



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

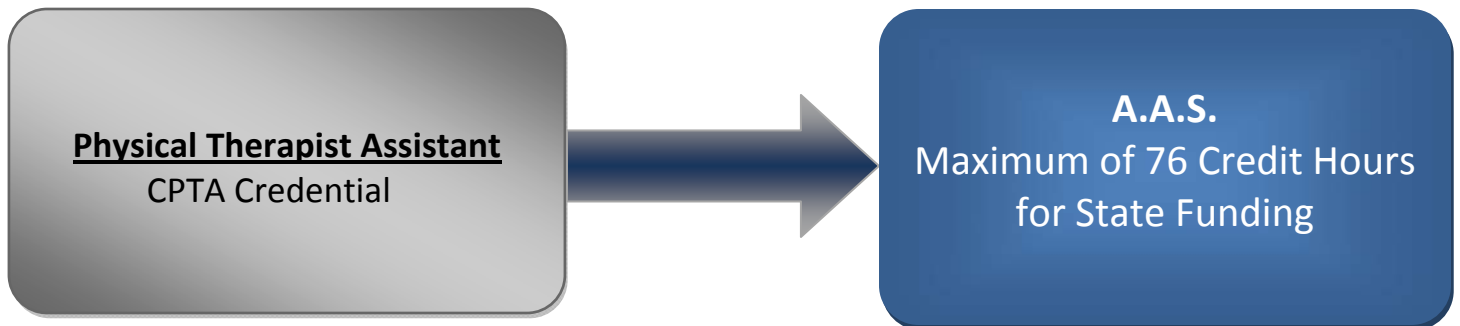
DATE: July 21, 2010

RE: Letter of Guidance for Physical Therapist Assistant Programs

Staff members of the Board of Regents recommend the Physical Therapist Assistant program is a viable candidate for the issuance of a *Letter of Guidance*, in addition to a Program Alignment Map. As a result of external accreditation, three of the four purposes of program alignment are met when applied to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

- 1) The identification of a nationally recognized third-party industry credential is satisfied with the Certified Physical Therapist Assistant (CPTA) credential which is required for employment. CPTA's are registered with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. All programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
- 2) An industry value-added exit point is prescribed because external accreditation requires an Associate Degree in Physical Therapist Assistant as a minimum for entry into employment.
- 3) The identification of a few common technical courses to bridge articulation between secondary and postsecondary partners are unnecessary because program candidates must be at least 18 years of age and have obtained a high school diploma or the equivalent to receive admittance into the program.
- 4) Upon reviewing physical therapist assistant programs offered at colleges across Kansas, staff submits a recommended maximum program length of 76 credit hours be allotted as eligible for state funding. The 76 credit hours are inclusive of prerequisite, academic support, and professional courses.

Accordingly, the staff members of the Board of Regents propose the acceptance of this Letter of Guidance for Physical Therapist Assistant educational programs.



Notes

Specifics pertaining to the Physical Therapist Assistant program:

1. Program standards established by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) programmatic accreditation is mandatory.
2. Course competencies and standards align with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) content matrix requirements, which all programs must adhere to.
3. Completers are eligible to sit for CPTA credential and obtainment of this credential is required for licensure to practice in Kansas.
4. Obtainment of an Associate Degree is required. There are no other exit points.
5. The practice of Physical Therapist Assistant is regulated by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts.
6. Articulation with secondary programs may only occur using Common Support Courses, not professional coursework.