LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 11C

CURRICULUM REVISION OF EXISTING CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville
2. Contact person/title: Dr. Terry Martin, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

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1. Title of certificate/degree program: Doctor of Occupational Therapy
2. CIP Code: 51.2306
3. Degree Code: 6355
4. Effective Date: Fall 2019
5. Reason for proposed change:

The coursework for this approved degree program has not yet commenced; therefore, no students will be impacted by any of these changes. The first cohort of students will be admitted to the occupational therapy (OT) program in the fall, 2019, and begin coursework in January of 2020. Prior to initiating curricular redesign, feedback from multiple stakeholders was solicited and considered. Overall, stakeholders expressed frustrations and concerns with traditional teaching methods used to prepare students for entry-level practice. Some of these concerns included: a lack of knowledge about occupation as a foundation of our profession, a disconnect in the application of basic knowledge for the development of evidence-based interventions, and poor clinical reasoning skills. In response to this feedback, OT faculty identified an evidence-based teaching model to mitigate stakeholder concerns. The core curriculum was completely revised to reflect learning objectives and course sequencing based on the Subject-centered Integrative Learning Model for Occupational Therapy (SCIL-OT). This model of disciplinary instruction places occupation, the core subject of our profession, explicitly at the forefront of all courses. A systems-based approach and developmental framework were also used to organize content areas to enhance integration, retention, and application of content. For example, within semesters, content is arranged according to “systems” of human functioning, such as the musculoskeletal system, the neurological system, and mental/behavioral health, presented in a way that reflects development across the lifespan. Additionally, content is aligned across the duration of the program by themes, i.e. Research and Scholarship, Theory and Professional Development, etc. Course content and learning outcomes were specifically written to be integrative and progressive so that students will be prepared to complete their culminating capstone experience and project at the conclusion of the program.

After the curriculum was revised, the perquisite course requirements were revised to better prepare students for success.

Removal of GRE as requirement for application to program: The use of the GRE as a predictive tool for graduate student success has been in question since the mid 1980's. Despite changes in the exam over time, there is evidence that the GRE may be more of a barrier for potential applicants and that its predictive validity is inconsistent across fields of study, gender, race, and economic status. Reasons cited include exam bias against under-represented populations, decisions not to apply based on the prep time and cost involved, and inconsistent use of the tool across reviewers in specific fields. Growing numbers of MOT and OTD programs are discontinuing the practice, including Columbia University, Texas Tech, Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, the University of New Hampshire, and many others. These schools are replacing the GRE with performance-based exercises that include writing exercises and formal interviewing.

1. Provide current and revised curriculum outline. (Indicate total credit hours for current certificate/degree and total credit hours for revised certificate/degree.)

The original program was actually 115 hours (although there was a catalog error stating 116). The original curriculum states it “is a 3-year (8 semesters)” program, although it was nine semesters. This revised curriculum is a 3-year (9 semester) program with 115 credit hours. There is no net change.

Please see Appendix A for the current curriculum outline and Appendix B for the revised curriculum outline.

1. Institutional curriculum committee review/approval date for revised degree:

December 5, 2018

1. Provide additional program information requested by ADHE staff.

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 21, 2019

Board of Trustees Notification Date: March 28, 2019

Chief Academic Officer: James S. Coleman Date: January 10, 2019

**Appendix A**

**Current Curriculum**

### Doctor of Occupational Therapy

The joint Clinical Occupational Therapy program between the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is a 3-year (8 semesters), full-time, on-campus program with an off-campus fieldwork component.

**Admission Requirements:**Undergraduate preparation for the professional doctoral degree in occupational therapy can come from a number of majors that have resulted in a degree from a regionally accredited college or university by June 1 of the year of admission.  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, special education. Regardless of major, applicants who wish to study for the entry-level doctoral degree in occupational therapy are expected to present a minimum of 26 hours in basic, physical, and social sciences that meet the professional occupational therapy certification standards. These should include the following courses or equivalents:

BIOL 1543 Principles of Biology (ACTS Equivalency = BIOL 1014 Lecture)

BIOL 2213 Human Physiology (ACTS Equivalency = BIOL 2414 Lecture)

BIOL 2443 Human Anatomy (ACTS Equivalency = BIOL 2404 Lecture)

CHEM 1073 Fundamentals of Chemistry (ACTS Equivalency = CHEM 1214 Lecture)

ESRM 2403 Statistics in Nursing

PBHL 2663 Terminology for the Health Professions

PSYC 2003 General Psychology (ACTS Equivalency = PSYC 1103)

SOCI 2013 General Sociology (ACTS Equivalency = SOCI 1013)

Other admission requirements include:

* A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
* GRE scores of 150 for the verbal and quantitative sections and a minimum writing score of 3.5.
* International applicants must submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores.
* 25 hours of documented volunteering/shadowing/service learning with occupational therapists or that include occupational therapy in at least two settings, such as medical and educational, or with at least two populations, such as children and adults.
* Three letters of recommendations from individuals who can address potential for graduate education
* Written personal statement
* All applicants interview with the program prior to admission.

