

To: Senate Council

Contact: Dr. Karen Badger, Associate Dean (kbadger@uky.edu); Dr. Tony English, PT Dept. Chair (tenglish@email.uky.edu)

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RE: Request for nonstandard Spring 2021 Academic Calendar: Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT)

We request approval to modify the Spring 2021 semester as described below for the following courses and cohorts:

Curriculum of DPT third year students expected to graduate August 2021: Courses begin January 4, 2021 through May 7, 2021:

PT 850	Advanced Manual Interventions
PT 860	Diagnosis and Management of the Complex Patient
PT 686	Specialty Electives
PT 888	Advanced Physical Therapy Management
PT 839	Terminal Full-Time Clinical III

Curriculum of DPT second year students expected to graduate August 2022:

Courses begin January 11, 2021 through April 2, 2021 (part-term courses)

PT 836	PT Integrated Clinical II
PT 650	Dysfunction of Peripheral Joints
PT 654	Motor Control Theory and Intervention
PT 847	Management of Neurological Systems I
PT 628	Gerontology

Course begins April 5, 2021 and ends June 4, 2021 (part-term course)

PT 837	Full-Time Clinical I
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Curriculum of DPT first year students expected to graduate August 2023: Courses begin January 18, 2021 through May 14, 2021:

PT 814	Foundational Skills
PT 603	Pharmacology
PT 805	Normal Functional Anatomy
PT 645	Evidence Informed Practice I: Fundamental Principles

This is a one-time request for modification of the University Senate approved Academic Calendar to a nonstandard calendar for these courses for Spring 2021. The Physical Therapy professional program has operated on a program-necessary calendar course schedule similar to the allowances described above, since the program began in 2006. Because the original DPT program approval indicated such a calendar, we've been operating with the assumption that calendars were in order. While preparing for this COVID-19 related nonstandard calendar request, we became aware that University Senate may want to more formally approve our specific calendar structure. In order to meet the accreditation standards, the needs of DPT students, and align with the availability of clinical rotations provided by our community partners, we need to be able to continue to operate with a calendar similar to what we have used in the past.

The DPT program is delivered to students on the Lexington campus and a distant site campus in Hazard, KY via interactive television technology. We have two rooms available to use for lecture/discussion classroom activities and three cohorts of students. Hands on techniques are taught in one laboratory classroom on each campus. The Lexington campus laboratory is shared among the three cohorts of 48 students each. This requires great detail in scheduling labs and is a primary reason for a slightly extended semester framework. Faculty and students must be accounted for and many faculty teach more than one cohort adding to the complexity. Due to this and the need to consider the energy and overall needs of our clinical partners who provide clinical education, we understand the need for a more long term nonstandard calendar we expect to propose in the spring semester. For now, the approval of this current proposal will help us navigate spring of 2021 successfully. We plan to submit a proposal to establish a long-standing nonstandard academic calendar for Senate Council's consideration in Spring 2021.

Curriculum Rationale: The DPT program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) with standards that govern didactic and clinical components of the curriculum, as well as student learning outcomes and competencies. Standards require students complete intensive clinical rotations (after completing didactic coursework) and synthesize this learning through applied classroom instruction. Thus, students must demonstrate knowledge/skill proficiency before entering clinical placements and complete those placements according to CAPTE's expectations. Mastery of this material sets a foundation for clinical and future didactic learning for each DPT cohort. This mastery is essential so students are prepared to continue clinical training in the Spring 2021 semester and progress to degree in August.

Second year DPT students are scheduled to first have in-class applied instruction to synthesize the semester's learning the first part of the Spring semester. Then they engage in their accreditation-required clinical experience scheduled from April 5 to June 4, 2020. This 9 week clinical experience is the first of four full time experiences in the total program. In order to fully prepare the students to function at the expected level, didactic and clinical coursework must be completed prior to the April start of clinical rotations, which the nonstandard calendar request supports.

CAPTE standards require DPT students complete a minimum of 30 total weeks of full time clinical experiences prior to graduation. The students must also demonstrate they are entry-level practitioners with experiences in an appropriate variety of clinical facilities that represent common areas of physical therapy practice. Our UK DPT program goes beyond this 30 week minimum to 39 weeks to provide a competitive level of excellence in our clinical education program. Hence, in their **third year, DPT students** will be in a variety of clinical experiences (both on campus and off), from March 8 until May 7. Our clinical community partners are prepared for this calendar adjustment. We have Memorandums of Agreement with our clinical sites that lay out expectations of when our students will be on site in order to fulfill experiential education requirements for clinical education. These indispensable arrangements with our community partners have been in place for over a year for the Spring 2021 semester.

This requested nonstandard calendar also requests that **first year DPT students** begin their PT courses one week early on January 18th so that they can fully engage in the curriculum when they arrive on campus to begin ANA 811 Human Gross Anatomy course. ANA 811 is a human cadaver dissection course that has typically started a week early due to the number of weeks required to cover the entire human body. It is essential for Physical Therapy students to have a strong foundation and working knowledge of the human body for use throughout the rest of the curriculum and their careers and this extra time helps pace their learning.

The proposed nonstandard calendar for Spring 2021 semester appears compliant with SR 5.2.2 concerning student load For First Year (Class of 2021) and Third Year (Class of 2023) students the week to credit hour ratio is in fact less than that of the regular 16 week semester with maximum course load of 19 credit hours. For Second Year students (Class of 2022) the weeks to student credit hours rounds to the same ratio as that of the regular semester calculation. Hence, it appears that these requested changes are in compliance with expectations of SR 5.2.2 for Second Year students (See table below).

Student Year Projected Graduation	Modification	Start Date	End Date	Courses	Weeks: Student Credit Hours
Third Year: Class of 2021	Three week earlier start date than approved calendar date (18 weeks: 19 credits)	Jan. 4, 2021	May 7, 2021	PT 850 (3) PT 860 (3) PT 686 (1) PT 888 (3) PT 839 (9)	18 weeks: 19 credits
Second Year: Class of 2022 student (graduates 2022)	Two week earlier start date from approved calendar- <i>part of term</i> courses	Jan. 11, 2021	April 3, 2021 (April 3 is make-up day)	PT 836 (3) PT 650 (3) PT 654 (4) PT 847 (3) PT 628 (2)	12.2 weeks: 15 credit hours= 1.22 credits per week ratio, which rounds to essentially the regular semester ratio of 16 weeks: 19 credit max = 1.19 credits per week
	Part-term course; starts mid-semester - ends two weeks later than approved calendar date (9 weeks: 1 credit per week)	April 5, 2021	June 4, 2021	PT 837 (9)	9 weeks: 9 credits
First Year: Class of 2023	One week earlier start date from approved calendar	Jan. 18, 2021	May 14, 2021	PT 814 (2) PT 603 (1) PT 805 (3) PT 645 (3)	17 weeks: 14 credits (including ANA 811 (5))