

Proposal for a
**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR
REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS**

Program in Physical Therapy
School of Health Sciences
Oakland University

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Entry-level Programs

Oakland University offers several levels of educational programming in Physical Therapy. The entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program provides comprehensive preparation in the basic and applied sciences, clinical skills and the fundamentals of research design related to physical therapy. This program prepares graduates to work in a variety of settings in the field of physical therapy. Oakland University has offered entry-level physical therapy education since 1979. In 1990 the program was transitioned from the BS to the MPT degree and in 2002 moved from the MPT to the DPT. The DPT program will graduate a minimum of 28 students per year.

Post-professional Programs

Post-professional educational opportunities offered through the Program in Physical Therapy include a Master of Science degree for practicing physical therapists, two graduate certificates and a Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy (DScPT). Oakland University Board of Trustees approved the MSPT on June 8, 1995. This degree provides currently licensed physical therapists holding bachelor's degree in physical therapy the opportunity to advance their educational background and gain additional clinical skills. In April 1996, the Graduate Council approved the Graduate Certificate in Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy and in February 1997, it approved the Graduate Certificate in Pediatric Rehabilitation. Both are 17-credit certificate programs that can be included toward completion of the 36-credit MSPT or the 90-credit DScPT. Both certificates address the needs of physical therapists interested in specializing in a particular area of practice. In June 2001, the Oakland University Board of Trustees approved the Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy (DScPT). This degree is intended for those therapists who want advanced clinical and research skills.

The proposed *Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Rehabilitation Professionals* is designed to provide an in-depth understanding of the theoretical background of the principles of teaching and learning used in all aspects of rehabilitation. In addition, it will provide students with advanced skill in teaching methodology and the development of educational materials. Students will complete a teaching practicum under the guidance of full-time faculty in the Program in Physical Therapy. All of the required courses that comprise the certificate can be applied to the post-professional MSPT degree or the DScPT.

Resources

In the fall of 1998, the Program in Physical Therapy moved to renovated space in Hannah Hall. Space for teaching, laboratory practice, and research is now available to students and faculty in the Program in Physical Therapy. The proposed certificate may be offered via the Internet, evenings, or in blocked units of time in order to accommodate therapists who are actively employed. Both full and part-time faculty already at Oakland University will be used to provide this certificate. Current space and equipment are adequate to meet the needs of this additional certificate program. Two additional faculty were budgeted into the proposals for the DPT and DScPT. With these additional faculty, use of current faculty, and additional graduate assistantships, no new positions will be needed to provide this certificate program.

A review of the current and proposed library resources has been requested. The DPT and DScPT proposals included funds to support library resources. These funds should be sufficient to meet the needs of this certificate as well.

I. RATIONALE

Teaching and learning is an integral part of rehabilitation practice. Therapists educate patients and families about their conditions, exercises to facilitate recovery, and prevention related activities. Rehabilitation professionals are also heavily involved in the clinical education of future rehabilitation providers, staff education and community education. The role of the rehabilitation professional in the clinic has changed and education of patients and families has become even more important as reimbursement has declined. With fewer visits, therapists must be certain that patients understand their home programs and that family members can comfortably assist in their care.

The ideal mix of faculty in an educational program for rehabilitation professionals includes master clinicians as well tenure –track faculty. While educational principles are introduced to students in entry-level programs to allow them to practice as effective clinicians, it is not the purpose of entry-level programs to prepare clinicians to serve as staff development specialists or academicians. While master clinicians have the clinical expertise, they often lack the theoretical understanding and skills related to the educational process. In addition, faculty in many programs hold entry-level degrees in physical therapy and advanced degrees in a related, non-physical therapy area. Often, they have had little to no exposure to educational principles. Graduates of this certificate program will be prepared to teach in professional education programs as well as have advanced skills in educating patients, support-personnel, and providing in-service education. Graduates will understand the basis of professional accreditation and curriculum development and gain an understanding of the nature of health care education, the roles of faculty in these educational programs, and teaching in different types of academic and clinical settings.

The content of this 17 credit certificate in teaching and learning for rehabilitation professionals will include topics such as comparison of approaches to learning, differences in teaching and learning styles, theories of adult learning and development, needs assessment, program development and assessment, curriculum development around

competency-based testing, development of educational materials for the classroom, theories of education, as well as hands-on experience in laboratory and classroom teaching.

II. RELATIONSHIP OF GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS TO POST-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS IN PHYSICAL THERAPY (DScPT, MSPT)

Currently, the post-professional programs in physical therapy include a Master of Science in Physical Therapy for 36 credits, a Doctorate of Science in Physical Therapy (90 credits) and two 17-credit certificates in Orthopedic Manual Therapy and Pediatric Rehabilitation.

