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**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

*April 27 – May 2, 2018*

*October 26-31, 2018*

**STAFF:**

*Sandra L Wise, PhD*  
Senior Director

*Candy Bahner, PT, DPT, MS*  
Lead PT Programs Specialist

*Lisa Finnegan, PTA*  
Lead PTA Programs Specialist

*La DiCicco*  
re-Accreditation Specialist

November 22, 2017

**Nicole K Christensen, PT, PhD, MAppSc, Chair**  
Department of Physical Therapy  
Samuel Merritt University  
450 30th Street  
Oakland, CA 94609-3302

Dear Dr Christensen:

At its October 20-25, 2017 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) considered the materials submitted by the physical therapist education program at Samuel Merritt University. Enclosed please find a copy of the Summary of Action describing the results of the Commission's review.

The Summary of Action has two parts. The first part provides general information about the action taken by the Commission, including notices to the program. The second part provides a detailed description of the Commission's findings related to the program's compliance with individual standards and required elements. In the interest of public disclosure of accreditation actions, the first part of the Summary of Action may be provided to the public on request. Additionally, a list of all actions taken at the October 20-25, 2017 meeting is being posted on CAPTE's web page: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

If you have any questions or need further assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Candy Bahner, Lead PT Programs Specialist, or Sandra Wise, Senior Director, Accreditation, at the above address.

Best wishes in your endeavors toward a high quality physical therapist education program.

Sincerely,



**Laura Lee Swisher, PT, PhD, MDiv, FAPTA**  
Chair

CC:      *Sharon L Diaz, MSN, PhD(hc), President and CEO*  
            *Scot Foster, PhD, RN, Academic Vice President and Provost*



## Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

American Physical Therapy Association

### SUMMARY OF ACTION

Department of Physical Therapy  
Samuel Merritt University  
450 30th Street  
Oakland, CA 94609-3302

On October 25, 2017, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education made the following decision regarding the physical therapist education program at Samuel Merritt University.

**Status:** **ACCREDITATION**

**Action Taken:** Reaffirm Accreditation

**Effective Date:** October 25, 2017

**Information Used to Make Decisions:** Self-study Report received 2/2/17  
Visit Report with Institution Response received 7/18/17  
Comments from the Program Director  
Comments from the Team Leader  
Additional Materials received 9/18/17

**Reason for Decision:** The Commission's decision to reaffirm accreditation status is based on the program's general compliance with the Standards and Required Elements and on the expectation that the program can and will, within the next two years, bring itself into compliance with the following element noted in the attached Commission's Findings: 8B.

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.

**Graduate Performance:** The Commission notes the following:

- 1) The program is meeting its mission as evidenced by graduating highly skilled and compassionate health care professionals who provide patient centered care to diverse populations.
- 2) The performance of the program graduates, as reported by the program in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Accreditation Reports unless otherwise noted. (Data is included only from those years for which there is complete national data.)

Student Achievement	Program Graduates
Graduation Rate for students graduating in 2013, 2014	97.05%
Licensure Examination Pass Rate- ultimate Pass rate for students graduating in 2015, 2016*	100%
Employment Rate for students graduating in 2014, 2015	92%

\*Reported by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy; data current as of October 10, 2017

**Next Activity:** Compliance Report due February 15, 2018

## 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), 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone: 703-706-3245; email: [accreditation@apta.org](mailto:accreditation@apta.org); website: <http://www.capteonline.org>.

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 to be making a good faith effort to come into compliance with the standards and required elements. CAPTE defines a "good faith 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 faith effort has been made and continues to be in effect. During the extension for good faith, probationary accreditation status will be maintained and the program's progress will be monitored. In no case, however, will an extension for good faith be longer than two years.

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DECISIONS

Pursuant to expectations of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, CAPTE provides public notice of the reasons for its decisions to grant candidacy, or grant or reaffirm accreditation. These notices are in addition to the notices of reasons for probation and for final adverse actions as required by the US Department of Education. The front page of this Summary of Action will be used for this purpose.

#### **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, 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; 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* (<http://www.capteonline.org/AccreditationHandbook/>). 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 Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education judged the program to be in compliance with all of the Standards and Required Elements for Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education Programs except those noted below:

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.

1. **8B** The program has, or has ensured access to, adequate secretarial/administrative and technical support services to meet expected program outcomes.

Review of the Self-study Report and Visit Report with Institution Response indicates the program has 1.5 FTE support staff to assist with meeting expected program outcomes. The Visit Report with Institution Response also indicates that the program director is performing routine administrative tasks that are aligned with the job description of the support staff, as assigned support staff are not meeting departmental needs. The Commission is unclear whether the program has adequate support staff coverage that is able to effectively and efficiently meet all departmental needs.

In the Compliance Report, provide evidence the program has adequate secretarial/administrative and technical support services sufficient to meet expected program outcomes.

**INSTITUTION RESPONSE:**