

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: Request to Convert the Master of Physical Therapy Program to a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Iowa

Date: July 8, 2002

Recommended Action: Approve the University of Iowa's proposal to convert the Master of Physical Therapy Program to a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa is requesting approval to convert the Master of Physical Therapy Program to a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Need for the Program – Changes in the Field

Cost-cutting measures, resulting from the influence of managed care, have seriously decreased the number of supervising therapists available to mentor new graduates. With fewer supervisors available for training and less money available for continuing education, employers are demanding that therapists have a more independent level of functioning than in the past.

Competitive Job Placement

Physical therapists are being allowed less time with patients to achieve the same outcomes as before. The proposed program will prepare the graduates to meet these challenges. In a competitive job market, the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) graduates will be more attractive to prospective employers.

Benefits of Doctoral Program

In addition, as the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree becomes available at more institutions, the University of Iowa's Master of Physical Therapy program will become less attractive to prospective students who desire the personal and professional benefits of doctoral education and the DPT degree.

Program Accreditation

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), the primary professional organization representing more than 80,000 physical therapists in the United States, is promoting the DPT as the preferred professional degree of the future.

In June 2000, the APTA's House of Delegates adopted the following vision statement:

"By 2020, physical therapy will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy, recognized by consumers and other health care professionals as the practitioners of choice to whom consumers have direct access for the diagnosis of, interventions for, and prevention of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities related to movement, function, and health."

Other Institutions
Offering Program

The Doctor of Physical Therapy program is currently offered by Des Moines University and St. Ambrose University. However, the current MPT program at the University of Iowa will be replaced by the DPT program; the number of graduates will remain essentially the same. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of physical therapists is expected to grow faster than the average through 2010.

Interinstitutional
and Board Office
Review

The Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) and the Board Office have reviewed this request and are recommending approval.

Submission to
ICCPHSE

No objections were raised when this proposal was reviewed by the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education (ICCPHSE).

**Link to Strategic
Plan:**

This effort is part of the institutional activities which help the Board of Regents achieve its objective to improve access to the Regent institutions as stated in its Strategic Plan:

KRA 2.0.0.0 Provide access to educational, research, and service opportunities within the missions of the Regent institutions.

Objective 2.2.2.0 Evaluate annually and, where appropriate, make recommendations to meet relevant educational and service needs of the state.

Background:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a substantial increase in the number of physical therapist jobs as a result of increases in the elderly population; increases in the number of individuals with disabilities or limited function requiring therapy services; and advances in technology. Demand has been strongest in rural areas and inner cities. Placement opportunities exist in hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, home health agencies, sports clinics, school systems, and industry.

Analysis:

Projected Costs

The costs for the proposed program are projected to be \$50,000 for the first year, \$225,000 for the second year, and \$225,000 for the third year. The additional resources that are needed are for faculty, graduate assistants, and other expenses to support the operation of the program. The resources for this program will be provided by the tuition and surcharge generated by the additional student credit hours of the doctoral program.

Regent Program
Review Questions

Attached is a copy of the University's responses to the Board of Regents New Program Review Questions (pages 4–15). The University's responses to the review questions appear to meet the Board's expectations.

Recommendation

Approve the University of Iowa's proposal to convert the Master of Physical Therapy Program to a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program


Diana Gonzalez

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

6.05 Board of Regents New Program Review Questions for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Iowa

- A. New Program Approval All new or expanded programs, majors, certificates and minors shall be reported to the Board Office for approval by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.

All new programs referred to the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination and the Board Office shall be submitted to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post High School Education for appropriate action in accordance with ICCPHSE policy. The Regent institutions are encouraged to submit their new programs to the ICCPHSE well in advance of the Board meeting where it will be considered.

All new or expanded programs submitted to the Board Office for approval by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, shall include, along with the complete original institution internal approval documents, a complete response to the following program review questions. For proposed minors and certificates, questions 3 - 6 may be omitted, but additional resource needs should be reported.

List contact person for new or expanded programs.

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1. Need

- a. How will this proposed program further the educational and curriculum needs of the students in this discipline?

