ACADEMIC REQUEST FORM (LEVEL I AND II) (4/16)

Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form. Deadlines and instructions can be found on the Office of the Provost's curriculum website.

Proposals for a NEW degree or center require notification in advance of this proposal. See the Office of the Provost's curriculum website for information.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

Department of Occupational Therapy

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGE REQUESTED

To establish a master's level professional degree in Occupational Therapy. This degree will have an academic home in the proposed Department of Occupational Therapy in the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science of the College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences.

III. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Reed Humphrey
Phone/ Email: (406) 243-4341 / reed.humphrey@umontana.edu

Signature ___________________________ Date 9/13/16

Program Chair: TBD
Signature ___________________________ Date __________

Other Affected Programs:

Anita Santasier
Chair, Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science

Signature ___________________________ Date 9/14/16

Dean: Reed Humphrey
Signature ___________________________ Date 9/13/16

Graduate School Dean (If Graduate Level)
Signature ___________________________ Date 9-15-14

Library Dean (Req. for #11 below only)
Signature ___________________________ Date 9-11-16

☐ Resources included in the proposal are sufficient to adequately support the new program’s library needs.

Provost: Beverly Edmond
Signature ___________________________ Date 10-5-16
IV. TYPE OF PROPOSAL

Any additional required forms are listed after each type of proposal and must accompany this form. Proposals for a new degree or center require notification in advance of this proposal. See the Office of the Provost's curriculum website for information and instructions.

Level I Proposals:

☐ 1a. Placing a program into moratorium (Program Termination Form)
☐ 1b. Withdrawing a program from moratorium
☐ 2. Adding, retitling, terminating or revising a campus certificate of 29 credits or fewer
☐ 3. Adding a BAS/AA/AS Area of Study
☐ 4. Offering an existing program via distance or online delivery
☐ 5. Retitling an existing postsecondary educational program
☐ 6. Terminating an existing postsecondary educational program (Program Termination Form)
☐ 7. Consolidating existing postsecondary educational programs (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 8. Adding a new minor where there is a major or option in a major (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 9. Revising a program substantially (e.g. changing program focus) (BOR Curriculum Proposal Form)
☐ 10. Adding a temporary Certificate or AAS Degree Program Approval limited to 2 years

Level II Proposals:

☒ 11. Establishing a new postsecondary educational program (Curriculum Proposal and Reviewed Intent to Plan Form)
☐ 12. Exceeding the 120 credit maximum for baccalaureate degrees Exception to policy 301.11
☐ 13. Forming a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit (Curriculum Proposal or Center/Institute Proposal and Reviewed Intent to Plan Form)
☐ 14. Eliminating or consolidating a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit.
☐ 15. Retitling a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit.

V. CIP CODE (CLASSIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS)

The BOR requires a CIP Code (Classification of Instructional Programs) for tracking and reporting of degrees. Use the CIP Code website to identify the most applicable code: 51.2306

VI. METHOD OF DELIVERY

Will more than 50% of the proposed program be delivered via online or distance methods?
☐ Yes ☒ No

VII. CATALOG LANGUAGE

Attach the current or proposed catalog language with any changes clearly identified.

The Profession

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a healthcare profession that "helps people across the lifespan do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations). Occupational therapy practitioners enable people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health, and prevent—or live better with—injury, illness, or disability."
“Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes.

“Occupational therapy practitioners have a holistic perspective, in which the focus is on adapting the environment and/or task to fit the person, and the person is an integral part of the therapy team. It is an evidence-based practice deeply rooted in science.” (AOTA, 2016)

The occupational therapy education program at the University of Montana seeks to prepare occupational therapists with a broad range of skills who, upon graduation and licensure, will be able to provide occupational therapy services in various settings, especially those rural environments familiar in Montana. Students who successfully complete the professional program will meet the competencies put forth by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association, receive a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree and are prepared for state licensure.

**Preparatory Curriculum and Application Process**
Specific high school courses are not required, but a solid foundation in mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics, written and oral communication is recommended.

A baccalaureate degree is required for admission to the program. Students may select any major for their undergraduate degree so long as required prerequisite courses have been completed. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a traditional letter grade of “C” (2.0) or better.

**Prerequisite Coursework**
- Human Anatomy & Physiology: two semester sequence with accompanying lab
- Chemistry: two semester sequence with accompanying lab
- Statistics: one semester
- Social Sciences: three semesters of psychology (introductory or general, developmental, abnormal); one semester of sociology or anthropology
- Writing: one semester of English composition or technical writing

**Other Application Requirements**
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) with a minimum score of 146 on the quantitative reasoning and 146 on the verbal reasoning sections and score of 3.5 or high on the analytical writing section.
- 40 hours of observation/volunteer/work Experience that includes at least 30 hours with persons with disabilities and at least 10 hours shadowing a currently licensed occupational therapist.

**VIII. JUSTIFICATION**

Provide enough information that someone without specialized knowledge can make an informed decision.

The Master of Occupational Therapy professional degree program is needed to serve Montana’s growing population, which presents greater needs than the current number of occupational therapists in the state can manage. Indeed, it is clear there is a need to recruit more occupational therapists to the
state. Yet, the region surrounding Montana does not graduate enough occupational therapists to meet the state’s current healthcare needs. As such, it is prudent to develop an occupational therapy degree granting program that will graduate practitioners from Montana that will stay and work in Montana, which will help meet our expanding needs.

IX. SUBMISSION

Submit a hard copy of this form with all required signatures to the Office of the Provost. Please also submit an electronic copy of this Word document, along with all other required BOR forms (in Word) to jasminezink.laine@mso.umt.edu

- After approval by the Provost, the proposal will be submitted to the Faculty Senate Office.
- After approval by the appropriate Curriculum Committee (ASCRC or Graduate Council), the full Faculty Senate must approve the proposal.
- Upon Faculty Senate approval, the Office of the Provost will submit the proposal to OCHE for the next possible OCHE/BOR meeting.
  o Note that BOR and internal UM deadlines require submission quite in advance of the BOR meeting.
- The Office of the Provost will notify the proposer once the change has been approved by OCHE/BOR.