

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, 11/02/2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Marlon Alaan, Sue Barber, Mary Ellen Barkman, Teresa Dean, David Erickson, Stephen Miller, Ernesto Monroy, Norman Schlact, Shamsah Shidi, Jim Switzer

PROGRAM FACULTY: Rebecca Kramer (Program Director)
Mary Hanlon, Barb Heier

MEETING TIME: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

I. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves and indicated their current place of employment.

Marlon Alaan asked the PTA Program faculty to identify which classes were taught by whom. For the freshmen in the fall: Mary Hanlon is the instructor for Basic Patient Care lecture and is the primary instructor for one Basic Patient Care lab and Marja Beaufait the other (vital signs, hot/cold modalities, transfers/gait, ROM and massage) with Barb Heier assisting in both Basic Patient Care labs. Barb Heier is the instructor for Anatomy and Kinesiology both lecture and lab with Marja Beaufait assisting with both labs. The sophomore courses are taught by Marja Beaufait who teaches the Neuroanatomy course and Rebecca Kramer who teaches the Therapeutic Exercise lecture and lab (neurophysiology, normal development, CVA, NDT, SCI, Parkinson's Disease and Cardiovascular Rehab) with Mary Hanlon assisting with lab. The pediatric portion is taught by Maggie Reilly and Mildred Dones from All Children's Hospital.

In the spring Mary Hanlon is the instructor for PT Principles and Procedures lecture and lab (stretching, US, traction, e-stim) with Marja Beaufait assisting in lab. Barb Heier is the instructor for the Orthopedic Disabilities and Treatment lecture and lab with Marja Beaufait assisting in lab. Marja Beaufait is the instructor for the sophomore's Trends in PT class (resume writing, cultural diversity, death and dying, home health, professionalism). Mary, Marja and Barb do the sophomore clinical visits with Rebecca helping out as needed.

R. Kramer reported the following:

- On May 7, 2011 the PTA Program graduated 32 students. One student finished the PTA curriculum but still had a general education course to finish and the other had a clinical course to finish (due to a pregnancy during her sophomore year). Both graduated in July 2011. This class initially began in the fall of 2009 with 47 students and had a 68% graduation rate.
- There are 24 sophomores. This class initially began with 44 in the fall of 2010. Currently, the graduation rate for this class is 55%.
- There are 37 freshmen. This class initially began with 40 students in August of 2011. There were 118 applicants for this class, 88 of whom met the admissions requirements.
- The program has 81 applicants for August 2012, 40 of whom have been admitted to the program.
- The Program has seen 3 patients this fall, a women's basketball player with grade 3 quad strain, a men's basketball player with an ACL tear and a women's volleyball player with a shoulder injury.

Mary Ellen Barkman inquired if the program looked at other PTA Program benchmarks with regards to admission requirements and retention rates as for comparison. Ms. Barkman indicated she had looked at a PTA program in TN that utilized interviews and HOBIT testing as part of their admission process. Discussions were held regarding the benefits of group interviews with many committee members stating having had to do this for entry into their PT Program. Members indicated interview scores were based on a rubric that included listening skills, eye contact and participation in the group dynamics. Committee members asked PTA faculty if the majority of unsuccessful students were also those individuals who did not involve themselves in group study and faculty acknowledged that many of them were. The question was raised if interviews would be beneficial in helping retention if those interviews could identify potential students who lacked interpersonal skills.

Norm Schlact suggested community members such as program clinical instructors and program graduates could assist faculty in the interview process.

Action: R. Kramer will gather data from other PTA Programs regarding retention rates and admission criteria and present to Committee Members at the spring meeting. Committee Members will think about what items should be on an interview rubric, questions for those being interviewed to discuss and if interviews were instituted what percentage of the admission criteria might be considered.

III. PTA Program Pass Rate Scores

R. Kramer passed out copies of the program's latest (October 17th) report on national licensure exam pass rates. For the graduating class of May 2011, 28 of the 34 students have taken the licensure exam and all 28 have passed first time to give the program a 100% first time pass rate percentage, well above the state average of 89.26% and the US average of 86.50%. R. Kramer discussed the CAPTE benchmark of 80% over a three year period, if schools are lower than 80% an action plan will be required. For the 2009-2011 period SPC is at 97.4% well above the CAPTE requirement of 80%.

IV. Fixed Date Testing for the NPTE

R. Kramer reported to the Committee FSBPT (Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy) has now implemented fixed testing dates for PTAs. There are only 3 dates during 2012 that PTAs will be able to take their national licensure exam (April 26, July 17, October 30). FPTA president Sheila Nicholson will ask the Florida Board, at its next meeting tomorrow night in Tampa, to support reinstating temporary licensure. She will be bringing this forward at the next Florida legislative session in January for a statute change.

Also of importance and on the Florida Board meeting agenda is for the Board to make a decision regarding the awarding of continuing education credit to APTA Credentialed CIs. Sheila Nicholson will present awarding one contact hour for every 160 hours of student supervision, up to a maximum of six hours per biennium.

Action: R. Kramer will attend the Florida Board of Physical Therapy meeting tomorrow night and report back to the Committee on their decisions regarding temporary licensure and continuing education credit for APTA credentialed CIs.

V. PTA Viability Report

R. Kramer distributed the PTA Program's 2010-2011 Viability Measures Report. Although the initiative to begin a full time physical therapy clinic

was not approved last year this important initiative will be brought forward again in 2012.

Committee comments on the success of the PTA Information Sessions included support for making the information sessions mandatory as an admission requirement.

Ms. Barkman also suggested that students submit a signed copy of the PTA program's essential functions as part of the admissions requirement.

Committee members voiced approval of the new PTA program action item to explore collaboration with other health center disciplines in creating case studies for utilization in Cerner (electronic medical documentation system purchased by HEC).

VI. Program Equipment Needs

M. Hanlon asked Committee members for their approval to order a bariatric mat table (\$13,000) that will hold 1,000 pounds. This is needed due to the increase in weight of PTA students and the need for two students to be on a mat table at the same time to perform interventions.

VII. Announcements

Teresa Dean announced she had accepted a Board member position for CAPTE (Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education).