**Requirements for O.T.D. in Clinical Occupational Therapy:**The program requires 141 credit hours including 26 hours of prerequisites listed above as part of the admission requirements to the program. In addition, three levels of fieldwork experience are required.

The fieldwork experiences are integrated throughout the program to structure increasingly complex experiences starting with observation and moving to full responsibility for assessment and intervention of a full-time caseload and additional responsibilities related to being an entry-level occupational therapist.

The third year of the curriculum provides for an experiential component in which 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. All courses are offered one time per year for lock-step progress through the program. Students will work with their academic committee should unexpected circumstances necessitate an exception to progress through the program.

OTPD 5011 Introduction to Occupational Therapy Practice

OTPD 5113 Theory and Foundations of Occupational Therapy

OTPD 5122 Occupational Behaviors

OTPD 5121L Task Analysis of Occupational Behaviors Lab

OTPD 5132 Human Anatomy and Movement

OTPD 5131L Human Anatomy and Movement Lab

OTPD 5143 Clinical Pathophysiology

OTPD 5153 Scholarly Practice, Scholarship and Research Fundamentals

OTPD 5162 Level I Fieldwork and Seminar Experience I

OTPD 517V Occupational Therapy Tutorial (optional)

OTPD 519V Translational and Integrative OT Practices

OTPD 5212 Neurological Bases of Functional Lifestyles

OTPD 5221 Adult Neurogenics and Occupation

OTPD 5231 Developmental Neurogenics and Occupation

OTPD 5253 Social, Cultural and Environmental Aspects of Daily Functioning

OTPD 5243 Professional Issues in Occupational Therapy

OTPD 5272 Level I Fieldwork and Seminar Experience II

OTPD 5353 Foundations of Communication and Patient Care

**Summer:** Students will select either the Study Abroad or Applied Research option plus additional courses for a total of 9 credits.

**Study Abroad Option**

OTPD 531V Study Abroad in Occupational Therapy (intersession plus first five-week session)

**Applied Research Option**

OTPD 532V Applied Research and Service Learning in the Community (10-week session)

**Additional courses**

OTPD 518V Independent Study in Occupational Therapy (second five-week session)

OTPD 5333 Service Delivery Models (second five-week session)

OTPD 5262 Level I Fieldwork and Seminar Experience III (10-week session)

OTPD 528V Special Topics in Occupational Therapy

OTPD 5412 Sensory and Cognitive Conditions and Their Treatment

OTPD 5411L Interventions in Sensory and Cognitive Disorders Lab

OTPD 5433 Occupational Therapy Practices with School Age Children

OTPD 5443 Occupational Therapy in Early Intervention

OTPD 5452 Technology and Environmental Interventions

OTPD 5451L Technology and Environmental Interventions Lab

OTPD 5462 Level I Fieldwork and Seminar Experience IV

OTPD 528V Special Topics in Occupational Therapy

OTPD 5513 Linking Qualitative and Quantitative Research to Practice

OTPD 5523 Globalization and Health

OTPD 519V Translational and Integrative OT Practices

OTPD 5533 Upper and Lower Extremities Dysfunction: Assessment and Treatment

OTPD 5542 Splinting, Orthotics, and Prosthetics

OTPD 518V Independent Study in Occupational Therapy

OTPD 5562 Level I Fieldwork and Seminar Experience V

**Summer:** Students will select either the Study Abroad or Applied Research option plus additional courses for a total of 9 hours.

**Study Abroad Option**

OTPD 531V Study Abroad in Occupational Therapy (intersession plus first five-week session [6 hours])

**Applied Research Option**

OTPD 532V Applied Research and Service Learning in the Community (10-week session [3 hours])

**Additional courses**

OTPD 5723 Mental Health, Addictions, and Behavioral Differences (first five-week session)

CNED 5353 Psychopharmacology (online, second five-week session)

OTPD 519V Translational and Integrative OT Practices (10-week session)

OTPD 561V Level II Fieldwork Rotations (first or second five-week session)

OTPD 528V Special Topics in Occupational Therapy

OTPD 5812 Higher Education and Career Development

OTPD 5733 Teambuilding, Advocacy and Leadership

OTPD 574V Interprofessional Studies

OTPD 5822 Clinical Supervision in Higher Education

OTPD 591V Level III Fieldwork Doctoral Internship

OTPD 5833 Capstone Project

Total Credits: 115

**Appendix B**

**Proposed Curriculum**

**Program Description**: The Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.) program is a 115-credit hour post- baccalaureate, 3-year (9 semesters), full-time, on-campus program with an off-campus fieldwork and capstone component. Upon completion, an entry-level professional degree is awarded. This degree prepares graduates and is required to sit for the National Board for the Certification of Occupational Therapy exam.

