

**DCHP Dean's Response to the Program Review
Evaluation of the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Therapy Program
February 21, 2020**

The Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions (DCHP) dean received and valued the thorough review of our Bachelor of Science in Athletic Therapy Program by the review team at the on February 21, 2020. The college welcomed the program, this past year with enthusiasm and strong support. Comments from the dean is noted in *purple*.

The committee member were as follows:
Dr. Deven M. Bawden, PT, DPT, CFCE, CIDN
Dr. Casey W. Neville, DHSc, R.T. (R) ARRT

Commendations:

The Bachelor of Science in Athletic Therapy Program faculty appreciates the efforts of the Review Team to evaluate the program. The team identified several strengths of the program including a clearly outlined mission statement, a well-thought-out curriculum that provides a solid foundation for pre-professional undergraduate students, clearly described learning outcomes that align with the curriculum, improvements to academic advising that benefit both the students and college advisement office, the quality and cohesiveness of the full-time and adjunct faculty, the facilities, technology, and equipment in the classrooms, and the relationships that have been developed with various clinical facilities within the Wasatch front. We believe that the team's findings will serve to further strengthen the Athletic Therapy program in the years ahead. *Agreed*

- b. Program proposals to revise the Athletic Therapy curriculum will be submitted to the college and university curriculum committees this Fall. In addition to revising courses that were originally tailored to athletic training students, we would also like to revise the overall curriculum in the Athletic Therapy program so that it is more inclusive to students who are interested pursuing other health care professions. Secondly, we would like to better standardize the application process for students who are interested in the Athletic Therapy Program. Currently, students are admitted to the Athletic Therapy Program on a rolling basis. This not only is difficult for students to know when they are eligible to apply to the program, but it is also difficult for the program director to supervise these students. The College of Health Professions Academic Advisors have recommended that we meet with the faculty in the Health Sciences (AS) program to develop an Athletic

admitted to the Athletic Therapy (BS) program. Lastly, the name, Athletic Therapy, has been confusing and sometimes misleading to students and colleagues at WSU. We would

mission of the program. Our goal is for these revisions to be approved and implemented in the 2021-2022 catalog. During the 2019-20 academic year, we attempted to partner with a local massage therapist to offer a Licensed Massage Therapy (LMT) route for students within the Athletic Therapy program. However, due to certain accreditation laws, the ability to integrate an LMT route in a timeline that would be both convenient and logical for students in our program was determine to not be possible. However, we currently looking to offer alternative certifications that are more accessible for students at Weber State University. Both the Phlebotomy certification and Limited Practical Technician (LPT) certification have potential to either be integrated or advertised to students in the Athletic Therapy program. Once the program revisions are submitted and approved this Fall, the faculty will continue exploring these (and other) certifications that have potential to be added to the program. *Agreed and support.*

- c. We will rely on the biennial assessments and our next program review to determine the effectiveness of these revisions to the Athletic Therapy curriculum in terms of the academic outcomes and graduation efficiency of our students. We will also review future alumni surveys to determine if additional certifications would make graduates more marketable to graduate programs and/or employers. *Support and agree.*

2. Standard C. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments: Distribute an assessment survey

within the program.

- a. We currently have a graduate exit survey that we distribute towards the end of each semester to students who have applied for graduation. This survey is used to assess -graduate plans, graduate school acceptance rate, and perception of how well they believe the Athletic Therapy program prepared them for graduate school. Additionally, it asks for student feedback on what can be improved about the program. We have also created an alumni survey that we will be distributing to former graduates to track their education and/or employment statuses, which will offer information on graduate success of the Athletic Therapy program. We d -0rOm0e2BT/Fduc5TET604004C005004A0

program and revised curriculum. However, the feasibility and logistics of this survey requires further discussion. The application and graduation timeline of students in our current program is highly variable, which makes the timing and frequency of when this survey should be distributed difficult to determine.

Will support and assist as needed.

- b.* Once the revised Athletic Therapy program curriculum is officially implemented in the 2021-22 catalog, the faculty will meet during the early Fall 2021 semester to discuss the feasibility and logistics over creating and distributing an assessment survey to current students in the program/major. We believe that more streamlined curriculum is better suited for a survey of this kind. *Agree and with the addition of 25% funding from the*

can offer unique insight as to how our program can be improved to make our graduates more marketable to employers. *Agreed and support.*

The chair of our department has tasked the program director this Fall with developing an Athletic Therapy program advisory board committee. The program director will gather recommendations from the other faculty to determine which clinical affiliates should be targeted during recruitment. The goal is to hold the inaugural advisory board meeting virtually during the Spring 2021 semester. *Agreed and support.*

Meeting minutes will be recorded during the inaugural Athletic Therapy advisory board meeting. These minutes will be summarized in either the Spring 2021 or Fall 2021 biennial assessment depending on when the meeting is held.

Agreed and support.

Department/program plans beyond Program Review Team recommendations

1. Academic advising: Without having an academic advisor in our department, all of the advising responsibility for students within the Athletic Therapy program is placed on the program director. Therefore, we would like to hire at least a part-academic advisor, who could at least share the advising responsibilities with the program director. We have had recent discussions with the dean of the college about likelihood of adding an academic advisor to our department, and from these discussions, we are hopeful that we will have a position of this kind in the near future.

Agreed and with the addition of