

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
Academic Programs / Strategic Planning Committee
March 29, 2007**

SUBJECT: Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of North Florida

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider for Approval the Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of North Florida
Classification of Instructional Program Code 51.2308

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Article IX, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE) and American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) support the elevation of physical therapy degree programs to doctoral level. CAPTE estimates that by 2008, 90% of all physical therapy programs will be offering the Doctor of Physical Therapy. This degree program will prepare students in a profession where growth is projected to be "much faster than average" by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. The program adds 27 credit hours to the University of North Florida's existing Master of Physical Therapy degree, preparing graduates to provide safe, effective and cost efficient care to a broad spectrum of clients.

The proposed program is consistent with the 2005-2013 SUS strategic goal of creating access to and production of degrees in an area that meets documented statewide professional and workforce needs in the health professions. Doctors of Physical Therapy have been implemented within the SUS at the University of South Florida and the University of Florida. Because the proposed program elevates an existing degree program, new funding costs are low and facilities are already in place. Seven full-time faculty will be associated with the new program. If approved, the student recruitment process will begin immediately with a proposed implementation date of fall 2007.

Documentation Included: Staff Analysis

Facilitators/Presenters: Vice Chancellor LeMon
Richard Stevens, Director, Academic and Student Affairs
University of North Florida Representatives