



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: CUNY College of Staten Island,
Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T) Degree in Physical
Therapy

DATE: September 4, 2012

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for the City University of New York to authorize the College of Staten Island to offer its first doctoral program in the health professions disciplinary area, a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) in Physical Therapy?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board for consideration at its September 2012 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is required because this would be the college's first doctoral program in the discipline of the health professions.

Background Information

The professional doctoral program in Physical Therapy was created in 2006, succeeding the master's degree program that existed since 1992. Currently the degree

granting authority for the Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) program is held by the CUNY Graduate School and University Center, although students opt to study at either the College of Staten Island or Hunter College. This proposal and action is consistent with CUNY's plan to phase out the Graduate Center degree-granting authority for these programs and offer them at the individual campuses, which are currently recognized by the specialized accrediting body – the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Program Purpose: The program is intended to address the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recommendation of 2000 that physical therapists be doctoral-credentialed. The curriculum is designed to provide a diverse, well-rounded education in the content areas of physical therapy and to develop and promote practice in a wide range of patient care settings. The program also addresses the local, state, and national demand for licensed Physical Therapists.

Curriculum: The three-year curriculum requires 105 credits of graduate course work and completion of a capstone research project. The overall goal of the program is to prepare the graduate to examine, evaluate, diagnose, and intervene in the management of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities of the cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, and integumentary systems. The duration of the clinical internships will remain at 34 weeks, and the research component will require a publishable research project utilizing evidence-based practice. The program meets national standards and accreditation requirements, as well as community needs for physical therapists to work in a multitude of settings.

Academic Resources: The College of Staten Island will use existing space associated with the physical therapy program to support the immediate laboratory and classroom requirements for the program. The department has two fully-equipped clinical teaching laboratories, each of which can also be utilized as a classroom. A third clinical teaching laboratory is being planned in order to accommodate future enrollment growth. There are also two Clinical Research Centers, a Resource Study and Learning Room, and male and female locker rooms. All of the classrooms and labs include the required equipment for research and teaching.

The library facility at the College of State Island meets the current and future needs of the P.T. students, and includes access to instructional materials, research collections, interactive software and video, online databases, and subscriptions to relevant journals. Additional resources are available through interlibrary loan, and faculty and students have access to all CUNY libraries through CUNY and other NY metropolitan area hospital and academic libraries through the METRO network.

Faculty and Students: The program will capitalize on faculty and staff with extensive academic and clinical education experience. Current full-time faculty includes five doctorally-prepared, professionally licensed instructors, in addition to clinical supervisors associated with clinical internship sites. Clinical personnel are supervised by their faculty director and indirectly by the Director of Clinical Education (DCE) at the College. Faculty also includes a number of highly trained adjunct and part-time educators and clinicians. The College is currently conducting a search for an additional full-time faculty position within the P.T. department.

The estimated enrollment for the P.T. program is approximately 20 students for the first year, increasing to 25 students annually thereafter. This estimate is based on past enrollment rates in the program, availability of clinical sites, and resources related to professional accreditation expectations and criteria. The College anticipates that the student body will remain as diverse and qualified as past cohorts, based on access to a diverse pool of CUNY undergraduate candidates, in addition to graduates of other private and public colleges.

Admission requirements for D.P.T. students model the criteria used at most other public and private school physical therapy programs. Applicants must meet all CUNY requirements, a minimum grade of C for all pre-requisite science courses, in addition to documented minimum clinical experience hours. Specific admission criteria for entering students includes a baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year institution, with minimum 3.0 GPA and acceptable GRE scores. Pre-requisite course criteria include anatomy and physiology, physics, chemistry, psychology, advanced math and statistics, English composition, and CPR and basic life support.

Need: Based on current U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, employment for physical therapists is expected to grow by 39% (77,400 new positions) between 2010-2020, and much faster than the average for all occupations. Based on current New York State Occupational Outlook reports, the projected growth of new jobs statewide in the profession through 2018 is 22.7%, with over 480 average annual openings. In New York City for the same period of time, the projected increase is 19.1%, with approximately 150 average annual openings.

Canvass Results: A canvass was conducted of all degree-granting institutions in the New York City Region and to all degree-granting institutions offering Physical Therapy programs statewide. There were no objections to the proposed program.

Department Review: The Department has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the amendment to the master plan of the City University of New York authorizing the College of Staten Island to offer its first doctoral program in the health professions disciplinary area, a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) in Physical Therapy. If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will transmit it to the Governor with a recommendation for favorable action. Following gubernatorial approval, the program will be registered.