



**TO:** The Professional Practice Committee  
**FROM:** Douglas E. Lentivech

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to the Rules of the Board of Regents Relating to the Authorization of Degrees: Adding Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.) Degree in New York

**DATE:** June 8, 2015

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents approve adding a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.) degree in New York?

### Reason for Consideration

Review of Policy.

### Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment will be presented to the Professional Practice Committee for discussion at the June 2015 meeting of the Board of Regents.

### Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register no later than July 1, 2015. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached. Supporting materials for the proposed amendment are available upon request from the Secretary of the Board of Regents.

### Background Information

The O.T.D. degree is recognized by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and is an authorized degree in 26 states, which include California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Higher education institutions offering O.T.D. programs include, but are not limited to, Boston University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Southern California, University of Illinois, and Tufts University.

The O.T.D. degree will be considered a post-licensure professional credential in New York State unless, or until such time as, the Education Law is amended to allow for a licensure-qualifying doctoral degree in the future. One higher education institution in New York requested to offer a post-professional program leading to the O.T.D. degree. Adding this degree will benefit students in New York by affording them the opportunity to earn a doctoral level degree in occupational therapy. It will also provide greater opportunities for the graduates to undertake research and become more competent practitioners. Ultimately, adding the O.T.D. degree in New York will help the public as the profession benefits from the higher level education and research. Because the O.T.D. degree is a new degree in New York, it is necessary to amend Sections 3.47 and 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents related to requirements for earned degrees and registered degrees under Title VIII of the Education Law.

The proposed amendment has been shared with parties that have an interest in this topic. At the February 13, 2015 meeting of the State Board for Occupational Therapy (State Board), Department staff discussed the proposed addition of this new degree title with the State Board members. The State Board supported the authorization of this new degree. Subsequently, on April 17, 2015, a memo soliciting comments on the proposal to add the O.T.D. degree in New York was sent to the faculty and administrators of occupational therapy programs in New York and the New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA). The Department received eight (8) comments supporting the proposed amendment and no comments objecting to it.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for adoption at the September 2015 Regents meeting. If adopted in September, the proposed amendment would become effective October 7, 2015. A charter amendment for Columbia University authorizing the offering of an O.T.D. degree will also be presented to the Board of Regents for approval at the September 2015 meeting.

## AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Pursuant to sections 207, 210, 214, 215, 218, 224, and 305 of the Education Law.

1. Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of section 3.47 of the Rules of the Board of Regents is amended, effective October 7, 2015, as follows:

(2) Professional degrees. Graduate professional degree programs must be comprised of advanced studies in professional or vocational fields. While they may have strong theoretical underpinnings, they must have as their primary purpose knowledge for application in professional practice. Master's degree programs of this type are primarily terminal in nature. They may serve as preparation for advanced studies at the doctoral level, but they shall not be designed primarily for this purpose. The doctorate in such studies is likewise practical, insofar as it prepares the student to train or supervise others in the field, to discover new knowledge that has practical application in the field, or to prepare the student for a life of practice in the student's particular profession. Only the following degrees may be conferred upon the completion of a professionally oriented graduate program:

Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.)

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

-----Engineer (-- -- E.)

Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)

Master of Comparative Jurisprudence (M.C.J.)

Master of Comparative Law (M.C.L.)

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)

Master of Education (Ed.M. or M.Ed.)

Master of Engineering (M.E.)

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)

Master of Food Science (M.F.S.)

Master of Forestry (M.F.)

Master of Health Administration (M.H.A.)

Master of Hebrew Literature (M.H.L.)

Master of Industrial and Labor Relations (M.I.L.R.)

Master of Industrial Design (M.I.D.)

Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.)

Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.)

Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Master of Library Science (M.L.S.)

Master of Management in Hospitality (M.M.H.)

Master of Music (Mus.M.)

Master of Nutritional Science (M.N.S.)

Master of Physical Therapy (M.P.T.)

Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Master of Regional Planning (M.R.P.)

Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.)

Master of Sacred Music (S.M.M.)

Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)

Master of Science for Teachers (M.S.T.)

Master of Science in Education (M.S. in Ed.)

Master of Science in Pharmacy (M.S. in Pharm.)

Master of Social Science (M.S.Sc.)

Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)

Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.)

Master of Theology (Th.M.)

Master of Urban Planning (M.U.P.)

Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (D.A.O.M)

Doctor of Arts (D.A.)

Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.)

Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.)

Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.)

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.)

Doctor of Engineering Science (Eng.Sc.D.)

Doctor of Hebrew Literature (D.H.L.)

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.)

Doctor of Law (J.D.)

Doctor of Library Science (L.S.D.)

Doctor of Medical Science (Med. Sc.D.)

Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.)

Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

Doctor of Nursing Science (D.N.S.)

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.)

Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)

Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.)

Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)

Doctor of Professional Studies (D.P.S.)

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)

Doctor of Public Administration (D.P.A.)

Doctor of Public Health (D.P.H.)

Doctor of Religious Education (D.R.E.)

Doctor of Sacred Music (S.M.D.)

Doctor of Science in Veterinary Medicine (D.Sc. in V.M.)

Doctor of Social Science (D.S.Sc.)

Doctor of Social Welfare (D.S.W.)

Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.)

Doctor of Theology (Th.D.)

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)

2. Paragraph (37) of subdivision (b) of section 3.50 of the Rules of the Board of Regents is added, effective October 7, 2015, as follows:

(37) Occupational Therapy:

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.)