

**Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education**  
**American Physical Therapy Association**  
**SUMMARY OF ACTION**

Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
Seminole State College-Gordon Cooper Technology Center  
One John C Bruton Blvd  
Shawnee, OK 74804

On April 30, 2024, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Seminole State College-Gordon Cooper Technology Center.

**Status:** **ACCREDITATION**  
**Action Taken:** Continue Accreditation  
**Effective Date:** April 30, 2024

**Information Used to**

**Make Decisions:** Compliance Report

**Reason for Decision:** The Commission's decision to continue accreditation status is based on the program's level of compliance with the Standards and Required Elements and on the expectation that the program will, within two years of first being cited, bring itself into compliance with the following element(s) noted in the Commission's Findings: **4G**.

That compliance must be appropriately documented in a Compliance Report which will be used by the Commission to determine compliance with the elements noted in the Findings and to monitor compliance with all the required elements.

The program is reminded that the status of accreditation has been continued based on the program described in the materials reviewed by the Commission. The institution and program are responsible for notifying CAPTE of all substantive changes in the program prior to implementation. Unexpected substantive changes are to be reported immediately after they occur. (See Part 9 of CAPTE's Rules of Practice and Procedure for more information about reporting changes.)

**Next Activity:** Compliance Report due August 1, 2024

## NOTICES

### REQUIRED STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION STATUS

Once a program has been accredited, and for as long as it remains accredited, the program must use the statement provided in §8.20 on all educational and promotional materials, including the institution/program web site, where the program's accreditation status is disclosed.

[INSERT Name of Program] at [INSERT Name of Institution] is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>. If needing to contact the program/institution directly, please call [INSERT Direct Program Phone Number] or email [INSERT Direct Program Email Address].

NOTE: If the institution offers other physical therapy programs not subject to accreditation by CAPTE (e.g., transitional DPT, post-professional degree program, residency or fellowship), the above statement must be edited to clearly indicate that the additional programs are not accredited by CAPTE. Additionally, the information available to the public regarding these programs must clearly state that they are not accredited by CAPTE.

### TWO YEAR LIMITATION ON BEING OUT OF COMPLIANCE

CAPTE's recognition by the United States Department of Education requires a limitation of two years for programs to be out of compliance with a required element [34 CFR 602.20(a)(2)(iii)]. When, after review of a Compliance Report, the program remains out of compliance with any required element and sufficient progress toward compliance has not been demonstrated, CAPTE may act to place the program on probationary accreditation or withdraw accreditation. CAPTE will place the program on probationary accreditation when a program remains out of compliance for 18 months. If the program continues to be out of compliance with any required element at the end of the two-year period following the initial finding that the program is out of compliance, CAPTE will withdraw accreditation unless CAPTE judges the program, for good cause, to be making significant efforts to come into compliance with the standards and required elements. CAPTE defines a good cause effort as:

- (a) a completed comprehensive assessment of the problem/issue under review,
- (b) an appropriate plan for achieving compliance within a reasonable time frame not to exceed two years,
- (c) a detailed timeline for completion of the plan,
- (d) evidence that the plan has been implemented according to the established timeline, and
- (e) evidence that the implemented plan is showing results that provide reasonable assurance the program will achieve compliance within the allotted time frame.

It is the program's responsibility to make the case that a good cause effort has been made and continues to be in effect. During the extension for good cause, probationary accreditation status will be maintained, and the program's progress will be monitored. In no case, however, will an extension for good cause be longer than two years.

#### **ACCURATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION BY THE INSTITUTION**

The institution and program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or pre-accreditation status awarded to the program. Further, the United States Department of Education (USDE) requires all recognized accrediting agencies to provide for the public correction of incorrect or misleading information an institution or program releases about accreditation or pre-accreditation status, contents of reports of on-site reviews, and accreditation or pre-accreditation actions with respect to the institution or program [34 CFR 602.23(d) and 602.23(e)]. If the institution or program chooses to disclose any additional information, beyond the accreditation or pre-accreditation status that is within the scope of the USDE rule, such disclosure also must be accurate. Any public disclosure of information within the scope of the rule must include the agency's street address, email address and phone number: Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); (703) 684-2782 or (703) 706-3245. If the Accreditation staff finds that an institution or program has released incorrect or misleading information within the scope of the USDE rule, then, acting on behalf of CAPTE the Accreditation staff will make public correction, and reserves the right to disclose this Summary of Action in its entirety for that purpose.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF DECISIONS BY CAPTE**

