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Committee Meeting: 2/18/2026

Board Meeting: 2/19/2026
Austin, Texas

Christina Melton Crain, Chairman
Robert P. Gauntt
Jodie Lee Jiles
Janiece Longoria
Nolan Perez
Stuart W. Stedman

| | Committee Meeting | Board Meeting | Page |
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| Convene | 2:30 p.m. <i>Chairman Crain</i> | | |
| 1. U.T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration | Discussion | Action | 125 |
| 2. U.T. Tyler: Approval to establish a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program | Action <i>President Philley</i> | Action | 126 |
| Adjourn | 3:00 p.m. | | |

1. **U.T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration**

RECOMMENDATION

The Board will be asked to approve the Consent Agenda beginning on [Page 166](#).

2. U.T. Tyler: Approval to establish a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program

RECOMMENDATION

Dr. John M. Zerwas, in his roles as Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, concurs in the recommendation of the institutional president that authorization, pursuant to Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 40307, related to academic program approval standards, be granted to

- a. establish a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program; and
- b. submit the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and appropriate action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Program Description

The proposed DPT program would prepare autonomous and collaborative physical therapy practitioners who practice in a patient-centered manner, lead the profession, and have a commitment to lifelong learning. The full-time entry-level DPT program is designed for post-baccalaureate students, with or without prior physical therapy experience. The program's mission is to advance the health and well-being of the citizens of Texas, the nation, and beyond, through the preparation of highly competent physical therapists prepared for general practice. The DPT program will be dedicated to academic inquiry and expression by fostering evidence-based healthcare teaching, research, service, and public engagement.

Need and Student Demand

The demand for physical therapists in the local and East Texas region is strong, as well as across the state of Texas and nationally. In August 2025, the Texas Labor Market Dashboard included 19 job postings in the Tyler, Texas area. Texas Career Check reported physical therapists' average annual wages to be \$106,450 and that employment is expected to increase by 21.91% over the next six years. According to the National Outlook Handbook from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physical therapists is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations from 2024 to 2034. On average, approximately 13,200 physical therapist openings are projected over the next decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or retire. The Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) reported the 2024 average Employment Rate at 12 months post-graduation as 99.5% (Range 86-100).

Two interest surveys were developed and data collected to provide information on prospective student demand. Surveys were sent to Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) practicing in contiguous states and to current U.T. Tyler students in selected feeder programs.

PTA Survey – In August 2025, surveys were sent to 3,224 PTAs. Responses were received from 91 PTAs of which 69 were very interested or somewhat interested in attending the U.T. Tyler proposed DPT program and requested additional information.

U.T. Tyler Undergraduate Student Survey – An email was sent to 1,662 students from selected science-based programs. Responses indicating very interested or somewhat interested were received from 95 students. Eighty percent were from kinesiology majors, 6% biology, 5% biochemistry, and the remaining student responses from a variety of majors such as psychology and health science.

Program Quality

The current expected program launch is June 2031 per CAPTE requirements. The CAPTE time slot for the U.T. Tyler DPT program may be accelerated upon successful U.T. System Board of Regents, THECB, and SACSCOC approvals. To continue effective program planning, a Director of Clinical Education (DCE) position was filled in November 2025. This DCE holds a DPT degree and is an American Physical Therapy Association Credentialed Clinical Instructor. The DCE position is responsible for developing clinical education affiliations (10% of workload), along with maintaining clinical expertise in the UT Health East Texas system (90% of workload). The DCE appointment will be converted to a 90% teaching and administration appointment in Fall 2028, with a 10% clinical workload.

A full-time DPT Program Director (PD) job description will be posted in December 2025 to be filled on or before a Fall 2026 start date. The PD position is predominately an administrative role with a limited teaching load. Two additional full-time (FT) core faculty positions will be hired in 2029 and 2030, prior to the start of student enrollment. These four full-time core faculty (PD, DCE, and two FT faculty) will develop policies, finalize the curriculum, recruit students, order necessary equipment, and complete accreditation documents.

When students matriculate in Summer 2031, four additional core faculty will be hired and all will have appointment responsibilities in teaching, research, and service. DPT faculty will be hired with specific clinical, teaching, and research experience based on the needs of the developing curriculum sequence and per accreditation requirements. A total of eight core faculty will be hired over a nine-year span, per programmatic accreditation requirements, as the curriculum advances and enrollment grows. In addition to the core faculty, adjunct faculty will be utilized for select courses. The adjunct faculty may teach similar content in another program or serve as faculty from other institutions with specialized expertise not available by the current core faculty. Adjunct lab assistants, commonly local clinicians, will be hired to assist with the hands-on laboratory courses to maintain a student-ratio of no more than 15 students to one instructor.

Revenue and Expenses

| Projected Enrollment | 5-Year Total |
|---|--------------|
| Number of Students Used for Formula Funding Calculation | 118 |
| Total Number of Students | 186 |

| Expenses | 5-Year Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Faculty</i> | |
| Salaries | \$ 3,595,546 |
| Benefits | \$ 1,692,022 |
| <i>Staff & Administration</i> | |
| Administrative Staff Salaries | \$ 238,274 |
| Staff Benefits | \$ 112,129 |
| <i>Other Expenses</i> | |
| CAPTE Accreditation Fees, M&O | \$ 293,765 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 5,931,736 |
| | |
| Revenue | 5-Year Total |
| <i>From Student Enrollment</i> | |
| Formula Funding | \$ 2,217,935 |
| Tuition and Fees | \$ 4,633,023 |
| Total Revenue | \$ 6,850,958 |

Coordinating Board Criteria

The proposed program meets all applicable Coordinating Board criteria for new doctoral degree programs.