

STAFF ANALYSIS
Proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy
Florida International University
(CIP #51.2308)

Estimated Costs:

	Total	% & \$ Current	% & \$ New	% & \$ C&G	Cost per FTE	SUS 2004-2005 Average Costs
Year 1	\$1,273,527	77% \$977,652	23% \$295,875	0% \$0	\$21,225	\$24,174.40 for CIP 51 Doctoral Level
Year 5	\$1,436,580	68% \$977,652	32% \$458,928	0% \$0	\$8,772	

NOTE: The existing MPT is being converted to a DPT in accordance with industry standards.

Projected FTE and Headcount are:

	Projected Headcount	Student FTE
First Year	48	60
Second Year	94	111.75
Third Year	139	163.76
Fourth Year	139	163.76
Fifth Year	139	163.76

On April 30, 2003, the Florida Board of Governors approved eight criteria, divided into the two categories of Readiness and Accountability, by which implementation authorization of new doctorates were to be assessed. The following is an analysis of the University's proposal based on further delineations of those eight criteria.

Page Numbers:

READINESS					ACCOUNTABILITY		
Mission & Strength	Program Quality	Curriculum	Faculty	Resources	Need	Budget	Productivity
2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-8	8	8-9

READINESS

*1. **Mission and Strength** - The goals of the program are aligned with the university's mission and relate to specific institutional strengths. The program is aligned with goals identified within the State University Strategic Plan.*

Evidence that the proposed program is responsive to the goals of the current State University System Strategic Plan and the goals of the proposed program relate to the institutional mission statement as contained in the Strategic Plan

The implementation of a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) would be consistent with the goal of meeting statewide professional and workforce needs in the 2005-2013 SUS Strategic Plan. The Commission on the Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE) estimates that by 2008, 90% of all physical therapy programs will be offering the DPT. All existing Masters in Physical Therapy (MPT) programs within the State University System are planning to convert to the DPT in the coming months. This DPT will aid in the provision of quality Physical Therapists in the South Florida area. DPT's are currently offered in the SUS at the University of Florida and the University of South Florida. This degree is also offered in the independent sector.

Evidence of a relationship to specific institutional strengths

The proposed DPT supports FIU's Health and Medical Education Initiative. The DPT will replace an existing MPT, which currently utilizes multiple campuses and has over 340 different clinical affiliations available locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. The Department of Physical Therapy has been active in advancing the knowledge base of physical therapy. The department is housed in the School of Health Sciences and the College of Health and Urban Affairs, which eases collaboration with the Public Health, Nursing and Social Work departments.

*2. **Program Quality** – Planning activities have been sufficient and responses to any recommendations to program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program have been addressed.*

Evidence that planning for the proposed program has been a collaborative process involving academic units and offices of planning and budgeting at the institutional level, as well as external consultants, representatives of the community, etc.

The initial development of the transition to DPT started in 2001 when the Department of Physical Therapy transitioned from the Bachelor's curriculum to the MPT. At this time, plans were made for the transition to a DPT and incorporated into the MPT curriculum. For this reason, the DPT curriculum can be added onto the MPT curriculum without substantial changes. To estimate demand for the program, former and current MPT students were surveyed as to whether they would consider returning for their DPT. SUS chairs met in 2003 to discuss transitioning to the DPT. Conversations have occurred between the Provost, the Dean of the University Graduate School, the Executive Dean of the College of

Health and Urban Affairs, and the Dean of the School of Health Science during the accreditation self study and recent program review. The faculty chair has consulted with Nova Southeastern and the University of Miami regarding their experiences transitioning to the DPT.

Evidence of an appropriate timetable of events leading to the implementation of the proposed program.

If approved to admit students in the Fall of 2007, the first class of students would graduate in the Summer of 2010. Because this proposal will elevate an existing degree program, faculty and resources will be in place for this timeline.