This degree is a joint offering between 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) and its Northwest campus in Fayetteville.  The program blends the strengths of the University of Arkansas main campus, a research-intensive university, and UAMS, the state's premier medical and allied health education university to create a distinctive entry-level clinical doctorate in occupational therapy consistent with the accreditation standards of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Undergraduate preparation for the doctorate in occupational therapy can come from a number of majors that result in a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Applicants who wish to study for the entry-level doctoral degree in occupational therapy must complete the following prerequisites or equivalents with a grade of C or better:

All prerequisites are at least 3 credits:

* Human Anatomy with lab
* Human Physiology with lab
* Statistics
* Terminology for Health Professions
* Abnormal Psychology
* Neuroscience of Behavior (Brain and Behavior, Behavioral or Cognitive Neuroscience, or Neurophysiology or Neuropsychology or Neurobiology, etc.)

\*If Anatomy and Physiology are offered together, as one course, then two semesters must be taken.

Other admission requirements include:

* A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
* International applicants must submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
* 25 hours of documented volunteering/shadowing/service learning with an occupational therapy professional in at least three different settings, with at least two different populations, e.g., children and adults. The required form for both the student and the professional can be found on the OT website as a downloadable PDF.
* Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can address potential for graduate education.
* Written personal statement.
* Eligible applicants under consideration will be required to participate in an on- campus interview and an in person scholarly writing activity.

**OTD Course Sequence**

Students will always start in January and proceed through this course sequence. Because courses and semesters are sequential, there is no variation.

OCTH 5001 Introduction to an Occupational Perspective of Health

OCTH 5121 The Quest for Wellness (lecture)

OCTH 5112L The Quest for Wellness Lab

OCTH 5173 The Science of Wellness

OCTH 5103 Theory and Foundations of Occupational Therapy

OCTH 5203 Professional Issues in Occupational Therapy

OCTH 5141 Research Fundamentals and Scholarly Practice

OCTH 5132 Complexity Science & Applications to Occupational Therapy

OCTH 5212 Occupational Frameworks, Models, and Structures

OCTH 5221 Community Wellness

OCTH 5243 Evidence Based Clinical Reasoning

OCTH 5293 Foundations of Communication and Advocacy

OCTH 5361 Level I Fieldwork: Physical Conditions

OCTH 5351 Level I Fieldwork Seminar: Physical Conditions

OCTH 5372 Anatomy and Occupational Performance

OCTH 5371L Anatomy and Occupational Performance Lab

OCTH 5311 Physical Conditions

OCTH 5322 Occupational Impacts of Pharmacology I: General Medical

OCTH 5384 Occupations, Adaptations, & Innovations: Physical Conditions

OCTH 5393 Introduction to Health Systems and Policy

OCTH 5332 Introduction to Occupational Science

MGMT 5213 Business Foundations for Entrepreneurs

OCTH 5461 Level I Fieldwork: Neurology

OCTH 5451 Level I Fieldwork Seminar: Neurology

OCTH 5443 Research Methods in Occupational Therapy

OCTH 5472 Functional Neurology

OCTH 5472L Functional Neurology Lab

OCTH 5411 Neurological Conditions

OCTH 5422 Occupational Impacts of Pharmacology II: Neurology & Mental Health

OCTH 5483 Occupations, Adaptations, & Innovations: Neurological Conditions

OCTH 5111 Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions

OCTH 5581 Upper Extremity Rehabilitation

OCTH 5591 Occupations, Adaptations, & Innovations Upper Extremity Rehabilitation

OCTH 5561 Level I Fieldwork: Behavior and Mental Health

OCTH 5551 Level I Fieldwork Seminar: Behavior and Mental Health

OCTH 5643 Integrative Approaches to Teaching & Learning

OCTH 5613 Mind, Body, & Environment

OCTH 5623 Leadership and Management

OCTH 5541 Integrating Creative Arts as a Modality in Practice

OCTH 5666 Level II Fieldwork I

OCTH 5651 Level II Fieldwork Seminar I

OCTH 5683 Advanced Occupations, Adaptations, & Innovations

OCTH 5693 Occupational Perspectives of Public Health

OCTH 5632 Conceptualization of Occupational In/Justice

OCTH 5781 Occupational Therapy Capstone Seminar

OCTH 5723 Transitions and Life Design

OCTH 5793 Innovations in Community Based Practice

OCTH 5766 Level II Fieldwork II

OCTH 5751 Level II Fieldwork II Seminar

OCTH 6782 Occupational Therapy Capstone Independent Study

OCTH 6631 Applications of Occupational In/Justice

OCTH 6882 Intentional Practitioner

OCTH 6966 Occupational Therapy Capstone

Degree Total 115