

DATE: July 17, 2003

SUBJECT: East Tennessee State University, Doctor of Physical Therapy

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) is the nationally recommended degree of choice for the first professional licensing degree. 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 anticipated to be scheduled to review the proposed DPT program at Tennessee State University later this year.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Upon approval

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

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with the mission of the institution to serve the state, region and nation. The Division of Health Care, composed of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Public and Allied Health, serves the state, region and nation as a comprehensive academic health services center.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy will be offered as a non-dissertation professional degree requiring successful completion of the designated credits, and completion of a culminating experience. Ten new courses were developed to provide the additional knowledge and skills required for the DPT. The program is also designed to allow physical therapist, who are licensed at the Master's level, the opportunity to obtain the increased knowledge and skills for the DPT. These students will

enter the program with advanced standing, and complete the degree requirements according to the level and amount of their previous coursework and training. Course requirements for these students are 31-60 hours. The faculty will determine advanced standing status and design individual programs of study.

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
Major Field Courses	84
Clinical Education	<u>43</u>
	127

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: Students applying for admission to the proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy must meet all requirements established by the School of Graduate Studies. Students with the Master’s degree in Physical Therapy must also meet the following additional requirements:

- Graduation from a CAPTE accredited physical therapy program
- Must have an active state license, with no current sanctions
- Completion of the application for Advanced Standing
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE scores if the GPA in physical therapy course work is less than 3.0

1.1.20D FACULTY: Current faculty meet the requirements of SACS by documenting justification of their ability to teach specified courses. Four members of the faculty are in various phases of completing doctoral degrees. Administration has made a commitment to fill a vacancy with a doctoral faculty member on a timely basis.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: The medical library is a valuable asset to support the proposed program. No additional library resources are required.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION:

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The Veterans Hospital, located next to the ETSU campus, will collaborate and provide unique opportunities for DPT students.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT: The proposed program will be located on the campus of the Veterans Hospital in excellent, well equipped facilities.

1.1.20I STUDENT AND EMPLOYER NEED AND DEMAND: A survey of 300 licensed physical therapists in the East Tennessee region was conducted in 2001. Eighty-one questionnaires (27%) were completed and returned. Fifty-one respondents (62%) stated they would be interested in an advanced degree in Physical therapy. Of the 44 students in the MPT program at ETSU in 2002, 94 percent expressed an interest in a DPT. Another recent survey of employers in the area indicated at least 37 job openings in physical therapy. 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 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: N/A

1.1.20K COOPERATING 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: 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. To determine the extent to which program goals will be met, internal program evaluation is based on numerous factors. These include: student performance on licensure exams, the student, alumni and employer surveys, and outside consultants as required by performance funding and CAPTE.

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: On April 30, the proposed program was reviewed by Dr. Terry Malone, Professor and Director of Physical Therapy Education at the University of Kentucky. According to Dr. Malone, strengths of the proposed program include administrative support, location and collaborative opportunities with the VA Hospital, availability of the Medical Library, strong community/clinical support, strong basic science faculty. In summary Dr. Malone provided favorable comments based on his review and recommended that the program be approved. He was recommended by CAPTE and selected by THEC and TBR staff.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT: No additional costs are associated with the proposed program. Financial resources now available in the Department of Physical Therapy at ETSU and in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology in the College of Medicine are adequate to support the establishment of a doctoral program in physical therapy. The MPT will be phased out and replaced with the proposed DPT. The benefit is to students, whose educational objective of becoming licensed physical therapists can be completed at a public institution in east Tennessee. Estimated enrollment and productivity:

Student Projections	FTE Enrollment	Graduates
Year 1	53	0
Year 2	77	29
Year 3	82	34
Year 4	77	34
Year 5	74	32

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the five years following approval.

The review will be based on goals established in the approved program proposal. 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.