

General Education in the Coursework Evaluation Tool

The Federation developed the Coursework Evaluation Tool for use by credentialing agencies to compare foreign educated physical therapists' academic courses to courses taken by graduates of programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The Tool provides credentialing agencies and licensing authorities with a reliable, valid measure of a foreign-educated physical therapist's educational equivalence to a CAPTE-accredited education.

In 2004, the Coursework Evaluation Tool was adjusted to reflect current minimum credits in General Education to 54 semester credits. This number was based upon the minimum credits of any U.S. accredited program reported in the APTA Fact Sheet produced by the CAPTE Annual Report. The report used to be published in May but beginning this year, the report will be published in early 2007.

The CAPTE evaluative criteria which were set in place for incoming classes after January 2006 require a minimum of six terms of general education and six terms of professional education. This is expected to result in a gradual increase in General Education minimum requirements to 75-90 semester credits, with a similar increase in the minimum requirements for Professional Education credits.

The definition of General Education was clarified to be "all non-physical therapy education completed, provided these courses were taken at the college level from a recognized

educational program. These courses, both pre-professional and post-professional education, may be used to fulfill the 54 credit requirements after the core courses have been met."

The core course content areas remain the same as in prior forms;

- One course in humanities,
- Two semesters in chemistry with lab,
- Two semesters in physics with lab,
- One course in biological sciences
- One course in social sciences,
- One course in psychology,
- One course in mathematics.

The remaining courses are electives within any of these categories.

General Education is required in the first professional degree in physical therapy education in the United States to demonstrate depth and breadth and a well-rounded basis of educational knowledge. The acquisition of this knowledge and demonstration of this educational basis can be obtained in a number of ways. The candidate may attend classes at any recognized or accredited college or university, they may complete online coursework from a recognized college or university or they may complete CLEP (College Level Exam Program) examinations to demonstrate college level knowledge in an area. For coursework to be considered, an official transcript of record must be provided by the original source institution. ■

APTA Litigation Resolved

The American Physical Therapy Association and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy are pleased to announce that they have resolved their dispute over the fees for the National Physical Therapy Examination that had been the subject of litigation. Under the terms of the settlement, the Examination fee will remain \$350 through 2009, with set limits on any increases in the fee that may be instituted thereafter, through the expiration of the contract between the Association and the Federation in 2014. The new terms ensure that the price to take the Examination remains affordable for licensure candidates starting their careers in the profession, while providing appropriate revenue to support the Federation's continued development and administration of the Examination. "We think this is a fair resolution, and we are confident that this agreement on Examination fees is in the best interests of our members and the physical therapy profession," said Federation President E. Dargan Ervin and Association President R. Scott Ward, adding that "we are glad to put this dispute behind us, and plan to return the focus of our relationship to continued collaboration between our organizations."