, mentor, mental health, stress, concern, needs, guidance, emotion, advise, encourage, encouragement, stressful, reach out, cope, coping, struggling, struggle
NPTE	Clarity on the NPTE offerings and better communication about test sites, availability, rescheduling, etc.	NPTE, FSBPT, license, licensure, prometric, exam, boards, licensing
Student Finances	Help with basic finances – most students have lost whatever part time jobs they had. Those graduating are worried about loan payback when they might not get a job. Some want refunds or reduced tuition.	student loan, loan, financial, finances, debt, tuition, refund, reimbursement
Clinical Education	Students want to be able to get back in the clinic as soon as it is safe and be allowed to finish their clinical education. Those who are very close to being finished question the value of a few more weeks in the clinic after two or more months of hiatus when they were already marked off at entry level.	clinical experience, rotation, clinical education, clinicals
Communication	Students want more communication, transparent communication, and clear communication about what is and is not known. Being left in the dark for days at a time is very stressful for them. They want regular updates.	communication, information, let us know, tell us, town hall, message, communicate, transparent, transparency
Additional Learning Opportunities	Students would like ways to keep learning while they wait to return, ways to get involved in service, and discounted or free access to continuing education to make up for things they didn't learn as well as they would have liked due to the sudden change in pedagogy. Some are looking for service opportunities.	continuing education, CE course, additional opportunities, supplemental learn*
Program Completion	A way to finish their academic program, including clinical education, in a realistic and predictable manner	finish, weeks, class, complete, completion, graduate
Flexibility	The ability to complete their education by demonstrating entry level competency even if it is not how their program was originally designed, so long as they are safe and ready to finish. Students want creativity and flexibility for ways to satisfy requirements.	flexible, flexibility, requirements, streamline, streamlining, reducing, allow, consider, options, waive, reduce
COVID-19	Students want additional education about COVID-19, including how to protect themselves and avoid spreading the disease, as well as	COVID, coronavirus, COVID-19, acute care, respirator

Category	What students want	Key words used in text analysis
	what it is doing to the patients and what kinds of PT interventions might be indicated.	
Telehealth	Students want training in how to properly, appropriately, and effectively use telehealth systems for physical therapy.	telehealth
Advocacy	Students want to be engaged in advocacy and they want the programs and profession to be active advocates as well. The areas suggested for advocacy included all the themes from above, but most comments were associated with debt relief and loan forgiveness programs.	advocate, advocacy, importance, legislation
Face to Face Instruction (resuming)	Students want clarity on when they can return for face to face instruction to complete their education, and they want to know how this will be done so that it is safe and effective.	practical, face to face, in person, hands on
Graduation Ceremony	Students want some way of recognizing their accomplishments as graduates, at least a ceremony by video conference, and hopefully some kind of in person ceremony. They really want to get their doctoral hoods and have that special ceremony in at least some manner.	celebrate, ceremony, achievement, recognize, recognition, hooding, celebration

Working Groups

The task force met and discussed the results, and decided to collapse some of the categories together. At this time, the task force has divided into nine working groups, each with three or four members, to make recommendations to respond to the issues raised in the survey.

Work Group (In order of Priority)	Members
1. Help new graduates prepare for and understand the job market	Stephen Coombs Kayla Harris Maisie Rapp Tori Wimer
2. Help students, clinics, and programs work effectively to let the class of 2020 complete clinical education requirements	Kathryn Johnson Tyler Kornblum Kelvin Lorenzo-Riviera James Maggert
3. Develop / promote guidance, resources, and advocacy for finance and debt management for new graduates	Kelli Kontney David Macchia Jennifer Pace Keith Schuchardt
4. Work with relevant organizations to resolve ongoing issues with the NPTE and licensure requirements	Stephen Coombs David Macchia James Maggert
5. Make recommendations for communication content, frequency, and strategies from programs and/or the APTA to students	Taylor Augustine Kelli Kontney Melissa Miniti Brendan Thompson
6. Advocate for flexibility and practicality in program requirements for degree completion while meeting mandatory criteria	Tyler Kornblum Maisie Rapp Brendan Thompson
7. Arrange additional learning or service opportunities for the class of 2020 to remain current and engaged	Natalia Kucharski Melissa Miniti Keith Schuchardt

