

**DATE:** January 26, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Tennessee State University, Master of Occupational Therapy

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** After January 2007, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) will no longer accredit baccalaureate programs. To meet this mandate, Tennessee State University proposes to develop a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT). Upon approval, the bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy will be terminated and the master's degree will become the entry-level requirement for program accreditation and licensing. Students will graduate with advanced skills and abilities enabling them to apply appropriate treatment to meet diverse health care needs.

**PROPOSED START-UP DATE:** Fall 2006

Commission staff has reviewed program proposals according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002. Each standard is referenced below.

**1.1.20A MISSION:** The proposed program is consistent with the mission of the University to provide educational programming in agriculture, allied health, arts and sciences, business, education, engineering and technology.

**1.1.20B CURRICULUM:** The proposed curriculum requires completion of 73 semester hours, is designed to focus on three major conceptual domains: Foundations, Professionalism, and Practice.

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
Major Field Core	46
Electives	3
Practicum/Internship	18
Scholarly Project (Thesis option)	6

**1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** Program admission is made through the University Graduate School. Application to the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program is competitive; therefore meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. In addition to the general requirements of the Graduate School, evidence for potentially successful matriculation in the program will include an average GRE composite score of 900 that should be taken within 5 years prior to application. (The GRE composite and writing score is one variable that is considered along with other evidence of student achievement and aptitude, and will not be used as a cut-off score for admission to the program), an overall GPA of 2.5 or above on a 4.0

scale, and completion of the following courses within the last 7 years, with no course grade lower than a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on any of the following:

- i. Biology, (Anatomy & Physiology preferred), including laboratory experience (2 courses)
- ii. Physics or Equivalent
- iii. Medical Terminology (1 to 3 credits)
- iv. Psychology: general, developmental (lifespan), and abnormal psychology (9 credits)
- v. Statistics (3 credits)
- vi. Computer Literacy (a course in computer literacy or a course in which computer literacy is demonstrated)

**Projected Program Productivity**

Student Projections	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time	Graduates
Year 1	30	5	0
Year 2	30	10	0
Year 3	30	15	27
Year 4	30	15	27
Year 5	30	15	27

**1.1.20D FACULTY:** Two additional faculty members will be required to implement the proposed program. Student revenue and fees will support additional faculty.

**1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES:** The library carries sufficient resources to support the proposed program and electronic access for additional holdings is also available.

**1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION:** The proposed MOT program will be under the same structure as the baccalaureate program in the College of Health Science, Department of Occupational Therapy, and coordinated by a program director.

**1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES:** Under to current baccalaureate level program there is an extensive list of sixty-four clinical or internship affiliations, that contractually support that program and will continue support at the masters level.

**1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT:** The facilities and equipment were noted by the external consultant as adequate. Several renovations are currently underway to provide additional classroom and laboratory space

**1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS:** Approximately 220 TSU students and potential students have indicated an interest in pursuing a career in occupational therapy.

According to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for educated occupational therapists is expected to increase 21 percent to 35 percent through the year 2010 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2002). Reasons for the increased need cited by the Bureau are:

- A population increasing in age, which creates a high incidence of disabling conditions.
- An increase in medical advances that enables more patients with critical problems to survive and therefore need occupational therapy.

Federal legislation (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act - 1987, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - 1997) mandates the provision of occupational therapy services for several populations including eligible individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, at risk infants, elderly living at home, and in long term care facilities. Additionally, most accreditation bodies (Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, Commission for the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) require that occupational therapy services be available for those individuals whose needs fall within the domain of occupational therapy.

**1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION:** The MOT programs have been approved at the University of Memphis Health Science Center and East Tennessee State University in the past two years. Milligan University and Belmont University offer the other accredited programs in the state. However, Belmont University restricts admission to students that currently hold a license.

**1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS:** None indicated.

**1.1.20L DESEGREGATION:** The program will not impede the state's effort to achieve racial diversity.

**1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION:** Program assessment and evaluation will be conducted through:

- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE, American Occupational Therapy)
- Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research at Tennessee State University
- Office of the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program at Tennessee State University
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

**1.1.20N ARTICULATION:** N/A

**1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT** (Graduate Programs): Dr. Maralynne Mitchum, Professor Medical University of South Carolina, College of Health Professions, Charleston served as consultant to provide the expert external review. Dr. Mitchum noted that the proposed MOT is a well conceptualized, cogent, and comprehensive

program that is positioned to meet the standards for an accredited educational program for occupational therapist in Middle Tennessee.

**1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE:** Due to changes in the economy and increased life expectancy, the job market for MOT graduates is strong locally and is increasing nationwide. Since the inception of the baccalaureate program in 1991, over 94% of graduates who have passed the National Board Examination and have been able to secure employment as occupational therapists. Sixty-seven percent of these graduates have remained in-state to serve urban and rural Tennessee communities.

TSU has been at a disadvantage to compete with the MOT program at Belmont University that was approved several years ago. TSU will be positioned to offer a quality program at an affordable cost in Middle Tennessee. Associated costs will be addressed through student tuition and fees and a grant through the Geriatric Education Consortium.

Financial Projections	Year 1 (2006-7)	Year 2 (2007-8)	Year 3 (2008-9)	Year 4 (2009-10)	Year 5 (2010-11)
<b>1. EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>A. One-time:</b>					
1-Equipment	\$68,800.00				
2-Library					
3-External Consultant	\$3,000.00				
4-Other					
Total for One-time Expenditures	<b>\$71,800.00</b>				
<b>B. New Reoccurring Expenditures :</b>					
1.Faculty	\$130,000.00	\$133,900.00	\$137,917.00	\$142,055.00	\$146,317.00
2. Staff	\$38,000.00	\$39,140.00	\$40,314.00	\$41,523.00	\$42,768.00
3. Benefits	\$40,320.00	\$41,530.00	\$42,776.00	\$44,059.00	\$45,380.00
<b>TOTAL New Expenditures</b>	<b>\$280,120.00</b>	<b>\$214,570.00</b>	<b>\$221,007.00</b>	<b>\$227,637.00</b>	<b>\$234,465.00</b>
<b>2. REVENUES</b>					
A Tuition	\$336,017.00	\$376,849.00	\$420,949.00	\$444,685.00	\$464,058.00
B Grants	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>TOTAL New Revenues</b>	<b>\$346,017.00</b>	<b>\$386,849.00</b>	<b>\$430,949.00</b>	<b>\$454,685.00</b>	<b>\$474,058.00</b>

**1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING:** An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on goals established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. These goals include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation numbers, program costs, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance and other goals set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if the program is found to be deficient, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. Copies of such recommendation will be forwarded to the

Education Committees of the General Assembly. The Commission may also choose to extend this period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.