Evidence that progress has been made in implementing the recommendations from program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program

In 2004, the most recent CAPTE accreditation self study was conducted. The accreditation site visit occurred in August 2004. At this time, the Department of Physical Therapy became fully accredited without qualifications until 2014. The CAPTE Commission specifically commended FIU on its curriculum, faculty review process, and assessment and revision of the Departmental Mission Statement to reflect the nature of the program. The physical therapy program finished a university Program Review in the summer of 2005. A weakness pointed out in the review is the fluctuation of financial resources due to university constraints. The Department has subsequently focused on research, grant activity and community partnerships that help generate funding, making the Department less reliant on University funds.

3. Curriculum - The proposal describes an appropriate and sequenced course of study, admissions and graduation criteria are clearly specified and appropriate, and the appropriateness of specialized accreditation is addressed.

Evidence of an appropriate, sequenced, and fully described course of study; evidence of specific learning outcomes and industry driven competencies are discussed for any science and technology programs

The proposed FIU DPT curriculum is consistent with the CAPTE accreditation standards. The program will require 93 credits of professional coursework and 32 weeks of full time clinical experience and builds on the existing Masters curriculum sequence. The first six semesters are the existing Masters curriculum, and the last 3 semesters add 24 credits of coursework including geriatrics, pediatrics, movement analysis, sports physical therapy, and principles of diagnostics such as radiography, imaging and pharmacology. Elective courses allow students to specialize in pediatrics, geriatrics, sports medicine, women's health and community health. There are 20 credits of clinical internship throughout the program. Students currently enrolled in FIU's MPT program may opt to pursue a DPT upon implementation of the program.

The admissions standards for the DPT will be the same as those currently in effect for

the MPT. A student seeking admission to the program must have a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited institution, or in the case of international students, a well established institution of higher learning authorized to grant degrees by appropriation authorities in that country, a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework, or a graduate degree from an accredited institution. In addition, all applicants must show proof of completion of prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better. International graduate students must be academically eligible for further study in the country where the degree was earned and must demonstrate proficiency in the English language. GRE scores are not used in admissions decisions.

A list of learning outcomes of the DPT program is provided. Subject areas include: communication, individual and cultural differences, professional behavior, critical inquiry and clinical decision making, education, professional development, screening, examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, plan of care, intervention, social responsibility, administration, consultation, outcomes assessment and evaluation, prevention and wellness, and management of care delivery.

Evidence that, if appropriate, the bachelor's and master's degree programs associated with the program are accredited and that the institution anticipates seeking accreditation for the proposed program if available

CAPTE accreditation for both the MPT and the DPT uses the same Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists. Therefore, accreditation will be transferred from the MPT to the proposed DPT. The program will not need to be reaccredited until the next regularly scheduled accreditation cycle.

Evidence that the institution has analyzed the feasibility of providing all or a portion of the proposed program through distance learning technologies via its own technological capabilities

The anticipated delivery system will follow the current master's parameters of lecture, web based learning, and integrated and cumulative clinical education experiences. The primary delivery system will be traditional on-campus delivery at the University Park campus.

4. Faculty – A critical mass of faculty will be available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments, and faculty in the aggregate has the necessary experience and research activity to sustain a doctoral program.

Evidence that there is a critical mass of faculty available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments

There is a 8:1 student FTE to faculty workload ratio in year one and a 13:1 ratio in year five.

According to Table 1, there are currently eight professors affiliated with the program.

There is a plan to add two more faculty members at the assistant professor level during the first year and one more during the second year. All faculty members will devote 100% of their workload to this program.

Currently, 137 students are enrolled in the MPT program. Forty eight DPT students (60 FTE) are projected to enroll during the first year. By year five of the program, 139 DPT students (163.78 FTE) are projected to enroll.

Evidence that the faculty in aggregate have the necessary experience and research activity to sustain the program

According to Table 1, there are eight professors working in the Department of Physical Therapy: 4 Assistant Professors, 4 Associate Professors. The director will devote half-time to this program and all others will devote 100%. Five faculty members hold a doctorate, three hold a Masters degree, one of whom has a DPT in progress. A spreadsheet is included in the appendices showing that faculty members have produced a wealth of publications.

