

ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**NEW DEGREE PROPOSAL:  
Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree (CIP 51.2308)**

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**OTHER SUS INSTITUTIONS OFFERING SAME PROGRAM:** The University of South Florida plans to begin the DPT in Summer, 2005; we expect other MPT programs offered by state universities in Florida to transition to the DPT as well. (In April and October, 2003, and in April, 2004, the chairs of the PT programs at state universities in Florida met to discuss the proposed transition to the DPT. All programs reported plans to transition to the DPT degree program.)

**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION  
Approval of the DPT**

**DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR PROGRAM**

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) has endorsed the DPT as the preferred degree, and this position was reflected in the February, 2004 draft revision of the *Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists*: "Based on the amount and complexity of the course work required to achieve the curricular goals, the Doctor of Physical Therapy is the preferred degree" (from Criterion CC-7). The DPT allows completion of the depth and breadth of training necessary for physical therapists to practice autonomously in the current health care environment. Of 203 accredited programs in the United States, 94 are already offering the DPT. In 2004, 20 top applicants offered a space in our Master's program declined in order to attend a DPT program elsewhere. In order for UF to remain competitive and offer an appropriate curriculum reflecting health care changes, transitioning from the MPT to DPT is necessary.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida currently offers the Master of Physical Therapy degree. This program is 78 credits, only 12 credits short of a typical doctoral degree. We plan to terminate this program if the DPT is approved. We hope to offer the DPT in Fall, 2005. The program would be 113 credits and 8 semesters long.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

The request to transition from the MPT to DPT is consistent with the University's goal to become one of the top universities. Each PT program in the State of Florida is planning on moving to the DPT, consistent with CAPTE recommendations. We can not compete on a national level in physical therapy education without reflecting the endorsed standard for the degree.

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Projected FTE and headcount are:**

	<b>Projected Headcount</b>	<b>Student FTE</b>	<b>Faculty Headcount</b>	<b>Faculty FTE</b>
<b>First Year</b>	50	54.69	19	15.68*
<b>Second Year</b>	97	119.33	21	17.68#
<b>Third Year</b>	142	167.14	19	17.38+
<b>Fourth Year</b>	142	167.14	19	17.38
<b>Fifth Year</b>	142	167.14	19	17.38

**Additional Comments:**

**\*Includes three new faculty lines plus .30 FTE (1 person) funded on contracts and grants**

**#Includes two new faculty lines**

**+Includes release of .30 FTE (2 people) from contracts and grants**

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

**Other Support Documents Available:**

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**COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
PROPOSED DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY CURRICULUM**

The entry-level graduate of the University of Florida Physical Therapy DPT program will be a qualified practitioner who is proficient in the skills of diagnosing and managing movement dysfunction and impairments as well as enhancing functional abilities. In addition to restoring movement ability, this graduate will also possess the abilities to maintain and promote optimal physical function, wellness, and quality of life. To accomplish these outcomes, graduates of the DPT program must utilize the body of knowledge acquired throughout the curriculum and integrate this with six elements of care to maximize the patient's outcome. Graduates must be proficient in the skills of examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention, and the re-evaluation of patient outcomes. In addition to providing this service across a multitude of diagnoses, pathologies, and the lifespan, graduates must consider these six elements in the context of the current health care environment and the complex issues that occur with each individual client. The total number of credit hours for the program is 113, which is consistent with other DPT programs.

**SAMPLE CURRICULUM BY SEMESTER**

<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
<b><u>Graduate Year 1</u></b>	
<b>Semester 1 - Fall (16 weeks)</b>	
Physiology of Mammals: Organ Systems	4
Functional Anatomy I	5
Evidence Based Practice I	3
Professional Issues I	3
Health Promotion and Wellness for Physical Therapy Practice I	1
Basic Clinical Skills I	<u>1</u>
	<b>17</b>
<b>Semester 2 - Spring (16 weeks)</b>	
Functional Anatomy II	5
Examination and Evaluation	3
Neuroscience in Physical Therapy	4
Health Promotion and Wellness for Physical Therapy Practice II	2
Motor Control/Therapeutic Exercise I	2
Exercise Physiology	<u>2</u>
	<b>18</b>
<b>Semester 3 - Summer (13 weeks)</b>	
Musculoskeletal Disorders I	3
Therapeutic Modality Interventions in Physical Therapy	2
Clinical Education I	2
Principles of Disease	3
Pharmacology in Physical Therapy Practice	3
Basic Clinical Skills II	<u>1</u>
	<b>14</b>

**Graduate Year 2**

<b>Semester 4 - Fall (16 weeks)</b>	
Musculoskeletal Disorders II	3
Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy	3
Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging in Physical Therapy Practice	3
Clinical Education II	1
Professional Issues II	1
Neurorehabilitation I	2
Evidence Based Practice II	<u>3</u>
	<b>16</b>
<b>Semester 5 - Spring (16 weeks)</b>	
<b><u>First 8 weeks</u></b>	
Professional Issues III	3
Geriatrics in Physical Therapy	2
Differential Diagnosis in Physical Therapy	3
<b><u>Second 8 weeks</u></b>	
Clinical Education III	<u>6</u>
	<b>14</b>
<b>Semester 6 - Summer (13 weeks)</b>	
Motor Control/Therapeutic Exercise II	3
Pediatrics in Physical Therapy	3
Prosthetics and Orthotics	2
Neurorehabilitation II	<u>3</u>
	<b>11</b>

**Graduate Year 3**

<b>Semester 7 - Fall (16 weeks)</b>	
Clinical Education IV	6
Clinical Education V	<u>6</u>
	<b>12</b>
<b>Semester 8 - Spring (16 weeks)</b>	
<b><u>First 8 weeks</u></b>	
Clinical Education VI	6
<b><u>Second 8 weeks</u></b>	
Health Promotion and Wellness in Physical Therapy Practice III	1
Professional Issues IV	2
Evidence Based Practice III	<u>2</u>
	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>113</b>