PROPOSAL: Rename Major in Occupational Therapy to Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the renaming of the Major in Occupational Therapy offered by the Department of Occupational Therapy in the College of Health and Human Services. The new name shall be Occupational Therapy Assistant. In years past, the entry-level degree requirement for an occupational therapist was the Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy and it is no longer available or offered at any university. The Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy (OT) degree title was selected and used for this program, an occupational therapy assistant program. As a result, the initial curriculum program submission and assigned title was reviewed and approved by the Undergraduate Studies Council at the February 9, 2021 meeting.

As it stands currently, the title, "Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy (OT)" will be on the diploma of future graduates and does not reflect the appropriate terminology used by our accreditor, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) or the exam administrator, the National Board for the Certification of Occupational Therapy Education (NBCOT). The degree title needs to reflect the correct degree awarded for the program accreditor and the national board exam administrator. The title should state "Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)."

Recommended Action

Rename the Major in Occupational Therapy (OT) to Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA).