

General Information Template for Academic Program Review

Degree Area and Level:

D.P.T in Physical Therapy (CIP 51.2308) at Western Carolina University and Winston-Salem State University

Addressing UNC Tomorrow:

A D.P.T in Physical Therapy directly applies to UNC Tomorrow Recommendation 4.5.2 that states, "UNC should educate more health professionals."

Role of Program in Relation to State and Regional Needs:

In the Report of the Technical Panel on the Physical Therapy workforce titled, *Maintaining Balance: The Physical Therapy Workforce in North Carolina in the Year 2000*, the panel "concludes that supply and requirements in the physical therapy professions are in approximate balance at this time and recommends the following courses of action to educational institutions in North Carolina preparing physical therapy personnel:

- Maintain the status quo with respect to the number of programs and the number of enrollments in physical therapy and physical therapist assistants in North Carolina's PT and PTA programs. Follow the APTA suggested moratorium on any new programs through 2003.
- Address the issue of under-representation of minorities in physical therapist and physical therapist assistant programs in North Carolina.
- Educational policy makers should avoid downsizing or closing programs in response to a single year's decline in the applicant pool or graduates' employment opportunities. Doing so might waste resources if demand resurfaces while the capacity to produce new personnel is eroded. Hence, the panel recommends that those few programs experiencing declining enrollments should receive continued support for a minimum of 3 to 5 years as local, state and national trends can be observed and interpreted.

According to 2004 data produced by The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, there were 3,594 licensed, active, in-state physical therapists in North Carolina. The workforce is 74% female and 26% male. In 2004, there were 4.2 physical therapists per 10,000 population in North Carolina. There were 4.8 per 10,000 population in metropolitan areas and 2.9 per 10,000 population in non-metropolitan areas. Nationally, there were 5.9 physical therapists per 10,000 population.

US Labor Department Analysis:

- *Summary* – Employment of physical therapists is expected to grow 27 percent from 2006 to 2016, much faster than the average for all occupations. The impact of proposed Federal legislation imposing limits on reimbursement for therapy services may adversely affect the short-term job outlook for physical therapists. However, the long-run demand for physical therapists should continue to rise as new treatments and techniques expand the scope of physical therapy practices. Moreover, demand will be spurred by the increasing numbers of individuals with disabilities or limited function.
- *Summary Data* – Source: U.S. Department of Labor and America's Career InfoNet

Occupational Characteristics - North Carolina						
SOC Code	Occupation	Minimum Educ Level	2006-2016 Growth	2008 Wages	Licensing	Self-Empl
29-1123	Physical Therapists	Master's degree	Much faster than average	\$72,630	State	8.4%

Occupational Projections - North Carolina							
SOC code	Occupation	Employment			Average Annual Openings		
		Est 2006	Proj 2016	Change	Growth	Replace	Total
29-1123	Physical Therapists	4,155	5,744	38.2%	159	50	209

Wage Trends - North Carolina							
SOC Code	Occupation	Median Annual Wage					Change
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004 to 2008
29-1123	Physical Therapists	\$59,430	\$62,380	\$64,240	\$69,980	\$72,630	22.2%

Benchmarks for Wage Trends (all occupations)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 2004 to 2008
North Carolina Median Wage	\$26,690	\$27,160	\$27,980	\$28,950	\$29,860	11.9%
North Carolina Mean Wage	\$33,960	\$34,460	\$35,520	\$36,900	\$38,230	12.6%
National Median Wage	\$28,770	\$29,430	\$30,400	\$31,410	\$32,390	12.6%
National Mean Wage	\$37,020	\$37,870	\$39,190	\$40,690	\$42,270	14.2%

Availability of Program Statewide (Enrollment and Degrees Awarded in Last 3 Years):

- *Public universities*

Enrollment			Academic Year						
			Fall 05	Spr 06	Fall 06	Spr 07	Fall 07	Spr 08	Fall 08
ECU	Physical Therapy/Therapist	DPT	32	32	63	63	83	87	90
UNC-CH	Physical Therapy/Therapist	DPT	40	37	41	40	82	79	109

Number of Degrees Awarded			Academic Year		
			2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
ECU	Physical Therapy/Therapist	DPT	9	9	26
UNC-CH	Physical Therapy/Therapist	DPT	6	34	20

- *Private universities – Source: Occupational Supply Demand System and the College Navigator for the National Center for Educational Statistics*

Number of Degrees Awarded			Academic Year		
			2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Duke	Physical Therapy/Therapist	D	32	38	42
Elon	Physical Therapy/Therapist	D	52	37	33

Available in Online or Distance Format from UNC institutions:

The DPT at UNC-Chapel Hill is available through Distance Education and at UNC Online.

Available or not from Academic Common Market:

Not available.

Campus enrollment and degrees awarded in similar programs at the Doctoral level:

(Based on two CIP digits – 51 CIP for Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences)

Neither campus offers Doctoral level programs in the 51 CIP categories.

System Average of enrollment and degrees awarded in this degree area at the Doctoral level:

(Based on two CIP digits – 51 CIP for Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences - over the last 3 Academic Years, Fall 2005-Fall 2008)

System Average		
	Enrollment per Semester	Degrees Awarded per Year
ECU	21	4
NCSU	42	9
UNC-C	13	N/A
UNC-CH	38	8
UNC-G	14	1
System Average	26	6

WCU Campus Degree Programs added in the past three years:

- Bachelor
 - BS Entrepreneurship (09/07/2007)
- Master
 - N/A
- Doctoral
 - N/A

WCU Degree Programs discontinued in past three years:

- Bachelor
 - BSEd French, Secondary Education (03/20/2009)
 - BSEd German, Secondary Education (03/20/2009)
 - BS Electronics Engineering Technology (03/20/2009)
 - BS Telecommunications Engineering Technology (03/20/2009)
 - BS Industrial Distribution (03/20/2009)
 - BS Engineering Technologies Manufacturing (03/20/2009)
 - BS Industrial Chemistry (03/20/2009)

- BS Social Sciences (03/20/2009)
- BS International Business (03/20/2009)
- BA in Social Sciences (03/20/2009)
- *Masters*
 - MAEd English, 2-Yr College Teaching (03/20/2009)
 - MAEd Mathematics, 2-Yr College Teaching (03/20/2009)
 - MAEd Physical Education, 2-Yr College Teaching (03/20/2009)
 - MAEd Biology, 2-Yr College Teaching (03/20/2009)
- *Doctoral*
 - N/A

WSSU Campus Degree Programs added in the past three years:

- *Bachelor*
 - BA African and African-American Studies (10/13/2006)
 - BS Motorsport Management (05/11/2007)
 - BS Health Care Management (01/11/2008)
 - BS Management (01/12/2007)
 - BS Finance (01/12/2007)
 - BS Marketing (01/12/2007)
- *Master*
 - MHA Healthcare Administration (09/07/2007)
 - MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) (08/11/2006)
- *Doctoral*
 - N/A

WSSU Degree Programs discontinued in past three years:

- *Bachelor*
 - BA Art Education (03/20/2009)
 - BA Social Studies Education (03/20/2009)
 - BA Spanish Teacher Education (03/20/2009)
 - BS Molecular Biology (03/20/2009)
 - BSOT Occupational Therapy (10/12/2007)
- *Masters*
 - N/A
- *Doctoral*
 - N/A