

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

**Estimated Costs:**

	Total	% & \$ Current	% & \$ New	% & \$ C&G	Cost per FTE	SUS 2004-2005 Average Costs
Year 1	\$698,498	72% \$499,513	28% \$198,985	0% \$0	\$22,020	\$24,174.40 for CIP 51 Doctoral Level
Year 5	\$1,143,900	100% \$1,143,900	0% \$0	0% \$0	\$10,625	

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	26	31.72
Second Year	54	64.32
Third Year	84	90.14
Fourth Year	92	98.96
Fifth Year	100	107.66

*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
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## **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 proposed Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program is consistent with the 2005-2013 SUS Strategic Plan initiative of meeting statewide professional and workforce needs. The Commission on the Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE) supports and promotes the transition of existing MPT programs to DPTs. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) supports doctorally prepared practitioners as well. All existing Masters in Physical Therapy (MPT) programs within the State University System are expected to convert to the DPT in the coming months. 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. The DPT will aid in the provision of quality Physical Therapists in the Jacksonville community.

An inconsistency was found between CAPTE's Web site and the proposal. The proposal states that CAPTE anticipates requirement of the DPT for accreditation in 2010-11. CAPTE's Web site states that it would not consider requiring the DPT until consensus is reached within the profession that the DPT is the preferred degree. As of March 1, 2007, there are 170 DPT programs and 40 MS/MPT programs within the United States.

### **Evidence of a relationship to specific institutional strengths**

The current University of North Florida strategic plan includes directives to "continue to strengthen the quality of its educational programs, its faculty, and its students" and "contribute to the betterment of society." The proposed DPT will replace an existing MPT, allowing the university to conform to CAPTE accreditation requirements. The program will be housed in the Public Health Department of the Brooks College of Health, which also has a strong School of Nursing. The program has a strong working relationship with Brooks Rehabilitation Services, the largest employer of physical therapists in Northeast Florida.

**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 University received approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy in 1990 and approval by the Board of Regents for transition to the Master of Science in Physical Therapy and the Master of Physical Therapy degrees in 1998. Conversations regarding the DPT began in 2000, after the publication of the American Physical Therapy Association vision statement. The curriculum was finalized in Summer 2006. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) was notified of plans in Spring 2006. The intent is for the first DPT cohort to begin coursework in the fall of 2007. Upon approval by the BOG, the university will work with the accreditation body for final approval.

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

The timetable for implementation provided anticipates converting the students who enrolled in the MPT in Fall 2006 to the DPT in Fall 2007. This cohort will graduate in May 2009. 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**

The Master of Physical Therapy program is fully accredited by CAPTE. In 2003, the most recent accreditation self study was run. The accreditation site visit occurred in November 2003. CAPTE voted in 2004 to award accreditation to the program for ten years as a result. In 2005 and 2006, CAPTE requested progress reports due to concerns about a new director, faculty turn-over and faculty scholarship. Clarifications of curricular content were also requested in these progress reports. Once these concerns were addressed, CAPTE decided to continue the accreditation awarded in 2004.

*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**

To be admitted into the DPT program, a student must have a grade point average of 3.0 or better, a combined GRE score (verbal and quantitative) of 1000, a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and must have completed prerequisite science courses within seven years prior to application. The degree consists of 102 credit hours, sequenced by semester to accommodate the cohort system of enrollment. As part of a cohort, students will move through the program in groups, taking courses full-time for

eight semesters.

The curriculum is structured similarly to the University of Florida's DPT program. At UF, students are awarded the DPT degree after completing 113 credit hours of professional course work, including 32 weeks of full-time clinical internship, in an eight (8)-semester plan of study. At UNF, students are awarded the DPT degree after completing 102 credit hours of course work, including 34 weeks of full-time clinical internship, over the course of eight semesters.

Eight learning outcomes of the DPT program at UNF are listed in the proposal. They include the development of scholarly knowledge, the application of this knowledge, a demonstration of the behaviors of a scholarly clinician, sound decision making, mastery of entry level clinical skills, development and enactment of ethical and humane health care regulations, demonstration of leadership, management, and interpersonal skills to function as part of a health care team, and adaptability to changing health care environments.

**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**

The proposed DPT will replace the MPT currently accredited by CAPTE. The change of degree level is driven by the need to maintain CAPTE accreditation.

**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**

At present, this program will be offered on-campus to full-time students in a cohort model. The curriculum emphasizes the traditional method of instruction due to its practical and clinical nature. Shared courses are being explored with other programs within the Brooks College of Health, primarily the School of Nursing.

*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**

According to Table 1, there are currently seven professors affiliated with the program. There is a plan to add two incremental faculty FTEs at the assistant/associate professor level during the first year. Increased cohort size will lead to the hiring of an additional faculty member in year three. All faculty members will devote 100% of their workload to this program. Twenty-six DPT students are projected to enroll during the first year. By year five of the program, 100 DPT students are projected to enroll.

