LETTER OF INTENT – 1

(New Certificate or Degree Program)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville
2. Education Program Contact person/title:

UAF: Dr. Terry Martin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

UAMS: Dr. Stephanie Gardner, Provost

1. Telephone number/e-mail address:

UAF: (479) 575-2151/tmartin@uark.edu

UAMS: (501) 686-5672/gardnerstephanief@uams.edu

1. Proposed Name of Certificate or Degree Program:

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

1. Proposed Effective Date: July 1, 2017
2. Requested CIP Code: 51.2306
3. Program Description:

The College of Education and Health Professions of the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville (UAF) and the College of Health Professions of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) propose the development of a post-baccalaureate education program leading to a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD), to be jointly located at the UAF and UAMS Northwest campuses in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

As proposed, the joint UAF/UAMS OTD program will be a 3-year (8 semesters), full-time, on-campus program with an off-campus fieldwork component. Beginning with an initial enrollment of 24 students for the first two years (cohorts 1 and 2), enrollment will increase to 28 students for the following 3 years (cohorts 3-5), culminating to a maximum annual enrollment of 32 students (cohorts 6+). Total enrollment after cohort 6 will be 96 students. The curriculum includes two levels of fieldwork which allows for increasingly complex experiences starting with observation and moving to full responsibility for assessment and intervention of a full-time case load and additional responsibilities related to being an entry-level occupational therapist. The third year of the curriculum provides for an experiential component where students designate a leadership concentration and complete a culminating project. Leadership concentrations may include areas such as advanced clinical practice, education, clinical research, and policy and administration.

1. Mode of Delivery (mark all that apply):

 **\_\_\_X\_\_On-Campus**

 **\_\_\_X\_\_Off-Campus Location**

Provide address of off-campus location\_\_\_ Off campus field work locations to be determined. UA/UAMS will enter into affiliation agreements with these locations.

 Provide a copy of the e-mail notification to other institutions in the state notifying them of the proposed program. Please inform institutions not to send the response to **“Reply All”**. If you receive an objection/concern(s) from an institution, reply to the institution and copy ADHE on the email. That institution should respond and copy ADHE. If the objection/concern(s) cannot be resolved, ADHE may intervene.

 Submit copy of written notification to Higher Learning Commission (HLC) if notification required by HLC for a program offered at an off-campus location.

 \_\_\_X\_\_Indicate distance of proposed site from main campus. The Doctor of Occupational Therapy program will located at UAF and the UAMS Northwest campus, which are approximately 2 miles apart.

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_Distance Technology** (50% of program offered by distance technology)

 Submit copy of written notification to HLC if notification is required by HLC for a program offered by distance technology.

1. List existing certificate or degree programs that support the proposed program:

Undergraduate preparation for the professional doctoral degree in occupational therapy can come from a number of undergraduate majors, all of which are available at the UA and/or UAMS. These are most commonly STEM areas such as biology, biochemistry, kinesiology, psychology, nutrition/dietetic, and speech-language pathology; and social sciences areas such as anthropology, sociology, social work, and special education. Thus, there is a pipeline from the undergraduate programs into the proposed OTD program. The program may also serve as a bridge program for certified occupational therapy assistants (COTAs) desiring to complete an OTD degree; therefore, it is anticipated that graduates of Northwest Arkansas Community College’s occupational therapy assistant program will also contribute to the applicant pool for the OTD program.

1. President/Chancellor Approval Date:
2. Academic Affairs Officer: Date: