

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
June 19, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences (CIP 51.2314) at the University of South Florida

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider approval of the Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of South Florida, CIP Code 51.2314.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of South Florida (USF) proposes to offer a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences with three applied concentration areas: chronic disease, veteran's health/reintegration, and neuromusculoskeletal disability. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for faculty roles, capable of teaching and conducting research in a variety of rehabilitation-related programs, such as Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Audiology, and Rehabilitation Counseling. The direct and indirect contributions of the program to the workforce could be substantial, as these faculty members will be preparing future graduates for high-paying and critical need health professions.

The program will recruit from a population of students with master's or first-professional doctoral degrees in a rehabilitation-related discipline. The curriculum has been designed to be interdisciplinary in nature and includes 66 credit hours (15 rehabilitation core credit hours, 15 research credit hours, 15 concentration credit hours, 9 elective credit hours, and 12 credits hours for the dissertation).

The proposal includes a letter of support from the University of Florida, which also currently offers a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences. This letter and the proposed program's external reviewer each report a significant enough need for faculty to support an additional program.

The USF Board of Trustees approved the program on December 5, 2013. If the proposal is approved by the Board of Governors, USF will implement the program in Fall 2014.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

Information included in the Academic and Student Affairs Committee material