

**DATE:** April 17, 2003

**SUBJECT:** University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** In the mid 1990's, the Commission on Accreditation of the American Physical Therapy Association (CAPTE) changed the requirements for accreditation. The baccalaureate degree would no longer be eligible for accreditation and graduates would no longer be eligible to practice as a licensed physical therapist. The four institutions involved in Tennessee are the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, East Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. In 1997 these institutions submitted proposals for the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT). After comprehensive reviews by external consultants, THEC approved the four MPT programs in the April 1998 commission meeting. In 2000, CAPTE again changed the scope of accreditation for education programs. The Master of Physical Therapy will no longer be the entry-level degree in this profession and the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) will be required for accreditation and professional licensing. The objective of CAPTE academic requirements expands expected outcomes of graduates in the areas of prevention, critical injury, clinical decision making, diagnosis and prognosis, management of care delivery and administration/business management.

External consultants are scheduled to review the proposed DPT program at East Tennessee State University on April 30, 2003, and at Tennessee State University later this year.

**PROPOSED START-UP DATE:** Upon approval

Commission staff have reviewed this program proposal according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002. Each standard is referenced below.

**1.1.20A MISSION:** The proposed program is within the role and scope of the mission. This will be the first doctorate considered at this institution.

**1.1.20B CURRICULUM:** The curriculum is designed as a 3 + 4 program, reconfigured from the 3 + 3 program in the MPT. The number of credit hours required for graduation will increase from 102 credit hours to 121 credit hours. This number is comparable with other DPT programs.

**1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** Enrollment in the proposed DPT will be limited. Admission will be based on overall GPA, the GPA in the sciences, the ability to handle a full academic load, general knowledge of physical therapy,

demonstrated interpersonal abilities, extracurricular and leadership activities and maturity.

**1.1.20D FACULTY:** The faculty is qualified to teach the additional course requirements for the proposed DPT. All members of the faculty have doctorates. No additional faculty is needed.

**1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES:** Current holdings are adequate to support the proposed program. The library subscribes to numerous electronic databases, journals and websites available to library users at no additional cost. The library is committed to the use of new technology for students in physical therapy.

**1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION:** The proposed DPT will be housed in the School of Rehabilitation Professions in the College of Health and Human Services.

**1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES:** The current MPT has affiliations with 240 health care agencies in the surrounding community of southeastern Tennessee, northwestern Alabama and northeastern Georgia. These agencies provide numerous sites for internship experiences and employment opportunities for students.

**1.1.20H FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT:** No additional facilities or equipment will be required.

**1.1.20I STUDENT DEMAND AND EMPLOYER DEMAND:** MPT students completed a survey to determine interest in the DPT. There was unanimous support for the DPT, with 98 percent expressing an interest in earning the degree. Physical Therapy is a popular, competitive program of study. The majority of students (77%) expressed an interest in remaining at UTC and starting the DPT immediately following graduation. The majority of these graduates accept positions in Tennessee, with the salary range of \$35,000 - \$60,000. The average annual salary in Chattanooga for physical therapists is \$56,000. Based on the increasing population of older individuals, the increased participation in sports and other activities, there is a strong need and demand for licensed physical therapist. There is only a 1.1 percent unemployment rate for physical therapists.

**1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION:** Not applicable

**1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS:** None indicated.

**1.1.20L DESEGREGATION:** The creation of the proposed program will not impede the state's efforts to achieve racial diversity.

**1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION:** The proposed program is based on the principles set forth by the Tennessee Council of Graduate Schools. Doctorate of Physical Therapy programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy (CAPTE). This is an external accreditation process that is required for all programs in order for graduates to be eligible to take the licensing examination.

**1.1.20N EXTERNAL JUDGMENT:** The proposed program was reviewed by Patricia Hageman, PT. Ph.D. Dr. Hageman is the Director and Professor of Physical Therapy Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Hageman provided favorable comments based on her review and recommended that the program be approved. She was recommended by CAPTE and selected by THEC and Board staff.

**1.1.20O COST/BENEFIT:** No additional costs are associated with the proposed program. The MPT will be phased out and replaced with the proposed DPT. The benefit is to students, whose educational objective to become licensed physical therapists can be completed at a public institution in Tennessee.

Student Projections	FTE Enrollment	Graduates
Year 1	68	22
Year 2	70	22
Year 3	72	24
Year 4	72	24
Year 5	72	24

**1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: Post Approval Monitoring.** During the first five years (three years for pre-baccalaureate programs) following approval, performance of the program, based on goals established in the proposal, will be evaluated annually. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. These goals will include, but not be limited to, enrollment and graduation numbers, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance, and other goals set by the institution and agreed to by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if the program is deficient, the Commission may recommend to the governing board that the program be terminated. Copies of such recommendation will be forwarded to the Education Committees of the General Assembly. The Commission also may choose to extend this period if additional time is needed and is requested by the governing board.