The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), the primary professional organization representing over 80,000 physical therapists in the United States, is promoting the professional doctor of physical therapy (DPT) as the preferred professional degree of the future. To this end, the APTA's House of Delegates at its June 2000 meeting adopted the following vision statement that projects:

By 2020, physical therapy will be provided by physical therapists who are doctors of physical therapy, recognized by consumers and other health care professionals as the practitioners of choice to whom consumers have direct access for the diagnosis of, interventions for, and prevention of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities related to movement, function, and health.

In 1997, in preparation for this transition, the APTA published the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*, which serves as a resource to members of the profession, insurance companies, federal agencies, and other interested groups. The *Guide* describes the scope of physical therapy practice as a process of examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention that results in optimal patient outcomes. The *Guide* also serves as the profession's vehicle to document the effectiveness of clinical practice. The proposed clinical doctorate (DPT) program will offer the expanded curriculum needed for more complete mastery of all the steps in the delivery of Physical Therapy services, including Physical Therapy differential diagnosis and evidence-based practice. Graduates of the new DPT curriculum will be better prepared to meet the practice standards required of health care professionals in the twenty-first century and to better serve the citizens of Iowa and the nation.

The influence of managed care and, more recently, the impact of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 on physical therapy practice has been profound. Cost cutting measures have seriously decreased the number of supervising therapists available to mentor new graduates. With fewer supervisors available for training and less money available for continuing education, employers are demanding that therapists have a more independent level of functioning than in the past. As employers continue to adjust to a more restrictive, cost-conscious environment, physical therapists are allowed less time with patients to achieve the same outcomes as before. The proposed DPT program will prepare the graduate to meet these challenges. In a competitive job market, our DPT graduates will be more attractive to prospective employers.

- b. How does it further the educational and curriculum needs of other units in the college or university?

Since the physical therapy courses are restricted to physical therapy students, the proposed DPT degree program will have negligible impact on the educational and curricular needs of other units in the college or university. With the instructor's approval an extradepartmental student may register for a specific physical therapy course. However, since few extradepartmental students have not taken the necessary prerequisite courses, this option is not very common.

2. Duplication and Collaboration

- a. What programs in this field of study are available in other colleges and universities in Iowa? (Identification of other programs available in this field at other institutions should be made within a broad definitional framework. For example, such identification should not be limited to programs bearing the same title, the same degree designation, having the same curriculum emphasis, or purporting to meet exactly the same needs as the proposed program.)

The University of Iowa Graduate Program in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science has been historically recognized for excellence in the professional preparation of clinical entry-level practitioners as well as in the professional training of advanced degree Master of Arts (MA) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD in Physical Rehabilitation Science) students. According to the *2001 US News & World Report*, the University of Iowa Physical Therapy program is ranked third among the Best Graduate Schools in the Country.

The University of Iowa is the only Regents University with a program in Physical Therapy. The University of Iowa Graduate Program in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science has offered entry-level education for the physical therapist since 1942. Graduates received a Certificate in Physical Therapy from the Graduate College until 1986 when the Program was converted to a Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) degree. A total of 1,565 students have graduated from the entry-level program since its inception.

Current trends show that physical therapy education is clearly moving toward the DPT as the entry-level degree. A survey of the Iowa based programs revealed:

Des Moines University	DPT Approved (2002 implementation)
Saint Ambrose University	DPT Approved (2002 implementation)
Clarke College	DPT Proposal pending

- b. With what representatives of these programs has there been consultation in developing this proposal? Provide a summary of the responses of each institution consulted. (The complete text of responses should be included.)

The proposal for the DPT degree program followed extensive investigation and discussion. The program faculty participated in numerous forums on the topic at national (American Physical Therapy Association Annual Conferences, Combined Sections Meetings, and Academic Administrators Special Interest Forums) and local (Iowa Physical Therapy Association and Southeastern District) meetings. The program also sponsored consortium meetings with the faculty of the other Iowa physical therapy educational programs (Clarke College, Des Moines University, and Saint Ambrose University). In addition, the program hosted informal input meetings with local physical therapists and program alumni, and also sought input from the currently enrolled MPT, MA and PhD students. For the last three years the issue of the DPT has been a primary agenda topic at the Annual Program Retreats. Based on a comprehensive evaluation of all available information, the faculty at the June 2001 Annual Program Retreat voted to proceed with the development of a proposal to convert the existing MPT curriculum to a professional DPT program.

