



Measuring What Matters: Education Comparability and Cultural Context

TruMerit Convening on Credential Evaluation and Patient Safety
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About the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)



CAPTE at a Glance

Only accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and CHEA for entry-level physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education programs.

Independent agency since 1977 and the sole recognized accreditor for physical therapy programs since 1983.

CAPTE

Commission on Accreditation
in Physical Therapy Education

CAPTE at a Glance

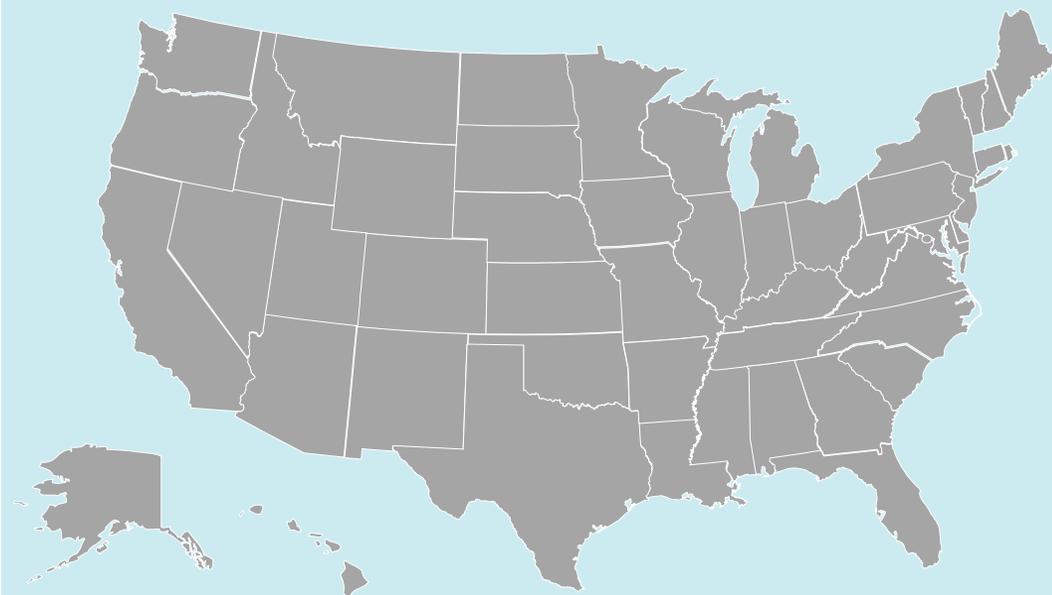
Accrediting arm of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)

Active member of the **Association of Specialized and Programmatic Accreditors (ASPA)**.

Our reviewers, panelists, and board members represent a wide spectrum of the education community, clinical practice, and the public.

**Accredits
335 DPT
programs**

**Accredits
415 PTA
programs**





CAPTE Standards and
Required Elements

CAPTE Rules of Practice
and Procedure



CAPTE Standards and Required Elements

CAPTE Rules of Practice and Procedure

Designed specifically for **evaluating entry-level education programs**

Provides information on **expected competencies individuals must demonstrate to graduate** and be eligible for **licensure in the U.S.**

Not designed to evaluate **foreign-trained physical therapists**

- Refers to state and jurisdictional regulatory bodies for determining eligibility for licensure

Overview of CAPTE Standards and Required Elements

STANDARD 7 Curriculum Framework

Expected knowledge and skills students should demonstrate:

- Basic sciences, clinical sciences, and evidence-based practice
- Patient examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention
- Professional ethics, values, and responsibilities

Overview of CAPTE Standards and Required Elements

STANDARD 6

Clinical Education Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of **30 full-time weeks of supervised clinical experiences**.

Students must be **supervised by a licensed physical therapist**.

Students must participate in **planned interprofessional learning activities** to develop interprofessional competencies.

Overview of CAPTE Standards and Required Elements

STANDARD 4 Faculty Qualifications

CAPTE expects faculty who are physical therapists to **maintain a current license in the jurisdiction** where the program is located.

At least 50% of faculty must hold an **academic doctoral degree**.

Faculty must demonstrate **contemporary expertise** in the areas they are teaching.

CAPTE expects faculty to participate in **teaching, scholarship, and service**.

Overview of CAPTE Standards and Required Elements

STANDARD 1 Student Outcomes

CAPTE expects the programs to have **stated student and program outcomes** in addition to CAPTE's three brightline benchmarks of **graduation rates**, ultimate licensure **pass rates**, and **employment rates**.



