



April 4, 2017

Dr. Joseph Shepard
Dr. Jack Crocker
Program Enhancement Committee

Re: Master's of Occupational Therapy Program

This document contains the answers to the five core questions. No additional information is forwarded regarding the Program Enhancement Portion of this review because there are only two students remaining in the program who will be graduating in May 2017 and the program will be ending.

1. What was the Master's of Occupational Therapy Program created to do in the first place?

The Masters of Occupational Therapy Program was created as an educational "bridge" opportunity for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA's) to a Masters of OT by developing entry-level skills required for registered occupational therapists. Distinctions between COTA and MOT skill sets are prescribed by the profession in collaboration with ACOTE, the educational council of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Curriculum design utilizes well-established frames of reference, so that practice emerges from theoretical frameworks. These professionally recognized conceptual models focus on the uniqueness of the human being and the belief that human beings are open systems, experiencing growth and development throughout the lifespan.

Supporting the development of competent, culturally aware and contemporary therapists is the overall purpose of the MOT Program. Integration of multi-cultural and ethical perspectives is emphasized throughout the program, which is uniquely situated to enhance student awareness of diversity within rural and regional healthcare settings. A belief in the scholarship of teaching is central to the program; this supports each student's utilization of cultural, physical, social, spiritual, emotional and intellectual context. All graduate level OT courses at WNMU encourage critical thinking and foster exploration through learning experiences that integrate body factors, activity demands, context, performance patterns and skills, cultural diversity and the overarching principal of occupation. Additionally, graduate students are taught how to be an advocate for the profession itself, as well as the recipients of occupational therapy services. Ultimately, the MOT Program prepares clinically trained COTA's for the challenges of practice as a registered occupational therapist (OTR) in current and future healthcare environments.

2. What is the program doing now?

All of the 27 students in the MOT program successfully completed their Fall Semester, 2016 Fieldwork II coursework requirements. All 25 students who were scheduled to graduate in December of 2016 successfully graduated from WNMU. Dr. Melanie Ford will be serving as the Director of the MOT program and Certified Academic Fieldwork

Coordinator for the remainder of the program. She will continue to direct and actively supervise the students as they work toward meeting the requirements of their final Fieldwork II rotations. Dr. Ford attended the ALC/AFWC Meeting in October 2016 to stay abreast of the policy updates and new initiatives pertaining to academic leadership and fieldwork coordination. This is the final group of students scheduled to graduate from the MOT program at WNMU.

3. Should it be doing what it's doing now?

Just two students remain in the MOT program. They are set to complete their coursework and graduate in the Spring Semester of 2017. One student will finish their final rotation on April 7, 2017. The other one is scheduled to complete her final rotation on May 11, 2017. These two students were delayed in graduating with their class because of family and personal health issues. They are both scheduled to graduate in May of 2017. This will complete the student requirements and teach-out plan for the MOT program.

4. If not, what should it be doing?

There are not future plans for the program ending at the completion of the Spring 2017 semester.

5. How should it do what it should be doing?

There are not future plans for the program ending at the completion of the Spring 2017 semester.

Sincerely submitted,

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