

December 9, 2004

Memorandum

TO: David Watt, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

FR: Lori S. Gonzalez, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

RE: New Degree Proposal – Doctor of Physical Therapy

The College of Health Sciences Academic Affairs Committee recommends approval of the proposal for a new degree program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy. When this degree is approved, the Master's of Health Science in Physical Therapy degree will be discontinued. The existing Master's Program is a 100 semester hour program of study which includes 30 semester hours of graduate coursework. It builds upon the completion of all University of Kentucky "University Studies" requirements and specific physical therapy prerequisites.

The new DPT Program is 120 semester hours building upon the same prerequisites and University Studies requirements. Students enter the DPT Program either after completion of a baccalaureate degree or via admission to the University Scholars Program and completion of the specific prerequisites. The prerequisites include two courses with laboratories in each of three areas: Physics, Chemistry, and Biological Sciences. Students must also complete a course in Statistics and Medical Terminology.

The new Program provides significant curricular enhancements in both classroom and clinical experiences. The additional 20 hours are composed of nine hours of Clinical Education (including a 12 week capstone internship) and eleven hours of didactic course offerings. These eleven hours are divided into four hours of material added to existing courses and seven hours representing new courses. These materials include Differential Diagnosis, Pharmacology, Gerontology, Administration, Public Health and Wellness, Managing the Complex Patient, and Advanced Manual Techniques.

The proposal includes a rationale and description of the new curriculum as well as minor/major course change forms and new course proposals.

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