2022 ANNUAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FORM
(Due October 15 to the dean)

Submission date: 10/12/2022

Submitted by: LeeAnne Carrothers, Interim PTA Program Director

Program(s) covered in this report: Physical Therapist Assistant AAS
If you selected "Other" above, please identify. *(100 characters or less)*

College: College of Health

Campuses where the program(s) is delivered: ☒**Anchorage** ☐**KOD** ☐**KPC** ☐**MSC** ☐**PWSC**

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
If explanation is necessary, such as only some of the certificates and degrees are covered by the specialized accreditation, briefly describe:

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING CORE COMPETENCIES

In 2020, UAA launched a consensus-based, deliberative process to identify the key skillsets that help students achieve academic and post-graduation success. After a year-long process that included students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and employers, the UAA community identified four core competencies at the heart of a quality UAA education. Students develop mastery of these competencies through curricular (e.g., courses), co-curricular (e.g., internships, conferences), and extra-curricular (e.g., student clubs) learning experiences.

After the stakeholder-based process in AY20, UAA is phasing in the integration of the core competencies into ongoing processes, including program student learning outcomes assessment. Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility (PPCR) was integrated into the AY21 Annual Academic Assessment Report. The AY22 Annual Academic Assessment Report now also integrates Effective Communication.

Question #1 below is designed to engage program faculty in thinking about how they can or already do promote student learning in these two core competencies.

1. A. *Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility: The knowledge and skills necessary to promote personal flourishing, professional excellence, and community engagement.*

- **If last year you provided your program's current or planned example of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that develops and showcases the student learning in this core competency, please discuss that implementation and any observations you have regarding how well it is working. *(500 characters or less)***

Students completed service learning projects in the community at a variety of agencies to increase community engagement, encourage self-reflection, and provide students with exposure to individuals with disabilities. After completion of their hours, students completed a written or video self-reflection about the experience and how it impacted them as human beings and future physical therapist assistants.

- **If last year you *did not* identify a current or planned example of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that provides students the opportunity to develop and showcase this core competency, please identify one now. *(500 characters or less)***

B. *Effective Communication: The knowledge and skills necessary to engage in effective communication in diverse contexts and formats.*

- **What would you hope a student would say if asked where in your program or support service they had the opportunity to develop proficiency in this core competency? *(500 characters or less)***

Students practice communication skills throughout the program - they learn and practice interview skills, written documentation, and teach mock patients in each clinical course.

- **Provide your program's current or planned example(s) of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that showcases the student learning in this core competency. *(500 characters or less)***

They learn "person-first language" and are expected to use it when speaking to and about patients. They complete an implicit bias test to help them explore their biases, and receive instruction about the impact of culture, age, and gender identity/sexual preference on openness to care. They also complete reflections after readings/lectures/videos on these topics.

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

2. **Please list the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in AY22. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.**

   Example: Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats – Exceeded faculty expectations.

   • Exhibit professional behavior in their role as responsible physical therapist assistants, adhering to appropriate ethical, legal and regulatory standards - met faculty expectations

   • Engage in evidence-based practice, responding to the dynamics of a changing healthcare system exceeded faculty expectations

   • Integrate the principles of the physical, biological and behavioral sciences with the clinical practice of physical therapy- met faculty expectations

   • Communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, families and other members of the healthcare team - met faculty expectations

3. **Describe your assessment process in AY22 for these Program Student Learning Outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings.** *(750 characters or less)*

   Data was collected in a variety of ways. It begins with testing data in classroom and lab assignments, clinical practicum evaluations, graduate surveys, CI surveys, and employer surveys. In addition, the program graduation rates, state board exam pass rates and employment rates have shown that the program is achieving its goals.

4. **What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program?** *(750 characters or less)*

   Since the inception of program, there has been a 98.89% graduation rate, 96% state board exam pass rate, and 100% employment rate. The program is preparing entry level PTAs that are ready to participate in the workplace. Satisfaction with the program is noted from students and clinical instructors.

5. **Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please describe the recommended action, what improvement in student learning the program hopes to see with this change, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision.** *(750 Characters or less)* PTA A102 is an online class that was created by combing two classes to decrease repetition of material and to decrease student/faculty workload in the summer semester. It was taught for the first time in 2021, and based on feedback from the students, we changed the format of the class
   from asynchronous online to also having weekly Zoom meetings to ensure student engagement with and understanding of the materials.

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSING IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

6. **In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please check all that apply.**

   ☐Course curriculum changes

   ☐Course prerequisite changes

   ☒Changes in teaching methods

   ☐Changes in advising

   ☐Degree requirement changes

   ☐Degree course sequencing

   ☐Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])

   ☐Changes in program policies/procedures

☐Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

☐College-wide initiatives (e.g., High-Impact Practices)

☒Faculty, staff, student development

☐Other

☐No changes were implemented in AY22.

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. *(100 characters or less)*

7. **Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. *(750 characters or less)***
Feedback from students who took the hybrid version of PTA A102 has been favorable.

8. **PROGRAMS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO QUESTION #8 FOR THEIR REPORT DUE ON OCTOBER 15, 2022. IT IS HERE JUST FOR THEIR REFERENCE.**

9. **Do you have any examples of post-graduate success you want to highlight? For example, major scholarships, the percent of students who pass licensure examinations, the percent of students accepted to graduate programs, the percent in post-graduation employment in the field or a related field. *(750 characters or less)***

An alumnus of the program has "returned" to UAA to teach in the program as an adjunct. We are also noting increased participation in and investment in the long term success of the program in our alumni, who participate in admissions interviews, provide guest lectures, and on our Advisory Committee.
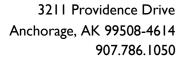
DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)

1. **Based on the program's responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward? *(750 characters or less)***
The program is commended on its excellent outcomes in terms of board exam pass rates and job placement rates. The program is encouraged to continue with its strong engagement with the professional community and with alumni -- the increased involvement of alumni in the program is valuable and the effort to promote that is appreciated.
Future assessment reports would be strengthened by providing some additional detail about outcomes/impact of program changes (for example, in #7, student feedback has been favorable, but some additional detail as to whether outcomes are being better achieved, etc. would be valuable to see) as well as outcomes specific to the review period rather than (or in addition to) over the life of the program.

2. **What is the program doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, for example, the achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes, the closing of equity gaps, or addressing the core competencies? *(750 characters or***

less) A strength of the program's assessment process is that it incorporates multiple assessment methods including direct student performance, faculty and clinical site feedback, surveys, and advisory board input.

The incorporation of discipline-specific assignments and activities to help students build UAA core competencies is valuable. In addition to identifying what the activity is, the next step would be to incorporate/report on assessment strategies that identify how well students are achieving the intended outcomes.

Dean's signature: _____ **Date:** 1/9/2023