CONSIDERATIONS WHEN ATTENDING A NEW DPT PROGRAM

1. Attending a new program
Attending a new program is a great opportunity to build something meaningful and be in on the ground floor! The Department of Physical Therapy has been in existence since 2011, with world-class faculty teaching undergraduate students, conducting research, and treating patients. However, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, like all new physical therapy degree programs, is conditionally accredited (Candidate for Accreditation) by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CAPTE is an accrediting agency that is nationally recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). CAPTE grants specialized accreditation status to qualified entry-level education programs for physical therapists. Accreditation is a process used in the US to assure the quality of the education that students receive. A developing program cannot become fully accredited until the charter class successfully completes all requirements of the program and is ready to sit for the national board examination. Therefore, the 3 years between entry of (Candidate for Accreditation) and graduation of the first class (Accreditation) is associated with some risk. In order to minimize that risk, High Point University (HPU) pledges that should the DPT program fail to achieve Accreditation status, the students would receive assistance from HPU in applying to other established DPT programs with a full refund of tuition and fees assessed while at HPU. In this way, the university and department are partners in the commitment you are making to the new DPT program at HPU. We are energized by our collective innovative potential!

2. Timing of the CAPTE decision on accreditation
According to CAPTE’s “Rules of Practice and Procedure”, an on-site visit to determine the HPU DPT program’s fitness for initial accreditation will take place late in the penultimate term of the charter class (November 2019), approximately 5 months before the scheduled graduation in April 2020. Within 10 days of that visit, the HPU DPT program will receive a visit report from CAPTE and have 30 days to respond to that report. A decision on the success of a visit is rendered by CAPTE at their next available meeting (Spring of 2020). The exact date in the Spring has not been published yet by CAPTE but ordinarily, the decision is rendered prior to graduation. Written notification of CAPTE’s status decision and rationale is provided to High Point University in the form of a Summary of Action. Accreditation decisions granting accreditation status for new programs shall be effective on the date of the decision.

3. The national licensing examination
The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBT) issues the national physical therapy licensing examination at only certain times of the year. According to the FSBT, in order to sit for the examination, you must be within 90 days of graduation from a CAPTE accredited institution. Graduation of successful candidates from the HPU DPT program is scheduled for the end of April, which would allow the students to sit for either the early April or the early July examination dates. The
ability of the charter class to sit for the April examination depends somewhat on the timing of CAPTE’s decision on the accreditation of the program.

REQUIRED CAPTE STATEMENT
Effective (insert date), the Department of Physical Therapy at High Point University has been granted Candidate for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314; phone: 703-706-3245; email: accreditation@apta.org). Candidate for Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education indicates that the program is progressing toward accreditation and may matriculate students in technical/professional courses. Candidate for Accreditation is not an accreditation status nor does it assure eventual accreditation.