Letters of support from each of the respective Iowa Physical Therapist Educational Programs are presented in Appendix A.

- c. In what ways is this proposed program similar to those mentioned in 2a? In what ways is it different or does it have a different emphasis? (In describing program similarities and differences, consider such factors as curriculum, prospective student groups to be served, and career or other types of goals to be emphasized.)

Since all four programs must meet the evaluative criteria for accreditation specified by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) program content is quite similar. General program differences relate to format delivery, total required time and cost. The University of Iowa and the Des Moines University programs require an undergraduate degree for admissions. Clarke College and Saint Ambrose University have provisions for their pre-physical therapy undergraduate students to automatically phase into their professional curriculum (pending grades and other criteria). University of Iowa and Saint Ambrose University are ~2 1/2 year programs (includes summers) while Clarke College and Des Moines University are 3 year programs. As indicated in the following tuition summary table, the total cost for an Iowa resident student to attend the University of Iowa DPT program is approximately one-half the costs to attend the other three Iowa programs.

SUMMARY TUITION TABLE
Nationally Ranked, Big Ten and Iowa Geographic Market
Physical Therapy Programs
2001-2002

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>		<u>Length</u>	<u>Total</u>	<i>US News & World Report</i> <u>Ranking</u>
U Southern California	CA Los Angeles	DPT	3 yrs	~\$80,000	2
U Miami	FL Coral Gables	DPT	3 yrs	\$65,250	3
Duke University	NC Durham	DPT	3 yrs	\$59,850*	3
Northwestern U	IL Chicago	DPT	2.5 yrs	\$58,072	9
Washington U	MO St Louis	DPT	3 yrs	\$69,000	1
Saint Ambrose	IA Davenport	DPT**	2.5 yrs	\$45,900	
Clarke College	IA Dubuque	MPT***	3 yrs	\$45,360	
Des Moines U	IA Des Moines	DPT**	3 yrs	\$44,400	
U Illinois	IL Chicago	DPT	3 yrs	\$34,416	
U Wisconsin	WI Madison	MPT	2.5 yrs	\$16,515	
U Minnesota	MN Minneapolis	DPT**	2.5 yrs	\$36,000	
Ohio State U	OH Columbus	MPT***	2.5 yrs	\$24,000*	
U Iowa	IA Iowa City	MPT	2.5 yrs	\$16,000	3
U Iowa Proposed	IA Iowa City	DPT	2.5 yrs	\$22,769	3
<i>(Includes summer sessions: 100 sh = 33 sh > MPT)</i>					

*Based on 2000-2001 tuition fee schedules

**DPT approved (implementation 2002-2003)

***DPT proposal pending

The University of Iowa's program differs from the other private Iowa programs in that it is located in one of the leading medical education centers in the country. The University of Iowa Graduate Program in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science is also different in that it offers multi-degree programs, i.e. the professional clinical entry-level Master of Physical Therapy (MPT or DPT if approved) degree, an advanced Master of Arts (MA) degree, and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Physical Rehabilitation Science. In this context, the Program has had considerable experience with doctoral level training. The Program faculty have successfully mentored 44 PhD students. Currently, there are 13 PhD students enrolled in the advanced degree track. The Program has 10 FTE primary appointment faculty. Seven are PhD faculty, all of whom are physical therapists who teach and mentor students in both the professional MPT and advanced degree MA and PhD tracks. The multi-level degree tracks make our Program somewhat unique to other physical therapy programs which typically only offer clinical entry-level education. As a consequence of the composition and subsequent philosophy of our faculty, there is a strong Program emphasis on the integration and application of scientific principles and theory with a primary focus on scientific inquiry and an evidence-based practice model. Each of the PhD faculty direct independent state-of-the-art research laboratories that also serve as teaching facilities for the specialty oriented MPT as well as MA/PhD graduate level courses that the faculty teach. All of the full-time PhD students have graduate assistantships and assist the primary faculty with teaching and supervising the MPT professional courses and the MPT student group research projects. The interchange and collaboration between students is excellent. Professional enrichment activities are encouraged for all students. For the last two years all nine MPT group research projects were presented as poster presentations as part of the Annual College of Medicine's Research Week program. MPT and PhD students and faculty are also actively involved in making research presentations at a variety of professional and scientific meetings. Approximately 50% of the second year MPT students attended the 2001 and 2002 APTA Combined Sections Meetings in San Antonio, Texas, and Boston, Massachusetts, respectively.

