

Contingency and Teach-Out Plan

Purpose

This document outlines Utah Valley University's (UVU) contingency plan in the event the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program does not achieve Candidate for Accreditation status or fails to achieve initial accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). This plan is in accordance with CAPTE's expectations for transparency and student protection and is communicated clearly to all prospective and enrolled students.

Accreditation and Licensure Clarification

Utah Valley University is currently seeking candidacy of a developing PTA education program from CAPTE. The program intends to submit the Application for Candidacy—the formal submission required in the pre-accreditation process—on November 1, 2025.

Important Notes Regarding Accreditation and Licensure:

- Submission of the Application for Candidacy does not guarantee that Candidate for Accreditation status will be granted.
- No students may begin the technical phase of the program until Candidate status is officially granted.
- Candidate for Accreditation status is considered by CAPTE to be an accredited status. Therefore, if the program achieves Candidate status prior to the start of the charter cohort, students who graduate from this cohort should be eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for licensure, even if full accreditation is ultimately withheld.
- However, each state licensing board makes its own determination about eligibility for licensure. Students are advised to consult with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (www.fsbpt.org) or their state board to verify requirements.

I. Contingency Plan if Candidacy Is Not Granted

If the PTA program does not achieve Candidate for Accreditation status:

1. Suspension of Enrollment
 - 1.1. No students will be admitted into the technical phase of the program.
 - 1.2. All current applicants and conditionally accepted students will be notified in writing of the program's status and options.
2. Communication and Documentation
 - 2.1. A public announcement will be made via the program website and through direct email communication to all applicants, UVU pre-PTA students, and program



stakeholders, including advisory board members and clinical sites with current clinical contract

- 2.2. All communication will clarify that no technical coursework can begin without CAPTE Candidacy status being achieved by the program.
- 2.3. Advising and Transfer Support:
UVU academic advisors will support affected students in exploring alternative academic pathways, including reapplying in a future cohort to other accredited PTA programs, such as **Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) or Provo College.**
- 2.4. Information on other CAPTE-accredited programs in Utah will be provided.

II. Teach-Out Plan if Initial Accreditation Is Withheld After Candidacy

If the program achieves Candidate status, admits and educates students, but ultimately fails to achieve initial accreditation, UVU will implement the following Teach-Out Plan, in collaboration with Salt Lake Community College and Provo College:

1. Completion of Curriculum
 - 1.1. Students who began the program under Candidate status are still considered to have graduated from an accredited program for licensure eligibility purposes, provided they complete the UVU PTA curriculum within 120 days of CAPTE's final decision to withhold initial accreditation. CAPTE may extend this timeline for good cause, but no new students may be admitted after the denial decision.
 - 1.2. UVU will make every effort to allow currently enrolled students to complete the curriculum in its entirety, consistent with the standards in place at the time of admission. This means the first cohort admitted under Candidate status will be allowed to complete the program and sit for the NPTE. However, any subsequent cohort admitted after the charter class would not be eligible, as they could not complete the curriculum within the 120-day timeframe.
2. Notification and Guidance
 - 2.1. Students will be informed immediately upon notification from CAPTE of initial accreditation denial.
 - 2.2. They will be advised of licensure eligibility and provided guidance to communicate with state licensing boards and the FSBPT.
3. **Collaborative Support with SLCC and Provo College**

Utah Valley University (UVU) has engaged in collaborative discussions with both Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) and Provo College regarding contingency options for students, should continuation in the UVU PTA Program become no longer viable.

Both SLCC and Provo College have expressed willingness to accept UVU students into their respective CAPTE-accredited Physical Therapist Assistant programs. However, students must initiate and complete each institution's standard



application and admissions process. Acceptance is not guaranteed and is contingent upon each program's admission requirements, program capacity, and the individual student's academic standing.

If admitted, students will be required to complete the full PTA curriculum as outlined by the receiving institution. Courses completed within the UVU PTA Program will not transfer into the professional phase of the new program, in accordance with CAPTE guidelines. However, **previously completed prerequisite coursework may be accepted, provided it meets the receiving institution's prerequisite course requirements.**

UVU will support students through this transition by providing official transcripts, course syllabi, and documentation of completed competencies upon request.

4. Records and Student Support
 - 4.1. UVU will maintain and provide academic records, transcripts, and faculty support throughout the teach-out process.
 - 4.2. Students will continue to receive advising, career support, and documentation needed for licensure and employment applications.
5. **Required Program List for CAPTE**
 - 5.1. UVU Institutional Academic Programs (See Academic Program Inventory: www.uvu.edu/accreditation-academic-assessment/docs/academic-program-inventory-2025-2026.pdf)
 - 5.2. Comparable CAPTE-accredited PTA programs in Utah:
 - 5.2.1. Salt Lake Community College (SLCC)
 - 5.2.2. Provo College

III. Communication of This Plan

This contingency and teach-out plan will be communicated to all prospective and enrolled students via the following methods:

- Inclusion in the PTA Program Information Packet and Admissions Materials
- Posting on the PTA Program Website
- Review during Advising Sessions and Orientation Meetings
- Acknowledgment form signed by applicants confirming they have reviewed and understood the contingency plan