



Development of the New Coursework Tool, CWT 6

FSBPT's *Coursework Tool for Foreign Educated Physical Therapists* (CWT) is used by credentialing agencies to compare foreign educated PT coursework with CAPTE-accredited PT program coursework in order to determine substantial equivalence.

When the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) updates its PT or PTA educational standards, FSBPT develops a new CWT. Each version of the CWT is developed, standardized, validated and overseen by FSBPT.

In 2014, CAPTE published new PT and PTA *Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs*. The standards went into effect January 1, 2016 and the first classes after the standards had been implemented will graduate in 2017. Hence the CWT will be implemented January 1, 2017.

Consequently, FSBPT convened two task forces, PT and PTA, and contracted with DCI Consulting, an outside firm, who are experts in the field of validation to provide the methodology, research and facilitation for the task forces.

The PT task force compared the current CWT 5's content to the new CAPTE criteria and standards. It identified a number of areas that were not addressed in the CWT 5. The task force incorporated the additional requirements into the CWT 6.

The task force then used the CWT 6 to conduct reviews of actual course syllabi. Following the meeting, members, along with experienced FCCPT reviewers, conducted additional curriculum reviews to determine inter-rater reliability. They also finalized requirements for the CWT 6 *Guidelines for Interpretation*, which will be used in training.

FSBPT's Foreign Education Standards Committee reviewed the task force's work and submitted the final CWT 6 to the FSBPT Board of Directors, who approved it May 2016. CWT 6 becomes effective January 1, 2017.

[CWT 6](#) reflects the following changes in content:

1. The minimum total hours are 170, up from 150 hours in CWT 5. This is based upon the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers publication, AACRAO-Edge's identification of a post-secondary clinical doctorate and the CAPTE annual report.
2. Professional education consists of a minimum of 22 credits clinical education (900 hours, which is an increase from the 800-hour minimum) plus a minimum of 68 credits didactic education, for a total of 90 credits.
 - a. The 900 hours is based upon the CAPTE criteria of 30 full-time weeks of clinical experience. The Internal Revenue Service and the US Affordable Care Act indicate that 30 hours per week is considered fulltime. Thus $30 \times 30 = 900$ hours.
 - b. The clinical education could include internship or supervised practice. There is also clarification of what types of experiences are required for clinical education.
3. Additional subcategories in Basic Health Sciences include genetics; histology; nutrition; exercise science; psychosocial aspects of health, disability, physical therapy; and diagnostic imaging.
4. Additions within Medical Sciences include a review of each of the body systems. In the past versions of the CWT, these were lumped into "other medical surgical conditions." Also added are: system interactions, differential diagnosis, and a generic medical, surgical conditions across the lifespan.
5. Examination and Evaluation have become two separate sections.
6. In the Examination section, each of the tests and measures previously listed as optional are now required.
7. The new Evaluation section defines more clearly the steps involved in PT evaluation: data analysis and evaluation; patient problem identification; findings that warrant referral; prognosis and goal formulation; and plan of care development.
8. The Interventions section has been replaced with Plan of Care Implementation; all the previously optional interventions are now required. New subsections include plan of care management, supervision of support staff, outcome assessment, discharge or discontinuation planning and patient-related emergency procedures.
9. Related Professional Coursework now has 13 updated subsections.

The revised PTA Tool will be finalized later this summer.