- d. How does the proposed program supplement the current programs available? (In some instances, this question should go beyond how the program will supplement others within the state. If the justification for the program involves special regional or national needs, a description of existing programs within the region or the nation and the relation of the proposed program to these should be provided.)

The University of Iowa physical therapy program is the only Regents program in the state. It is the oldest program in the region (established 1942) from which other programs have been modeled. The inter-physical therapy program relationships among the four Iowa schools are strong. Collaborative/consortium type activities are common, including discussion/meetings with regard to the DPT issue. Our Program's conversion of the MPT to the DPT should facilitate the continuation of these activities.

With the increasing number of physical therapist educational programs awarding the DPT degree as entry into the profession, competition among programs for the best students has increased to new heights. Prospective students perceive the personal and professional benefits of doctoral education and the DPT degree. The University of Iowa wants to continue its rigorous selection system in the recruitment and enrollment of students. Converting the present MPT Program to a DPT Program is seen as a crucial step in maintaining our base of intelligent, bright students. We do not want to lose the best students to other programs simply because those programs award a DPT degree.

- e. Has the possibility of some kind of interinstitutional program or other cooperative effort been explored? What are the results of this study? (Consider not only the possibility of a formally established interinstitutional program, but also how special resources at other institutions might be used on a cooperative basis in implementing the proposed program solely at this institution.)

A primary reason for the development of the physical therapy educational programs at the other Iowa institutions (private schools) was the tuition revenue potential that these programs offered. The consideration of interinstitutional programs is really a mute point. As indicated in response "e" above, interprogram collaborative activities are ongoing.

- f. Please list the Iowa institutions in which articulation agreements are being developed for the proposed program (NOTE: This applies only to community college degree programs which may transfer students to this program).

Not Applicable.

- g. Please provide the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code for the proposed program.

51.2308

3. Please estimate the enrollment in this program for the next five years as follows:

- a. Undergraduate -- Not Applicable
 Majors _____
 Nonmajors _____
- b. Graduate
- | | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Majors | 36 | 72 | 72* | 72* | 72* |
| Nonmajors | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

The class size is fixed at 36 students (same as the MPT Program). The total enrollment for the second year including first-year and second-year students = 72.
 *Since the program involves 2 1/2 years, during year 2005 and subsequent years, the total enrollment will include the third-year students during the fall semester only.

- c. On what basis were these estimates made?

The enrollment is fixed at 36 students per class (the same as the existing MPT program)

- d. What are the anticipated sources of these students? (For example, persons currently enrolled in other programs within the institution; persons currently attending other institutions, in state or out of state; persons not currently enrolled in institutions of higher education.)

The principal student enrollment is based on Iowa residents (~75% Iowa Residents, 25% non Iowa residents). No preference is given to applicants based on their undergraduate institution. As indicated in the following table, the applicants come from a broad spectrum of institutions:

**Applications from Iowa Colleges
Applied/Admitted**

	5-Yr Total			2002			2001		
	Apps	Admits		Apps	Admits		Apps	Admits	
U of Iowa	93	31	33%	13	10	77%	13	5	38%
Iowa State U	61	34	56%	9	8	89%	11	4	36%
U Northern Iowa	55	18	33%	5	3	60%	8	2	25%
Briar Cliff	2	0	0%						
Buena Vista	7	1	14%				1	0	0%
Central College	16	5	31%	1	0	0%	4	3	75%
Clarke College	2	0	0%	1	0				
Coe College	8	4	50%	1	1	100%	2	1	50%
Cornell College	4	1	25%	1	1	100%	1	0	0%
Dordt College	8	5	63%				3	3	100%
Drake University	6	2	33%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%
Grandview College	1	1	100%						
Grinnell College	1	0	0%						
Iowa Wesleyan	2	0	0%						
Loras College	17	1	6%				1	0	0%
Luther College	13	5	38%				3	1	33%
Morningside College	3	2	67%						
Mt. Mercy	9	5	56%	2	2	100%	1	1	100%
Northwestern College	8	3	38%	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
St. Ambrose	23	8	35%	1	1	100%	7	4	57%
Simpson College	10	2	20%				1	0	0%
Upper Iowa Univ.	2	0	0%				1	0	0%
Wartburg College	25	12	48%	3	2	67%	3	2	67%
Tiekyo Westmar	2	0	0%						
U of Dubuque	1	0	0%						
William Penn	2	0	0%						

4. Please provide any available data or information on employment opportunities available to graduates of this program in Iowa and nationally. (Such information is available from U.S. government labor sources as well as many professional associations.)

