

**DATE:** April 17, 2003

**SUBJECT:** University of Tennessee Health Science Center - 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 MPT 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 the proposed program 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.

**1.1.20B CURRICULUM:** The curriculum is designed as a 4 + 3 program, reconfigured from the 3 + 3 program in the MPT. The number of credit hours required for graduation will increase from 100 credit hours to 125 credit hours. This number is comparable with other DPT programs.

**1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** Students will be required to complete a baccalaureate degree prior to enrollment, as well as the completion of required coursework in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 2.00 and a combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE.

**1.1.20D FACULTY:** The current faculty is adequate to support a DPT.

**1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES:** Current holdings are adequate to support a DPT.

**1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION:** The proposed degree will be housed in the Department of Physical Therapy, College of Allied Health Sciences.

**1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES:** The UTHSC Department of Physical Therapy has affiliation agreements with numerous sites for internship experiences for students. These sites are located in rural areas, health care facilities and community based facilities.

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

**1.1.20I STUDENT and EMPLOYER NEED and DEMAND:** Student interest is strong and many students have opted to go to institutions, such as Belmont University or Washington University, offering the DPT. By making the DPT available to be completed in Tennessee, students are more likely to remain in the state. A severe shortage would occur in the physical therapy profession in Tennessee if public institutions did not offer the DPT. Most graduates from UTC with the MPT are employed within 1-2 weeks after passing the licensure examination. The salary range for graduates is \$40,000-\$43,000 per year.

**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 GRADUATE PROGRAMS:** The proposed program is based on the principles set forth by the Tennessee Council of Graduate Schools.

**1.1.20O 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.

**1.1.20P 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	106	32
Year 2	126	36
Year 3	150	40
Year 4	170	50
Year 5	180	60

**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.