Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 18, 2024

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Board Meeting

January 18, 2024

# RENAME THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTHSPAN PROMOTION AND REHABILITATION, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES AND GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

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

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois Chicago Senate, College of Applied Health Sciences, and Graduate College, recommends the renaming of the Master of Science in Healthspan Promotion and Rehabilitation. The degree will be renamed as the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences and Healthspan Promotion.

The degree is offered by the Department of Physical Therapy. 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 MS degree focuses on measurement techniques, research design, rehabilitation and healthspan promotion, and critical appraisal of evidence in support of contemporary clinical practice. Graduates are prepared to become faculty members, assume leadership positions in clinical or community settings, and contribute to the development of scholarship.

The change is driven by recognition that an earlier name change in 2020 (from the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences to the current name) and the pandemic has led to fewer program applicants, with some prospective students being unclear whether UIC still offers a master’s degree in rehabilitation sciences. Placing “rehabilitation sciences” at the front of the degree’s name will increase name recognition among potential students. No revisions to the curriculum are proposed, and there is no impact on staffing or budget.

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