

## New Academic Program: Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

### BACKGROUND

#### Program Proposed Start Date

Fall 2021

#### Program Description

The new degree program proposed is a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). The full program proposal is available at: <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/103178>.

This proposal requests the creation of a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree at Oregon State University to be delivered on the OSU-Cascades campus, potentially the first DPT at a public university in the state of Oregon. This program will provide access to a premiere DPT program at in-state tuition for Oregon students. The DPT program will be a 3-year cohort-based program that will enroll up to 42 students each year. The 11 quarter program will be delivered through the combination of extensive didactic, laboratory, and clinical education experiences in the wide-ranging field of physical therapy. All courses will be held on the OSU-Cascades campus in Bend, Oregon in Academic Building #2 (AB2), which is scheduled to be built and ready for use by fall term 2021. Over 6,500 square feet of instructional space in AB2 has been purposefully programed to meet the needs of the DPT program. Students will complete their clinical experiences throughout Central Oregon, the state of Oregon, and the western region of the U.S.

Curricular content was developed based upon the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) Education Competencies (<http://www.capteonline.org/home.aspx>) and an extensive review of leading DPT programs across the United States. A critical component of the CAPTE pre-accreditation process is the requirement that institutions employ a full-time DPT program director in order to secure an Application for Candidacy Submission Date for the next open Candidacy Review Cycle. Dr. Christine Pollard, a tenured professor at OSU-Cascades, was assigned this role in June 2018. In February 2018, OSU-Cascades Academic Dean, Dr. Julie Gess-Newsome, and Dr. Pollard attended a mandatory one-day CAPTE workshop for developing DPT programs held in New Orleans, LA. Attendance at this workshop is required by CAPTE prior to program launch. As required by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for all new graduate programs, the OSU DPT has completed an external review.

#### Program Context

To practice as a physical therapist in the United States, one must earn a physical therapist degree from an accredited physical therapist education program and pass a state licensure exam. Through the combination of extensive didactic, laboratory, and clinical education experiences, OSU DPT program graduates will attain the entry-level educational competencies and clinical proficiencies necessary to take and pass the National Physical Therapy Examination and embark on careers as licensed physical therapists. DPT program graduates will gain employment in a wide range of venues, providing patient care for individuals in a variety of settings including hospitals, short-term and long term-care facilities,

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outpatient clinics, and schools. Undergraduate students at OSU-Cascades, especially, kinesiology students, will benefit from being in close proximity to the DPT program because of the access to faculty, research opportunities, and course offerings such proximity affords. The DPT would provide a potential pathway for OSU-Cascades undergraduates interested in pursuing graduate education..

There are two DPT degrees programs in Oregon and both are at private institutions: Pacific University and George Fox University. In discussion with the Director of the George Fox University DPT Program, Tyler Cuddeford, there appears to be potential for a strong synergy between programs as it relates to global health, including the opportunity for students from both programs to jointly participate in international service opportunities supported by both universities. Due to the high number of Oregon resident students applying to DPT programs, we do not anticipate a negative impact on other DPT programs in the state of Oregon. Rather, we anticipate that the state of Oregon will benefit from having a larger number of PT educators and leaders in the growing field of physical therapy.

### **Program Purpose/Relationship to University Mission and Strategic Plan**

As a land grant institution committed to teaching, research, and outreach and engagement, Oregon State University promotes economic, social, cultural, and environmental progress for the people of Oregon, the nation, and the world. The proposed DPT program directly supports and strengthens performance and pre-eminence in the OSU signature area of leading in health and wellness as well as SP4.0's emphasis on strengthening OSU's profile and activities in health. Furthermore, the DPT program will support the College of Public Health and Human Sciences (CPHHS) strategic goal of developing new programs and graduating public health and human science professionals to meet the complex needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as well as contributing to the research and application mission of OSU.

### **Need for the Program**

The DPT program will help meet the growing demand for physical therapists in Oregon and across the US. According to the United States Department of Labor, "employment of physical therapists is projected to grow 34% from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations." Oregon.gov, based on data collected during 2015 and 2016 (<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/ANALYTICS/Pages/Health-Care-Workforce-Reporting.aspx>), highlights the need for PTs across most of the state of Oregon. Many counties, including those in Central and Eastern Oregon, have a population-to-provider ratio indicative of the need for more physical therapists. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has developed a model to project the supply and demand of physical therapists. This model accounts for attrition and developing PT programs. Even with a conservative attrition estimate of 2.5%, the projected demand is greater than the supply in 2025. Furthermore, the Pacific Northwest has fewer PT school options compared to the eastern U.S. Finally, according to the State of Oregon Employment Department (<https://www.qualityinfo.org/#>), there will be a 27.3% increase in need for physical therapists in the State of Oregon between 2017 and 2027. The Employment Department is projecting an increased need of 2,222 PTs in Oregon due to employment change and replacement openings over this 10-year period. These projections support the need for Oregon to grow its number of DPT programs.

Oregon residents do not have access to a DPT program at a public institution and Oregon residents east of the Cascade Range do not have access to a DPT program in their region. A

DPT program at OSU-Cascades will serve the access and affordability needs of the region and the state. The program will also bring academic and research expertise to the region, providing professional development and continuing education opportunities to local practitioners and the health care community.

**Program Financials**

The DPT program faculty will consist of a program director, clinical director, and eight additional core full-time faculty. CAPTE requires that the program director, clinical director, and one DPT faculty member be hired by the time that the full CAPTE Application for Candidacy is submitted. The DPT director was placed on contract in 2019. We will add the clinical director in 2022, and a clinical instructor in each of 2023 and 2024. Part-time support staff will be hired in 2020 with increasing FTE based on program implementation. We will hire two tenured/tenure track faculty in 2024. Staffing will rapidly grow over the following 5-year period. Of the full-time DPT core faculty, at least five out of the ten (50%) will have a PhD or equivalent. CAPTE requires an average Core Faculty to Student Ratio of 1:12. We will meet that requirement at program buildout when all three cohorts are launched.

Faculty salaries have been modeled based on CAPTE Aggregate Program Data for Public Institutions. In addition, our budget model includes start-up funding for the tenure-track hires and professional development funds for all faculty hires. Services and Supplies includes program-specific library resources.

	Academic Year 2021	Academic Year 2022	Academic Year 2023	Academic Year 2024
<b>Personnel</b>				
Faculty, Tenured/Tenure-Track	\$88,003	\$87,756	\$90,389	\$287,100
Faculty, Instructor		\$43,000	\$88,850	\$182,237
Support Staff			\$8,575	\$36,050
OPE	\$41,434	\$56,382	\$103,790	\$320,335
Personnel Subtotal	\$129,437	\$187,138	\$291,334	\$825,723
<b>Services and Supplies</b>	\$3,443	\$10,562	\$16,659	\$387,047
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$132,880	\$197,700	\$307,993	\$1,294,548

**RECOMMENDATION**

The OSU Faculty Senate will review the proposal at their meeting on January 10, 2019. If positively reviewed by the Faculty Senate, the provost recommends that the Academic Strategies Committee approve the establishment of an instructional program leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy effective in Fall 2021, pending the support of the Statewide Provosts Council and the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.