Historically, physical therapists have been in short supply and the University of Iowa graduates have had multiple job offers and high placement rates. With the increase in physical therapist education programs in recent years the supply of physical therapists has more nearly met the demands. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a substantial increase in the number of physical therapist jobs between now and 2005. Demand has been strongest in rural areas and inner cities. Hospitals employ about one-third of all practicing physical therapists but practice possibilities have expanded through the years and opportunities exist in rehab facilities, home health agencies, sports clinics, school systems and industry. Nationally about 20% of all physical therapists are self-employed and operate their own clinics.

A survey by the American Physical Therapy Association in March 2001 found a 1.4% unemployment rate among physical therapists. We recently surveyed the 36 physical therapists who graduated from the University of Iowa in December 2001 and found 35 employed as physical therapists. Twenty-eight (77%) chose to remain and practice in Iowa.

5. Are there accreditation standards for this program? Yes

- a. What is the accreditation organization?

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

- b. What accreditation timetable is anticipated?

Since our existing MPT program is CAPTE accredited (May 5, 1999), CAPTE policy (pending documentation of University/Board of Regents approval of the DPT proposal) grants continuous accreditation with an on-site accreditation visit to be scheduled the year following the graduation of the first DPT class (2005).

(Please provide a copy of the accreditation standards.)

A copy of the CAPTE accreditation standards is included in Appendix B.

6. Does the proposed program meet minimal national standards for the program, e.g., Council of Graduate Schools or other such bodies?

The accreditation standards for the proposed DPT program are the same as for the MPT program.

7. Please report any reactions of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. List date that the program information was submitted to the Council.

We have not yet received the ICCPHSE response. (Submitted June 28, 2002)

Additional Resource Needs

Either question one or question two requires a "yes" answer. In addition to a "yes" response to one of the first two questions, question three and question four should be answered. If applicable, question five should be answered.

1. Will the program require new resources? Yes X No
If "yes," what is the plan to obtain new resources?

The DPT (100 sh) proposal involves the conversion of our existing MPT program (67 sh). As indicated in the detailed budget included in the proposal, the anticipated increased implementation/operational costs will be covered by the increased surcharge and tuition revenue generated by the increased number of semester hours (100 – 67 = 33 sh) that the students will take. No rate increase in surcharge or tuition is being requested.

2. Will the program require reallocated resources? Yes No X
If "yes," what is the university's reallocation plan to fund this program?

3. At what level of enrollment will additional resources be required for the program?

The DPT enrollment level will remain the same as the existing MPT program enrollment (36 student/class).

4. Estimate the total costs (or *incremental increases in expenditures*) that may be necessary as a result of the new program for the next three years.

As described in the proposal, the primary curricular changes between the existing MPT versus the proposed DPT don't occur until the intervening summer between Year 1 and Year 2 of the program. Subsequently, the increased DPT program cost for Year 1 is low (~\$50,000). For subsequent years the increased DPT Program cost is projected at ~\$225,000/year.

5. For programs planning to use external grants, what would be the effect of the grant termination?

(Not Applicable)

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
a. Faculty	\$20,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
b. Graduate Assistants	19,000	45,000	45,000
c. General Expense	1,000	13,500	13,500
d. Equipment		7,500	7,500
e. Library Resources		1,500	1,500
f. New Space Needs [estimated amt. & cost of new and/or remodeled space)			
g. Computer use		1,500	1,500
h. Other resources		6,000	6,000
TOTAL(S)	\$50,000	\$225,000	\$225,000

6. How does this program relate to the college's/university's strategic plan? New program proposals for programs that are currently offered at one or more Regent university must also complete the Board of Regents questions on potential program duplication contained in §6.09 of this Policy Manual.

It is our opinion that the proposed DPT program is complementary to the mission of the institution in that it provides contemporary graduate level professional education through the only Regents based university in the state.