8. Develop resources and recommendations for mental health and well-being among current students and recent graduates	Kayla Harris Kathryn Johnson Jennifer Pace Tori Wimer
9. Develop creative ways to celebrate the achievements and graduation for the class of 2020, especially where programs could not hold ceremonies	Taylor Augustine Natalia Kucharski Kelvin Lorenzo-Rivera

Priorities

The task force recommended the following actions be taken immediately

- Share a summary of the survey results immediately with DPT program directors and APTA Leadership
- Form a different workgroup to address the needs of the classes of '21 and '22
- Make a Decision Tree to show what programs are facing in the changing curriculum

As soon as the work groups have finished their efforts as described above, plans will be made to:

- Hold a virtual job fair / career development seminar
- Share the group's recommendations / plans

As a longer-term effort, we should consider

- Ways to plan a celebration for the Class of 2020

Workgroup Actions

The workgroups were asked to address the following:

Goals: Pick 1 – 3 Goals that your efforts should hope to achieve. Unlike goals you would write for a treatment plan, these goals should be broad and lofty. Example. "Help new graduates navigate the job market."

Objectives: For each Goal, write the objectives that would help you achieve the goal. These should be written like treatment goals, S.M.A.R.T. style. Example: ">90% of new graduates will have accessed the new graduate resources created by our work group by the end of August, 2020."

Activities: List the things you should do to achieve the objectives. Think of this like a treatment plan.

Stakeholders: List the people and organizations you will need help from to make this happen. Associate these with specific items above where appropriate.

Work Plan: Develop a schedule you will follow to get this done. Remember, our goal is to have something to work with by June 1.

Task Force Membership

The task force members are as follows:

Last Name	First Name	Institution(s)	City	State	Role(s)	DPT Class
Buford	John	ACAPT Board of Directors The Ohio State University	Columbus	OH	ACAPT Liaison Program Director	n/a
Hawkins	Carrie	APTA Student Assembly Bellarmine University	Louisville	KY	Chair, Student Development Committee Director of Clinical Education	n/a
Coombs	Stephen	Franklin Pierce University- NH	Manchester	NH	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Harris	Kayla	APTA Student Assembly The Ohio State University	Columbus	OH	Student member NHS Inductee SPTA VP	2020
Johnson	Kathryn	University of Delaware	Newark	DE	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Kontney	Kelli	Marquette University	Milwaukee	WI	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Kornblum	Tyler	Bellarmine University	Louisville	KY	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Kucharska	Natalia	University of Scranton	Scranton	PA	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Macchia	David	Samuel Merritt University	Oakland	CA	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Maggert	James	University of Central Florida	Orlando	FL	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Minniti	Melissa	Duke University	Durham	NC	Student member NHS Inductee	2020

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Pace	Jennifer	Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey	Newark	NJ	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Rapp	Maisie	Columbia University	New York	NY	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Schuchardt	Keith	AT Still University of Health Sciences	Mesa	AZ	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Thompson	Brendan	Washington University in St Louis	St. Louis	MO	Student member NHS Inductee tee	2020
Wimer	Victoria	Creighton University	Omaha	NE	Student member NHS Inductee	2020
Lorenzo Rivera	Kelvin	APTA Student Assembly			President	2020
Augustine	Taylor	APTA Student Assembly	Cleveland	OH	Liaison to ACAPT	
McLaughlin	Lisa	APTA	Alexandria	VA	APTA Staff	n/a
Brooks	Sandy	ACAPT	Alexandria	VA	ACAPT Staff	n/a