

Approved by the Board of Trustees
January 16, 2020

15

Board Meeting
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RENAME THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN REHABILITATION SCIENCES,
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE,
CHICAGO

Action: Rename the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College

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, College of Applied Health Sciences, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming of the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences as the Master of Science in Healthspan Promotion and Rehabilitation.

As a profession, physical therapy is committed to the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases through the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and rehabilitating individuals who are impacted by a range of health conditions across the lifespan. The ultimate goal is to optimize an individual's healthspan, which is defined as the period of life that an individual is generally healthy, free from debilitating disease, and as functionally independent as possible. The M.S. in Rehabilitation Sciences has historically focused on the second of these two areas of physical therapy practice, rehabilitating individuals. However, in recent years, the Department of Physical Therapy

has had an expansion of course offerings, faculty research, and clinical services in the area of healthy living; the primary intervention needed to prevent and treat a myriad of chronic diseases.

While the degree will be renamed to reflect both areas of physical therapy practice, the core of the degree will remain unchanged. Students will continue to complete courses on advances in rehabilitation sciences I and II, statistics, and research methods; varying hours of electives depending on whether a thesis, project, or coursework-only path is selected; and a written comprehensive examination. However, students will now choose from among a wider array of electives and can specialize in aspects of healthspan promotion and rehabilitation sciences identified by the faculty.

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 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 and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.