PROPOSAL: Doctorate of Occupational Therapy

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy. The new program will consist of 98 credit-hours distributed into 72 credit-hours of professional academic occupational therapy education, 18 credit-hours of fieldwork and 8 credit-hours of a capstone project. Currently, the Department of Occupational Therapy offers a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Our national accrediting body has indicated a plan to mandate that all occupational therapy programs have a doctorate (OTD) as the terminal degree for all new occupational therapy practitioners. Although the final decision is pending, all indications are that this is the path for the future of our profession. We have decided to be proactive with this transition and to be leaders in OT education. A target date of Summer II 2020 has been established for the first cohort of the new doctorate program. The current master’s program will be deleted at that time.

Recommended Action

Create the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy.