

GENERAL FACULTY

Agenda Item

Date: February 11, 2010

Number: V. E.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Associate of Science Degree with a Major in Occupational Therapy Assistant

Description:

Program Objective: To offer an Associate of Science degree with a major in Occupational Therapy Assistant.

A. Rationale:

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives. Occupational Therapy assists people in developing the skills for the job of living and necessary for independent and satisfying lives. Occupational therapy assistants (OTA) assist the OTs to implement the treatment plans to help individuals to achieve their independence.

Washburn University's Mission states that it: *shall prepare qualified individuals for careers, further study and lifelong learning through excellence in teaching and scholarly work.* The Occupational Therapy Assistant program will assist with meeting the mission through increasing healthcare services in our region. There is a need in the rural communities and the local cities/communities for a more diverse set of allied health professionals, i.e. occupational therapy assistants, to provide well rounded service to the community.

The Allied health Department offers an associate of science degree with the following majors: Health Information Technology; Physical Therapist Assistant; Radiologic Technology; and Respiratory Therapy. The Occupational Therapy Assistant program will provide an additional major within the associate degree.

B. Market Demand

This program would serve a large geographical area within Missouri and Kansas. Within Kansas, only one program exists, Newman University. Within the identified catchment area only Penn Valley Community College provides an OTA program.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that employment for occupational therapy assistants is expected to grow much faster than average as demand for OT services rises. The employment of OTAs is expected to grow 25% from 2006 to 2016. (BLS – Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos166.htm>)

Accordingly, the Kansas Hospital Association projected 2008 employment of OTAs is at 325 with average annual job openings of 50-70 openings per year.

C. Community Support

In May of 2008 the Vice President for Patient Care Services at Saint Francis Health Center contacted the Washburn University allied health department chair to discuss the shortage of OTs and OTAs. A concern regarding the sudden surge of traumatic brain injured soldiers at Ft. Riley, which used to have about 10-20 soldiers and now has 300-400 soldiers, was an additional influence for Saint Francis contacting Washburn University.

Since July of 2008 the allied health department, in conjunction with Saint Francis, has been working on the development of this curriculum/program. Letters of support can be found in Appendix A.

D. Administration

The degree will be administered by the Department of Allied Health. This program will be accredited through the Accreditation Council For Occupational Therapy Education Accreditation (ACOTE).

E. Faculty

Two full time faculty positions are required by accreditation as indicated by Standard A.2.O. Academic Resources. The Program Director position will be a 12 month position and the second faculty position will be a 9 month position. Both positions would be funded by sources external to Washburn University.

F. Budget

This program would only be implemented as long as external funding is available for the faculty positions. The pro forma is located in Appendix B.

II. Admission Requirements

Candidates for admission to the program would be required to be accepted by Washburn University following current policies. In addition, the program would have specific admission criteria that would have to be met.

The number of students accepted into the program would be determined by the number of clinical placements available. It is expected that twenty students will be accepted per year.

III. Curriculum

The associate of science degree will be a total of 76 credits which includes University requirements and specific allied health course which meet the OTA standards for curriculum. The curriculum outline, course descriptions, and degree plan can be found in Appendix C. Also listed within the course descriptions are the ACOTE standards each new course will meet.

Located in Appendix D are the OTA-ACOTE Standards. Beside each standard is a list of courses that satisfy the ACOTE requirement.

IV. Library Holdings

Relevant to the proposed OTA program, Judy Druse completed a review of the resources at Mabee Library. Her analysis is in Appendix E.

V. Program Evaluation

The following are minimal measures that will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

1. Student satisfaction with course/curriculum content.
2. Graduate satisfaction with course/curriculum content.
3. Employer satisfaction with graduate competence.
4. Course enrollment versus completion rates.
5. Passing rates on certification exams.

Financial Implications:

None.

Approved by Faculty Senate November 30, 2009

Requested Action: General Faculty approval.

Presented By: Dr. Robin Bowen
Vice President for Academic Affairs