The Advanced Master of Science in Physical Therapy (MSPT) with a clinical specialty develops the intricacies of advanced clinical problem solving and skill. Advanced graduate course work (36 credits) with the completion of a thesis or comprehensive examination as the capstone experience leads to a well versed clinical specialist with sound research knowledge. The duration of this program is approximately four to five years when taken on a part-time basis. Credits from any of the certificate programs can count toward completion of this degree.

The Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy (DScPT) is a newly approved doctoral program in physical therapy for currently licensed therapists. This degree is designed to offer advanced graduate level courses to physical therapists interested in obtaining a doctorate. This program can be designed to accomplish the goals of the individual student by either emphasizing an advanced general course of study aimed to produce an autonomous general physical therapy practitioner or an advanced specialized course of study for those interested in developing specialization in a particular area. Credits from any of the certificate programs can count toward completion of this degree.

The Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Rehabilitation Professionals allows for specialization in the area of education for physical, occupational and speech therapists. Students will take 17 credits of graduate courses that include both the theoretical background for and practical application of educational principles to professional education in academic, clinical, and community settings. The program allows for the advancement of skills for those who already hold an advanced master's degree in another area, hold an entry-level master's degree, or those with a bachelor of science in a therapeutic area and are not seeking a master's degree. The duration of this certificate is approximately one and one half to two years when completed on a part-time basis. A non-traditional format and scheduling of classes will be used in order to accommodate the needs of working, geographically distant students.

As noted previously, the course work offered in the proposed certificate can be applied to the MSPT or the DScPT. This certificate offers course work that compliments existing programs yet draws upon a new segment of the physical therapy profession. In addition to drawing new students to our educational programs, the courses offered as part of the

proposed certificate will be open to all MSPT and DScPT students as electives. This certificate is viewed as enhancing the current offerings and will not be competing for students from existing certificate programs in physical therapy.

III. PROGRAM PLAN

A. Admission Criteria

Admission requirements for Oakland University's Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Rehabilitation Professionals include the following:

1. Graduation from an accredited entry-level program in rehabilitation and other health professions. For example, an APTA, AOTA, ASHA or Physician Assistant accredited entry-level program or equivalent bachelors' degree with a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
2. Completion of Oakland University's graduate admissions application.
3. Two years of clinical experience as a physical or occupational therapist or rehabilitation professional. The graduate PT Admissions Committee, consisting of 3-faculty teaching in the graduate program, may waive the two-year requirement under special circumstances.
4. Eligibility to practice in Michigan as a licensed/registered/certified rehabilitation professional, if applicable.
5. Foreign educated therapists must have an equivalency of a US BS degree as evaluated by a credential service and meet all admissions criteria of Oakland's Graduate School including TOEFL and GRE.
6. Two letters of recommendation: one from a current or previous employer
7. Professional vitae or resume.
8. One-page narrative goal statement outlining academic and professional goals.

B. Graduate Certificate Requirements

The proposed graduate certificate consists of **17 credits** of theoretical, clinical and practical course work as follows:

PT 502	Evidence-based Clinical Practice	(2)
PT 810	Educational Principles for Rehabilitation Professionals	(4)
PT 592	Methods of Teaching and Learning in Rehabilitation	(3)
PT 593	Professional Education in Rehabilitation	(4)
PT 594	Teaching Practicum for Rehabilitation Professionals	(4)

C. Course Descriptions

PT 502 Evidence-based Clinical Practice (2)

An overview of evidence-based practice and its application to examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, and intervention in physical and occupational therapy. The course will also include a review of frameworks for clinical decision making, qualitative and

quantitative research designs, and method of assessing professional literature related to approaches used by health care professionals.

PT 810 Educational Principles for Rehabilitation Professionals (4)

The role of rehabilitation professionals as educators of students, patients, the community and other health care providers will be examined. Theoretical principles related to the teaching and learning process, adult learning and professional development will be presented. Current issues in academic, post-professional, and clinical education will be critically reviewed.

PT 592 Methods of Teaching and Learning in Rehabilitation (3)

The process of selecting, designing, implementing and evaluating teaching methodologies for rehabilitation professionals will be presented. Application of these methods to clinical, academic, and community settings will be discussed. A project demonstrating attainment of teaching methods and techniques will be required.

PT 593 Professional Education in Rehabilitation (4)

The roles and responsibilities of academic and clinical faculty in professional education will be discussed. An understanding of the processes related to education in post-secondary institutions, including accreditation, curriculum development, and assessment will be examined.

