

Approved by the Board of Trustees
July 23, 2020

Board Meeting
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ESTABLISH THE DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: ENTRY-
LEVEL, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Doctor of Occupational Therapy: Entry-level, College of Applied Health Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate and College of Applied Health Sciences recommends the establishment of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD): Entry-level, herein referred to as the entry-level OTD degree.

The degree will replace the existing Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and is proposed in response to the growing number of entry-level OTD programs nationally, changes in educational standards of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education[®] (ACOTE[®]), and the increased complexity of occupational therapy practice. The proposed entry-level OTD curriculum is in alignment with the current educational standards articulated by ACOTE[®]. ACOTE[®] accreditation of the program can be pursued upon approval of the program by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist, administered by the National

Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, and apply for state licensure after successful completion of the exam.

The entry-level OTD will be open to students who have completed a bachelor's degree in any subject who desire to become occupational therapists. The existing, post-professional OTD, offered at UIC since 2006, will continue to be open to students who have previously completed a bachelor's or master's degree in occupational therapy.

Entry-level OTD students will complete 110 credit hours in total: 28 required didactic/classroom-based courses that cover theory and evidence-based clinical practice skills, leadership, management, program development, and foundations for capstone work; seven required fieldwork courses; a required 14-credit hour capstone experience; two required capstone project courses that culminate in a 3-credit hour capstone project; and optional elective courses within and outside of the department.

The first entry-level OTD cohort would matriculate in August 2022, and students would be continuously registered for eight consecutive terms, including two summers. The M.S. in Occupational Therapy currently enrolls 46 students annually and has a 98 percent retention and graduation rate. Based on these numbers, the department anticipates enrolling 40 full-time entry-level OTD students every fall, with three cohorts enrolled (118 students in total) once fully implemented.

Once the full cohort is enrolled in 2025, the department's budget will be adequate to support the new degree. The college will provide bridge funding as needed in the year before and the first two years of the degree, which will be reimbursed by the

department to the college after the third year, when program revenue is at full capacity. Three additional faculty will be hired to implement the program, which is expanded in length and credit hours than the M.S. Two clinical faculty members will be hired. One hire will be for the OTD co-fieldwork coordinator position since the current M.S. co-fieldwork coordinator will fill the full-time OTD Capstone Coordinator position, a position required by ACOTE[®]. One tenure-track faculty member will be hired by Fall 2022. Current facilities and library resources are adequate to support the program.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect 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 Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senate Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.