



September 12, 2016

Ms. Sabrina Crawford
Executive Director of Institutional Research
and Effectiveness
St. Petersburg College
13805 58th St. North
Largo, FL 33760

Dear Ms. Crawford:

Thank you for your letter of August 4, 2016, responsive to our request of June 23, 2016, for additional information about the reduction in credit hours for the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree program in Orthotics and Prosthetics, effective fall 2016.

We requested an assessment on the impact of the proposed change to address (a) impact on student learning outcomes, and (b) if there are no changes to student learning outcomes, how the revised curriculum will accomplish the same outcomes with fewer courses and credit hours.

The program length will decrease from 77 semester credit hours to 60 hours, a decrease of 17 hours or 22%. Six courses will be removed from the curriculum. A medical terminology course, an advanced physiology course, and a psychology course will be eliminated as content redundant or unnecessary; a redesigned anatomy and physiology course will replace the current course. The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) discipline accreditation standards no longer require specialized certifications; those courses will be available as electives rather than required courses. Content in three specialized courses will be embedded into other existing courses. The program length and curriculum change will result in the elimination of one student learning outcome on life-span development psychology. The learning outcome is no longer required by the Florida Department of Education curriculum standards or the NCOPE expectations.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval to decrease the length of the A.S. degree program in Orthotics and Prosthetics. It was the decision of the Board to approve the change and include the program in the scope of the current accreditation.

Best regards,

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/KWS:iy

cc: Dr. William D. Law, Jr., President
Dr. Michael S. Johnson