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

The Physical Therapy department has seven faculty members: four associate professors, two assistant professors, and one instructor. Four faculty members hold a Ph.D, two hold an Ed.D. and one holds an M.S. and D.P.T. Faculty members have produced multiple publications. One faculty member has experience directing Master's theses and Doctoral dissertations.

**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 provide good coverage of teaching, advising and scholarly activity as enrollment increases. A plan is in place to hire two new faculty members at the onset of the program, one on a 9-month contract and one on a 12-month contract. An additional faculty member will be hired in Year 3 to accommodate the growing student population.

The university will be comparable to its selected peer institutions with regard to number of faculty, research productivity, and projected number of students. As a point of reference, UF's program had eleven faculty members scheduled to devote 100% of their workload at its inception, and USF had eight full time faculty members in the program at its inception.

*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 Thomas G. Carpenter Library holds over 35,000 physical therapy and health related texts. The library has a staff of over 20 professional librarians and 23 support positions. Students will also have access to over 100 online databases, accessible both on campus and at home. Lines of communication are open with the library regarding the additional needs of the physical therapy program. The proposed budget for the DPT program includes \$45,000 (over four years) to enhance Library support of DPT students and faculty.

At the inception of its Physical Therapy program, UF's Health Science Center Library held 30,000 books and 110,000 journal volumes in Physical Therapy and related disciplines. There was no specific library allocation to add to this collection. USF did not specify what holdings the library had at the Doctor of Physical Therapy program's inception.

**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 DPT program has two classroom/laboratories and one anatomy laboratory that is shared with the Athletic Training Program. Other specialized laboratories are available to Physical Therapy students on an as-needed basis. According to the proposal, this space is sufficient for up to 36 students matriculating annually. Faculty offices, classrooms and laboratories are located on the second floor of the Brooks College of Health building. Additional office, classroom, and research space will be available in Fall 2008 with an expansion of the Brooks College of Health.

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

The two primary classroom/laboratories have student lockers, work counter space, locked cupboard storage space, sinks, and electrical outlets placed on both the floor and the walls. Each room is equipped with a chalkboard, an audiovisual screens, a slide projector, an overhead projector, a ceiling mounted video projector, appropriate computer hardware and software for PowerPoint presentations and Internet connection, and multiple TV/video monitors. The classroom designed for teaching clinical skills also contains wall-mount mat tables, wall-mount pulleys, wall mount parallel bars, traction tables, an electric high-low mat table, floor drains to allow for the use of hydrotherapy equipment, a mixer valve for filling whirlpools, and a Lido functional movement assessment unit. In cases where the primary lab is occupied, mats which can be attached with Velcro onto table tops are available.

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

The program has funding for 2.5 graduate assistantship stipends and 9 partial tuition waivers. An additional 13 scholarships are available to program students through community donations.

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

The Physical Therapy program is currently affiliated with multiple clinical sites representing a variety of patients and disorders. No new clinical sites are needed for the transition to the DPT program. Further, the program has developed a clinical education web site that facilitates the clinical internship placement process.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

*6. 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**

The proposal states that there are approximately 800 physical therapists who reside in Duval, Baker, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns counties. There is concern that the retirement of baby boomers will lead to a shortage of highly qualified Physical Therapists in the coming years. Estimating 30 physical therapy graduates per year, it would take 25

years to replace the current pool of therapists, not accounting for new physical therapists needed to deal with Florida's aging population.

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.

The proposal raises the concern that the program may not be able to compete for the most qualified students in the state if it does not transition from the MPT to the DPT. Given the choice of a school with an MPT program and one with a DPT program, it is believed that students will opt to attend the school with the more prestigious degree.

**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**

The FTE estimates are higher than with other programs, averaging 1.1 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. 26 students are projected to enroll in year 1 and 100 in year 5. There are currently 48 students enrolled in the MPT program.

The proposal states that UNF will achieve a diverse student body by recruiting from a variety of in-state and out-of-state schools, including minority institutions with strong feeder programs. In addition, admissions decisions will be based more on academic scores (GPA) than test scores (GRE). Scholarships will be made available to qualified first generation, low-income, and/or minority students. The proposal is signed by the university's equal opportunity officer, Ms. Maluelina P. Morell.

*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 \$698,498 in year 1 and \$1,143,900 in year 5. This budget includes the hiring of three full time faculty members in the first five years. Library funds are also requested in this budget. Graduate student stipends are not accounted for in the program costs. All resources except two faculty positions, one administrative line and 0.5 clerical support lines are already committed for 2007-08 as ongoing funding for the Physical Therapy 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.**

The seven faculty members listed have written a combined 42 journal publications, 16 book chapters, and 101 abstracts. Only one has experience on thesis/dissertation committees. Ninety seven students have graduated with a MPT since it became the entry level degree in 2001-02.