Relevance for Foreign-Trained PTs Seeking to Practice in the U.S.



Relevance for Foreign-Trained PTs Seeking to Practice in the U.S.

FSBPT's Evaluation Process - The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy uses the Coursework Tool (CWT) to evaluate foreign education equivalency to CAPTE-accredited programs.

Credential Evaluation - Organizations like FCCPT compare foreign PT education to U.S. standards, using CAPTE standards as a benchmark.

Verification of **clinical experience** and documentation of meeting **entry-level practice**.

Relevance for Foreign-Trained PTs Seeking to Practice in the U.S.

NPTE Preparation - The licensing exam tests concepts aligned with CAPTE standards.

Passing the NPTE and state jurisprudence **exams**

Remediation Requirements - State boards may require specific coursework based on gaps identified when comparing foreign education to CAPTE standards.



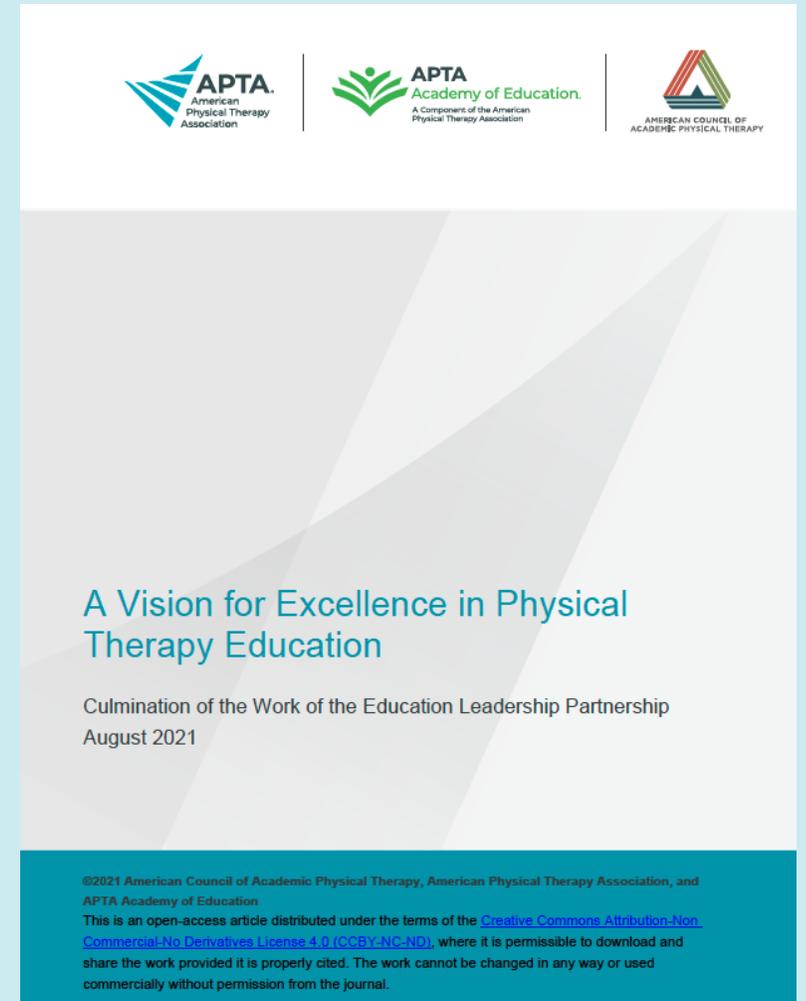
Competencies in Physical Therapy Education



APTA's "A Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education"

Guiding Principles for Competency

- There are **clear, standardized performance outcomes** across all stages of physical therapy education.
- **Education research informs** the competency-based approach.
- Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are expected to **maintain ongoing competence** to ensure consistent, high-quality practice.



Download at https://journals.lww.com/jopte/Fulltext/2021/12001/A_Vision_for_Excellence_in_Physical_Therapy.1.aspx

Knowledge, Skills, and Attributes



Foundational Knowledge



Curriculum Requirements



Evidence-Based Practice



Self-Assessment and Feedback



Communication Skills



Professional Behaviors



Safety



Clinical Reasoning



Examination & Intervention Skills



Professional Standards



What CAPTE Standards Expect of Programs and Students



What CAPTE Standards Expect of Programs and Students

Students develop skills progressively, from basic to advanced.

Entry-level clinical competence must be demonstrated before graduation.

Professional behaviors and attributes are expected throughout the program.

Programs must define how they assess both student and program outcomes.

Thank You

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