

Board Meeting  
July 14, 2005

ESTABLISH DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY,  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve the Establishment of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy, College of Applied Health Sciences, Chicago

**Funding:** No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Applied Health Sciences recommends approval to establish a new graduate professional degree, the Doctor of Occupational Therapy.

Responding to the need for doctorally-trained occupational therapists to assume leadership positions in the profession, the proposed Doctor of Occupational Therapy is designed to:

- Provide a route of entrée to academic leadership as non-research faculty members to meet a growing shortage of doctorally-prepared faculty in occupational therapy.
- Meet the needs of employers for clinicians who can function in leadership roles as “advanced practitioners.”
- Increase the number of occupational therapists with advanced professional knowledge and skills who are prepared to assume roles as peer educators and trainers on topics related to the needs of urban, underserved populations.
- Graduate occupational therapy “leader-scholars” who will be prepared to enter non-traditional settings providing services to urban underserved populations and developing new programs and assuming roles as organizational leaders.

The proposed program requires successful completion of a minimum of 90 semester hours beyond the baccalaureate, including 18-26 credits in core courses, 34-42 credits in one of three areas of concentration (advanced practice, curriculum/teaching, or leadership/management), 10-16 credits of electives, and 20 hours of project research. In addition, students will be required to take field exams that are designed to assess each student's mastery of content related to his/her primary and secondary areas of focus.

The proposed Doctor of Occupational Therapy is consistent with the University's mission of research, teaching, and public service "with a special focus on health and medical sciences." The program also responds to regional and state needs and priorities, and to *The Illinois Commitment*.

The board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval, pending further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.