

## M E M O R A N D U M

**TO: Jennifer Bird-Pollan, PhD, JD****FROM: Tony English, PT, PhD, Professor & Department Chair****DATE: April 24, 2020****RE: Temporary Major Program Change Request for Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program**

We request a one-time, major change that will result in an alteration in hours required for earning the DPT for our graduating class of 2020 who begin their final full time clinical experience on June 1, 2020. We have approval from our faculty (discussed on April 20) to go forward with the plan as outlined below.

The Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) requires physical therapy students to complete a minimum of 30 weeks of full time clinical experiences prior to graduation and to demonstrate they are entry level practitioners and have had experiences in an appropriate variety of clinical facilities that represent common areas of physical therapy practice. CAPTE has reduced this minimum number to 28 weeks this year only due to the COVID-19 crisis. The University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences Department of Physical Therapy's current CAPTE accredited curriculum requires 39 weeks of full time clinical experiences over a variety of settings, which exceeds the minimum required by CAPTE. Due to the COVID-19 crisis resulting in health systems and physical therapy practices limiting student/learner access and the possibility that all students may be required to suspend clinical activities by government or University-order, the UKDPT Class of 2020 may be unable to finish all 39 weeks to meet the UKDPT credit hour requirements for graduation. This one-time request is to reduce the UKDPT curricular requirement from 39 weeks of full time clinical experience to a minimum of 28 weeks by eliminating one full time clinical experience (9 credit hours) if necessary. This reduction will not impact students ability to obtain licensure.

We are finding most of our benchmark institutions (also accredited by SACS) are moving in the same direction. The DPT program hour count before the proposed change is 139 and with this change, 130.

Please direct any questions to me or our Director of Professional Studies (Debbie Kelly, DPT, [Dgkell1@uky.edu](mailto:Dgkell1@uky.edu)).

Thanks for your collective help on this pressing issue.

cc: Karen Badger, PhD

see blue.