The proposal states that all faculty exceed the current CAPTE requirements of one peer review scholarly dissemination annually and that faculty have presented their research locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.

Evidence that, if appropriate, there is a commitment to hire additional faculty in later years, based on estimated enrollments

The proposal shows the intent to hire three new faculty members as enrollment increases, two in the first year and one in the second year. The university will be comparable to its selected peer institutions with regard to number of faculty, research productivity, and projected number of students. FIU's student-faculty ratio will be slightly higher than that of UF, Nova Southeastern and University of Miami.

5. Resources – The necessary library volumes and serials; classroom, teaching laboratory, research laboratory, office space, equipment, clinical and internship sites, fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships will be sufficient to initiate the program.

Evidence that library volumes and serials are sufficient to initiate the program

The proposal includes a library analysis that speaks more to the number of books, databases and subscriptions the library holds in general than to the amount of physical therapy resources available. A list of physical therapy databases was provided. Students have access to the library holdings of all eleven state universities and the University of Miami School of Medicine Calder Medical Library. Through the Southeast Florida Information Network, all faculty and currently enrolled students have borrowing privileges in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach county libraries.

Evidence that classroom, teaching laboratory, research laboratory, office, and any other type of space that is necessary for the proposed program is sufficient to initiate the program

The faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy have offices in the Health and Life Science (HLS) building. The department shares lab space with Occupational Therapy and Communication Sciences and Disorders. Shared labs are: two Rehabilitation Labs, the Activities of Daily Living Lab, the Sensiomotor Lab, and the Balance and Motion Analysis Lab. A teaching classroom is available to accommodate small seminar classes of 25 students. State of the art technology for a pedagogical presentation is available in all labs. Students also have access to School of Health Sciences computer labs.

Evidence that necessary and sufficient equipment to initiate the program is available

The department owns the full range of clinical equipment used by practicing physical therapists, and continually updates the equipment to support faculty and student research and training needs. The Balance and Motion Analysis Lab has several state of the art computer systems with the capability to analyze human movement with digital video, force sensors, and surface electromyography. This lab also contains the Equitest Balance system, which has the capability to analyze and treat balance and vestibular disorders. The only anticipated equipment need is for office support equipment and personal computers needed for new faculty members, for which \$9,000 has been budgeted.

Evidence that, if appropriate, fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships are sufficient to initiate the program

The Department of Physical Therapy has the Greg Esposito/Pinecrest Hospital Memorial Scholarship, the Mercedes Zabaleta Memorial Scholarship, the Mary Hurst Memorial Scholarship, and Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students available to students who enroll in their program. The department also supports 6-8 Graduate Assistants per semester, allowing each faculty member to have 10-20 hours per week of research assistance. Graduate Assistants also receive an annual health insurance subsidy of \$1,083.

Evidence that, if appropriate, clinical and internship sites have been arranged

The proposal states that the Physical Therapy program has over 340 clinical affiliations available locally, statewide, nationally and internationally where students can gain hands on experience. The proposal does not outline any specific affiliations, however.

ACCOUNTABILITY

5. Need - There is a need for more people to be educated in this program at this level and if the program duplicates other professional and doctorate degrees in Florida, a convincing rationale for doing so is provided.

Evidence that there is a need for more people to be educated in this program at this level

FIU's rationale for transition to the DPT is based on four factors: the breadth and depth of education necessary to perform the duties dictated by the *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*, societal expectations that a fully autonomous healthcare practitioner be a clinical doctor, goals that practitioners be granted "physician status" consistent with

medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry and podiatry, and the fact that the MPT curriculum requires 81 credits of graduate work, which far exceeds the 36-credit Masters degrees of most fields.

