

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
March 11, 2009

Board Meeting  
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REDESIGNATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY,  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve the Redesignation of the Master of Science in Physical Therapy as the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Applied Health Sciences, Chicago

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Applied Health Sciences recommends the redesignation of the Master of Science in Physical Therapy as the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences.

The Master of Science program will provide students with state-of-the-art knowledge in research design, measurement techniques, advances in rehabilitation sciences, and critical appraisal of the evidence needed to support contemporary clinical practice. The objectives of the redesignated program are: (1) to prepare highly qualified clinical faculty who could satisfy both institutional and accreditation standards so as to manage the program expansions in physical therapy and other allied health programs; and (2) to prepare graduates interested in pursuing a Ph.D. degree in rehabilitation or related fields.

The new title, *Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences*, is in accord with a global trend to label more advanced post-graduate education in physical therapy as an interdisciplinary “rehabilitation science” program rather than “physical therapy,” which evokes the perception of being treatment-based. More important, the degree is aimed at addressing local and national shortages of clinical faculty in allied health professions, and at preparing program graduates for further doctoral level training in rehabilitation sciences.

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. This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.