



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

## Memo

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Dr. Devin Stephenson, President  
Date: January 17, 2023  
Re: Physical Therapist Assistant Program Accreditation

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The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program, under the direction of Dr. Susan DeSmith, successfully completed the accreditation process through the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). CAPTE is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Accreditation is a peer-review process to assure the quality of education that students receive. The following list highlights the key steps that were taken to achieve this important goal.

- May 2020 – The application for candidacy, which included an abbreviated self-study report, was submitted.
- July 2020 – The site visit for the candidacy process was completed.
- November 2020 – CAPTE granted Candidate for Accreditation status to the NWFSC PTA Program.
- January 2021 – The PTA Program welcomed its first cohort of 14 students.
- March 2021 – The Progress Report was submitted, followed by a Compliance Report.
- March 2022 – The comprehensive Self-Study Report describing how the program is in compliance with over 130 standards and required elements was submitted.
- May 2022 – The site visit for initial accreditation was completed.
- October 2022 - CAPTE granted Accreditation status to the NWFSC PTA Program. The only findings were related to program outcomes that could not be measured because the first cohort of students had not yet graduated, taken the licensure examination, or secured employment as Physical Therapist Assistants.
- December 2022 – The charter class graduated and was pinned at the NWFSC Fall Commencement.

Academic Affairs has updated the NWFSC 2022-2023 College Catalog, as well as the PTA Program page and the Admissions information on the NWFSC website, to reflect the program's accreditation status.

The College is pleased to provide this informational update to the Board of Trustees to highlight this pride point for the PTA Program and entire College community.