The proposal voices concern that the program will not be able to compete with Nova Southeastern and the University of Miami for the most qualified students in Southeast Florida if it does not transition from the MPT to the DPT, which is offered at those institutions.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, employment of physical therapists is expected to grow “much faster than the average” for all occupations through 2014. This level of growth is described as an increase of 27 percent or more. In 2004, physical therapists held about 155,000 jobs. The BLS states that there are currently more physical therapy positions than there are qualified, licensed physical therapists.

Evidence that the proposed program does not duplicate other SUS or independent college offerings or, otherwise, provides an adequate rationale for doing so

The proposed program is offered at UF and USF. All SUS schools offering the MPT are planning to convert to the DPT over the course of the next year. The three independent institutions in Florida with Physical Therapy programs, the University of Miami, Nova Southeastern and the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, have already converted to the DPT.

Evidence of reasonable estimates of student headcount and FTE who will major in the proposed program, and commitment to a diverse student body

FIU graduates the second largest class of Physical Therapists in the SUS behind UF. The department has estimated that 48 is the largest admission class that they can sustain, given space and faculty considerations. Over the last three years, the department has averaged 110 applications for these 48 spaces. There is anticipation that the applicant pool will remain in this range or increase with the more desirable DPT degree available at an affordable state university. The FTE estimates are higher than with other programs, averaging 1.2 FTE/graduate student. Because FTE is calculated using a 1 FTE per 32 annual credit hours formula, FTE will exceed headcount when students earn more than 32 credit hours per year, as in the cohort model this program uses.

Based on admission data from the past three years, the department anticipates 12% of enrollment to come from out of state students and 4% to come from international students. Attrition data shows that an average of 6% of students (3 students/admission class) will not graduate from the program.

For their efforts in minority recruitment, retention and graduation, the FIU Department of Physical Therapy has been nominated for a 2006 American Physical Therapy Association Minority Achievement Award. FIU aims to achieve a diverse student body

by offering scholarships to disadvantaged and minority students, fostering feeder relationships with the FIU Bachelor of Health Science (Pre-PT track) and local community colleges, and continuing to take an active role in advising FIU's pre-PT students, who make up an average of 27% of entering PT students. The proposal is signed by the university's equal opportunity officer, Ms. Bennie Osborne.

*7. **Budget** - A complete and realistic budget for the program is provide, and any redirection of funding will not have an unjustified negative impact on other needed programs.*

Evidence of a budget for the program that is complete and reasonable, and comparable to the budgets of similar programs at other SUS institutions, and reflective of the proposal's text

The proposal estimates the costs of the DPT (including existing faculty and staff salaries) at \$1,273,527 in year 1 and \$1,436,580 in year 5. This budget captures the hiring of three full time faculty members, one support staff, an overhead increase, and computers for additional hires. If approved, FIU will charge students a university-wide professional tuition rate of \$90 per credit hour added to FIU's base graduate tuition for this program. This will help support the ongoing costs of the DPT and its implementation. The professional tuition rate is currently used for graduate programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Nurse Anesthesiology, International Business, and Law. A student can expect to pay \$39,520 to complete the program.

Evidence that, in the event that resources within the institution are redirected to support the new program, such a redirection will not have a negative impact on undergraduate education.

All resources from the MPT program will be shifted to the new DPT program. This will not have a negative impact on students in the MPT program, as they will be able to transition into the DPT program if they choose to do so. Because Physical Therapy is exclusively a graduate program, there is no anticipated impact on undergraduate education.

*8. **Productivity** - The academic unit(s) associated with this new degree have been productive in teaching, research, and service.*

Evidence that the academic unit(s) associated with this new degree have been productive in teaching, research, and service.

FIU's Department of Physical Therapy is consistently above the national average in amount of external funding, grant submissions, and number of faculty with external funding. It is one of 50 programs nationwide having external funding in the \$100,000 to \$499,000 range. A four-year average of \$372,063/yr puts it in the top 25% nationwide for grant funding. FIU's Physical Therapy Licensure Examination has a pass rate of 89.7%, which is commensurate with other universities throughout the state. Faculty members are active in University governance and the Physical Therapy Student Association won the 2004 FIU President's Award for most active student group on campus.