PT 594 Teaching Practicum for Rehabilitation Professionals (4)

Students will participate in a variety of experiences which may include developing lesson plans, writing objectives, providing lectures, directing and developing laboratory experiences, developing and providing modules via the Internet, and/or developing and providing in-service education to clinical staff or the general public.

D. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PLANS

Students will be recruited from within Michigan and nationwide. Courses may be offered via the Internet, in the evenings, or in a block schedule to meet the needs of working professionals. The proposed certificate will be advertised statewide and nationally using publications of the Michigan Physical Therapy Association, Michigan Occupational Therapy Association, American Physical Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Speech, Hearing and Language Association and American Physical Therapy Association Section Newsletters. Brochures advertising the program will be sent to all clinical facilities affiliated with Oakland University. In addition, this program will be marketed via the web using sites appropriate to this audience. At present, we are not aware of any similar certificate programs for rehabilitation professionals in Michigan. Currently we have exceeded our enrollment expectations for the DScPT and among those students, 5 are very interested in completing this certificate.

Efforts to retain students include the assignment of a faculty advisor upon admission to the program and completion of an initial Plan of Study. Students are required to meet at least once per semester with their advisor to review progress in the Plan of Study. Use of

web-based instruction as well as flexibility in scheduling of courses will aid in the retention of students.

E. Planned Enrollment Levels

For this certificate, it is anticipated that there will be an enrollment of 5- 8 students per year. In addition, students enrolled in the MSPT and DScPT who are not enrolled in the certificate may take these courses as electives, therefore actual class size may be higher.

F. Assessment of Certificate Program

A minimum of three forms of assessment will be used. All courses and instructors will be evaluated using the standard forms provided by the School of Health Sciences. In addition, graduates of the program will be surveyed as they exit the program, and again at three years post graduation regarding successful completion of program goals, impact of certificate on practice, and satisfaction with the program and it’s resources. Data related to numbers of potential students, enrolled students, and graduates will be tracked and reported.

IV. NEEDS AND COSTS OF THE PROGRAM

A. Additional Resources Needed

The proposed certificate program is an outgrowth of the existing DScPT. Three of the five proposed courses will be taught for the first time. Existing physical therapy faculty will teach the courses and no major equipment purchases are anticipated for the program. We are requesting two additional Graduate Assistantships to support students enrolled in this certificate.

Tentative Budget for this Certificate Program:

<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
3 students taking 9 credits each	\$8,046.00	
1 Graduate Assistantship		\$8,000.00
Supplies		\$ 46.00
TOTAL	\$8,046.00	\$8,046.00
 <u>Year 2</u>		
3 students taking 8 credits each	\$7,152.00	
3 students taking 9 credits each	\$8,046.00	
1.5 Graduate Assistantships		\$ 12,000.00
Marketing		\$ 1,500.00
Supplies		\$ 1,698.00
TOTAL	\$15,198.00	\$15,198.00

B. Plan for Meeting Program Costs

All courses offered through this certificate program will be offered for university credit. Tuition dollars generated will support the program. It is anticipated that the time for completion of this program on a part-time basis will be one and one-half to two years.

C. Program Impact

Oakland's current program in physical therapy has a strong reputation for excellence and attracts undergraduate and graduate students from around the state as well as nationwide. The proposed program will further strengthen our standing in the community. Attracting a new group of health care professionals to Oakland University is a strength of this program.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the program will be contingent upon approval of this certificate by the Graduate Council and hiring of the first pre-approved faculty member for the DPT and DScPT programs.

A. Faculty

The current faculty in the Program in Physical Therapy are well qualified to provide this certificate. Dr. Kristine Thompson recently completed a PhD in Higher Education and Adult Learning at Michigan State University and Dr. Chris Stiller also completed a PhD in Educational Psychology at Michigan State University. Dr. Beth Marcoux's PhD is in Health Behavior and Health Education through the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. All have approximately 15 years of teaching experience at the University level. CV's for these faculty are attached. All three have served as Center Co-ordinators for Physical Therapy in clinical settings, and Academic Coordinators of Clinical Education. Part-time faculty from different disciplines in rehabilitation with a background in education will be used for the teaching practicum.

B. Course Offerings Each Semester

As noted previously, courses in this certificate program will be offered over the Internet, in blocks of time typically over extended weekends or in the evenings. Several weekend courses will comprise each course and the university standard of 1 credit being equivalent to 15 contact hours will be used.

VI. REVIEWS AND APPROVALS

This Certificate was reviewed and approved by the faculty in the Program in Physical Therapy in October 2002.

This Certificate was reviewed and approved by the School of Health Sciences Assembly in October 2002.