

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Approval to Establish an Academic Department

ACTION REQUESTED: Establishment of the Occupational Therapy Department

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2018

The School of Health Professions and Studies (SHPS) on the University of Michigan-Flint campus is launching an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program in Fall 2019. The OTD program will enroll forty students per cohort in the three year, one hundred ten credit hour program. This program will be the first doctoral level program for occupational therapy in the State of Michigan and will require a total of 8.5 full-time equivalent faculty. This will be achieved by hiring 8 full-time faculty, and 1 full-time Department/Program Director (.5 faculty/.5 administrative.)

The SHPS plans to add additional programs in occupational therapy once the OTD program is situated. The additional programs include a transitional OTD program which will provide a professional doctoral degree to those already licensed for practice as occupational therapists. This degree will advance their clinical skills. In addition, SHPS plans to add a Ph.D. in occupational therapy to address the keen faculty shortage in the field. This spectrum of programs in occupational therapy will mirror those in our highly respected Physical Therapy Department. Additional faculty will be added to the department as these programs are developed

The OTD program proposal has been approved through all university approval processes including committee approval from the Graduate Board, Academic Affairs Advisory Committee, and the Academic Assessment Committee. It has also been approved by the Michigan Association of State Universities and the Higher Learning Commission. When the OTD program proposal was approved by the SHPS, the faculty also unanimously approved the establishment of an Occupational Therapy Department within the SHPS to house the OTD program and other future programs in occupational therapy.

With the support of the chancellor, I request approval to establish an Occupational Therapy Department within the School of Health Professions and Studies, effective January 1, 2018.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

December 2017