Evidence of Student Learning

What Accreditors Can Tell Us About Effective Practice in Institutions and Programs
Panelists

- Mary Jane Harris, PT, MS
  - Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

- Patricia M O’Brien, SND
  - New England Association of Schools and Colleges

- Michale McComis, EdD
  - Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges of Technology
View from a Specialized Accreditor: CAPTE

USDE and CHEA recognized
480 PT/PTA programs
Licensed profession
Significant change over recent 30 years
Disclaimer

☐ My comments should not be generalized to be reflective of other specialized accreditors.
It is easier for specialized programs / accreditors

- Disciplinary focus
- Defined expectations for entry into a profession or discipline
  - Licensure
  - Professional competence identified
- Defined cohort of students
- May have more control of the inputs
Lessons from the CAPTE Experience

CAPTE’s Evaluative Criteria describe expectations for curricular content directed at skills needed for entry-level competence

- 1978: looked mostly at content
- 1990: performance of graduates
- 1996: performance of recent graduates
- 2006: expected student outcomes
Measures of Student Learning in Physical Therapy

- “Mandated” measures: graduation, licensure, employment rates
- Other measures currently in use
  - CPI: clinical performance instrument
  - Surveys of graduates / employers
  - Portfolios
  - Comprehensive examinations
  - Focused group interviews
  - Standardized patients
  - OSCE: Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation
Assessment of student learning in other disciplines

- Medicine: (OSCE); assessment tool-kit
- AHIMA: virtual laboratory for health records
- NCATE: compiled a monograph that details effective strategies used to assess teacher candidates.
- Psychology: development of competencies
Future for student learning assessment in Physical Therapy

- Uniform outcomes assessment project
  - Set of outcomes to be measured by all programs
  - Opportunity to customize assessment by adding measures
  - Centralized mechanism to collect information from graduates, employers