Following all decisions, including decisions to place a program on warning, probation or show cause, or to deny candidacy, withdraw candidacy, withhold accreditation, or withdraw accreditation, the Accreditation staff will, within 24 hours of the official notification of the programs and institutions of the decisions, provide notice to the public by placing notice of the decisions on its web site.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT CHANGE(S)**

The institution and program are responsible for notifying CAPTE of all reportable changes in the program prior to implementation. Unexpected changes are to be reported immediately after they occur. Reportable changes, some of which may require pre-approval, are described in Part 9 of CAPTE's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* (<https://www.capteonline.org/globalassets/capte-docs/capte-rules-practice-procedure.pdf>). **It is the program's responsibility to be familiar with these expectations and to provide notification of program changes as required.**

**Commission's Findings and Reasons for Decision:**

The program was judged to be in **CONDITIONAL COMPLIANCE** with the following required elements. Conditional compliance means that the program has in place a substantial portion, but not all, of the components necessary to meet all aspects of the elements.

**4G** The program director is a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who demonstrates an understanding of education and contemporary clinical practice appropriate for leadership in physical therapist assistant education. These qualifications include all of the following:

- is a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who holds an active, unrestricted PT license or PTA license/certification in any United States jurisdiction and the state where the program is located if required by that state's jurisdiction;
- a minimum of a master's degree;
- a minimum of five years (or equivalent), full-time, post licensure experience that includes a minimum of three years (or equivalent) of full-time clinical experience within any US jurisdiction;
- didactic and/or clinical teaching experience;
- experience in administration/management;
- experience in educational theory and methodology, instructional design, student evaluation and outcome assessment, including the equivalent of nine credits of coursework in educational foundations, or previous CAPTE granted exemption.

Based on the review of the curriculum vitae submitted, the Commission acknowledges Shakira D. Stafford has the minimum full-time clinical experience, didactic teaching experience, and experience in administration and management as the PTA Program Director at Seminole State College.

However, it is noted that Shakira D. Stafford has not provided evidence of completion of nine credit hours in educational theory and methodology, instructional design, student evaluation, and outcome assessment of nine credits of coursework in educational foundations, as requested in the compliance report in the fall of 2023. The Commission reviewed the course descriptions for EDUC-5173 Fundamentals of Curriculum from East Central University (3 credits). Based on the available information, this course focuses on K-12 education rather than adult education. The Commission could not determine if sufficient content is transferable to higher education and, therefore, does not apply to 4G for the nine credit hours requirement.

Shakira D. Stafford noted in the compliance report will be completing the following courses in spring 24 to comply with this standard. The courses noted were Instructional Methods in Health Professions Education, Assessment in Higher Education: Professional Development for Teachers, University Teaching, Online Learning Design for Educators, and Diversity and Inclusion in Education. However, evidence of compliance still needs to be provided.

In the compliance report, provide evidence that the program director has the education and experience to fulfill all criteria expected of the Program Director. Submit transcripts and a CV that provide evidence of educational achievements and experience.

**INSTITUTION RESPONSE:**

**Important Advisory Notice:**

If CAPTE determines that the program remains out of compliance after review of the next Compliance Report, the program will have been out of compliance for 18 months with a specific element. The Commission reminds the program of the two-year limit to come into compliance and advises the program to review the expected timelines outlined in the *Accreditation Handbook*, Sub-Part 8F, 8.26 (b) (2) and in the Notice entitled *Two Year Limitation On Being Out Of Compliance* included in this Summary of Action. **As stated in this Notice, CAPTE will place a program on probationary accreditation when a program remains out of compliance for 18 months.** This relates to the element(s) cited as being out of compliance in this Summary of Action: **4G**.