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NEXT MEETING DATES:

April 23-27, 2021

October 29 – November 2, 2021

STAFF:

*Candy Bahner, PT, DPT, MS
Interim Director, Accreditation*

*Michael Chevalier, PTA, AAS, BS
Lead Pre-Accreditation Specialist*

*Cindy Mihelich, PT, MEd
Interim Lead PTA Programs Specialist*

*Ellen Price, PT, MEd
Interim Lead PT Programs Specialist*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Janice Heil, PT, MA
Flathead Valley Community College - PTA
Physical Therapist Assistant Program

FROM: Pamela D Ritzline, Chair, CAPTE
Candy Bahner, Interim Director, APTA Department of Accreditation

DATE: February 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Realignment of Accreditation Cycles
Certificates of Accreditation to Move to Digital Format

The postponement of spring 2020 site visits at the start of the pandemic, coupled with the development of new programs, has created a very uneven schedule for future program reviews that varied from 5 to 30 reviews per cycle. This, in turn, creates significant workload problems for the on-site reviewer pool and for CAPTE. In order to address this imbalance, CAPTE visit schedules for the next ten years have been realigned by staff to even out the number of visits scheduled in any given year. In some cases, programs have remained on their current cycles; for other programs the visits were moved forward by 6 or 12 months.

We did not change the timing of candidacy or initial accreditation reviews; the initial term of accreditation remains five years. Future reaffirmation visit cycles will remain ten years in length, subject to CAPTE's prerogative to shorten a cycle if circumstances warrant such an action. The accreditation expiration date has been extended for all impacted programs.

A schedule of programs to be reviewed by CAPTE at each of its meetings between now and Spring 2032 has been developed. Programs scheduled for review at the spring meeting are usually visited during the preceding fall; programs scheduled for review at the fall meeting are usually visited during the preceding spring or summer. As a result of this process, the physical therapy education program at **Flathead Valley Community College - PTA** is now scheduled to be reviewed by CAPTE at its **Spring 2029 meeting** with an on-site visit to be scheduled **for Fall 2028**.

The program's current accreditation term will expire **6/30/2029**. Please be aware that the Accreditation Department is transitioning away from a hard copy certificate of accreditation, and we will be providing a digital accreditation certificate to all programs later this spring. Please stay tuned for that information.

The Commission and the Accreditation Department staff look forward to working with programs to foster continued improvement. Questions about the changes described in this memo should be addressed to the appropriate Lead Specialist -- Ellen Price for PT programs or Cindy Mihelich for PTA programs.