



New River PTA Program—FAQ's

Q: When will the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) decide if the program is fully accredited?

A: The final determination of accreditation will take place during the Fall meeting in October 2022.

Q: When will I be able to sit for my licensure examination?

A: You will be able to sit for your licensure examination in January of 2023.

Q: Can I work as a PTA before I obtain a license?

A: You must first successfully pass your PTA licensure examination before working as a PTA.

IMPLICATIONS of AUGUST GRADUATION

The developing physical therapist assistant program at New River Community and Technical College is planning for a charter class graduation in August, 2022. Initial accreditation decisions are acted upon at the next regularly scheduled Fall Meeting of the Commission following the on-site visit, which must occur during the penultimate term when the charter class is enrolled. CAPTE will not make exceptions to its Rules to accommodate graduation dates that precede regularly scheduled CAPTE meeting dates, e.g., graduation in the summer. A summer graduation does not allow the initial accreditation decision to occur prior to the graduation date. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) sets the dates for licensing exams. The first sitting for which students with an August graduation date would be in January. Therefore, the timing of the planned graduation date increases the likelihood of a significant financial disadvantage for students due to an approximate six-month delay in possible employment as a physical therapist assistant.

NOTICE TO ALL PROSPECTIVE PTA STUDENTS: *Graduation from a physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.*

New River Community and Technical College is seeking accreditation of a new physical therapist assistant education program from CAPTE. On March 1, 2021, the program submitted an Application for Candidacy, which is the formal application required in the pre-accreditation stage. Submission of this document does not assure that the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status is required prior to implementation of the technical phase of the program; therefore, no students may be enrolled in technical courses until Candidate for Accreditation status has been achieved. Further, though achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status signifies satisfactory progress toward accreditation, it does not assure that the program will be granted accreditation.