



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
New Specialization

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	Rural/Underserved Specialization
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	Doctor of Occupational Therapy
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	7/13/2020
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	51.2306
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Occupational Therapy
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Health Sciences

Please check this box to confirm that:

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.6](#), which pertains to new specialization requests, and that this request meets the requirements outlined in the guidelines.
- This request will not be posted to the university website for review of the Academic Affairs Committee until it is approved by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

Elizabeth M. Freeburg
Institutional Approval Signature
President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

3/19/2020
Date

Note: In the responses below, references to external sources, including data sources, should be documented with a footnote (including web addresses where applicable).

1. Level of the Specialization:

Baccalaureate Master's Doctoral

2. What is the nature/purpose of the proposed specialization? Please include a brief (1-2 sentence) description of the academic field in this specialization.

There is a shortage of health professionals choosing to work in rural and underserved areas. Through this specialization, students focus their research, fieldwork experiences, and capstone in rural/underserved practice to prepare them for working in rural, clinically diverse settings with opportunities to build programs for rural and underserved communities.

With a foundation in rural, generalist practice, students have the opportunity to focus their research, fieldwork experiences, and capstone in a recognized practice area through a Rural/Underserved Specialization.

The Specialization is optional and available only to enrolled Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree-seeking students. It is awarded after successful completion of the identified program of study with a minimum of a B attained in all coursework leading to the Specialization (32 credits), and an A earned in a minimum of 24 credits.

3. Provide a justification for the specialization, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential.

Specializations are offered in the areas of Pediatrics, Neuroscience and Rehabilitation, Mental Health, and Rural/Underserved practice. Development of focus areas or Specializations allows the USD Occupational Therapy program to distinguish itself from regional competitors and to provide students with the opportunity to develop additional knowledge and performance skills within an identified area of practice. Such specializations are not frequently identified in entry-level occupational therapy programs, although a few can be identified. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee MOT students who are interested can choose to combine elective courses from the OT program with other courses on campus to receive the transcript-designated concentration in assistive technology and accessible design and/or ergonomics (<https://uwm.edu/healthsciences/academics/certificate-in-assistive-technology-accessible-design/>). SUNY Downstate offers a Specialization in Early Intervention to enrolled occupational therapy students (<https://www.downstate.edu/chrp/ot/program/early-intervention.html>). Washington University’s webpage states: “The Clinical Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) prepares graduates beyond the master's degree with in-depth knowledge in a specific area such as practice, advocacy, policy, education, research and program development;” however, the program does not offer transcript-designated specializations. Many students enter graduate education with a specific practice interest in mind. This Specialization opportunity at USD will be appealing to many applicants, prepare them for practice beyond what is required at entry-level, and reduce the extent of onboarding required by our practice partners.

4. List the proposed curriculum for the specialization (including the requirements for completing the major – *highlight courses in the specialization*):

Prefix	Number	Course Title <i>(add or delete rows as needed)</i>	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
ANAT	711	Human Gross Anatomy	6	No
OCTH	710	The Meaning of Occupation	2	No
OCTH	712	Structure, Movement and Occupation	4	No
OCTH	715	Occupational Performance: Childhood	3	No
OCTH	720	Philosophical & Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy	2	No
OCTH	721	Neurological Foundation of Occupation	4	No
OCTH	724	Therapeutic Use of Self & Groups	3	No
OCTH	725	Occupational Performance: Adulthood	3	No
OCTH	731	Physical & Psychosocial Health Conditions	4	No
OCTH	732	Therapeutic Adaptations to Enhance Occupational Performance	4	No
OCTH	733	Promotion of Health & Prevention of Disability	3	No
OCTH	734	Environmental Influences on Occupation	3	No
OCTH	741	Professional Identity & Field Experiences I	3	No
OCTH	742	Preparatory Methods: Physical Agent Modalities & Orthotic Devices	4	No
OCTH	746	OT Assessment & Intervention: Adult Physical Disabilities	4	No
OCTH	747	OT Assessment & Intervention: Psychosocial Practice	4	No
OCTH	748	Interruptions to Adult Occupations	2	No
OCTH	749	Interruptions to Adult Occupations II	2	No
OCTH	750	Leadership & Management in Healthcare	4	No
OCTH	751	Professional Identity & Field Experiences II	2	No
OCTH	754	Social & Political Contexts of OT Practice	2	No
OCTH	756	OT Assessment & Intervention: Childhood & Adolescence	4	No
OCTH	758	Interruptions to Childhood & Adolescent Occupations	3	No
OCTH	774	Fieldwork Level II	6	No
OCTH	770	The Health Professional as Academic & Clinical Educator	2	No

OCTH	778	Level II Fieldwork in Rural/Underserved	6	Yes
OCTH	780	Research Design and Data Analysis	3	No
OCTH	781	Evidence-Based Practice	1	No
OCTH	784	Scholarly Project Proposal	1	No
OCTH	786	Scholarly Project	2 (1 cr taken 2x)	No
OCTH	800	Capstone Proposal	2 (1 cr taken 2x)	No
OCTH	841	Capstone Experience in Rural/Underserved	10	Yes
OCTH	842	Capstone Project in Rural/Underserved	2	Yes
PHGY	735	Human Physiology for OT	4	No
Elective	Choose one: OCTH 759 OCTH 592	Trauma Informed Care (3 cr) Special Topic (3 cr)	3	No

Total number of hours required for completion of specialization

32
114

Total number of hours required for completion of degree

5. Delivery Location

A. Complete the following charts to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver the entire program on campus, at any off-campus location (e.g., UC Sioux Falls, Capital University Center, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, etc.) or deliver the entire specialization through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	Yes	Fall 2020

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off campus	No		

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization through distance learning (e.g., as an on-line program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	U15 – Online asynchronous Term Based U18 – Online synchronous U98 – Other The full OTD curriculum with or without one of the 4 specializations is delivered primarily on campus. Delivery options for 841 & 842 will vary based on the practice site selected.	Fall 2020

6. Additional Information:

Alignment with the institutional mission:

The mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy, USD School of Health Sciences is to prepare occupational therapists who value: 1) the use of meaningful occupation to influence health; 2) the unique attributes of the clients they serve; 3) critically using and creating evidence which supports their practice and contributes to the advancement of the profession and society; and 4) innovative services for diverse communities and cultures. This mission, and the proposed Specializations with the OTD degree align well with the USD mission which includes degree offerings in graduate and professional programs. Furthermore, a liberal arts education prepares students for entry to the OTD and the identified Specializations within the degree.

Legislative authorization:

“The legislature established The University of South Dakota as the liberal arts university to meet the needs of the State and region by providing undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, and professional education in business, education, fine arts, law, and medicine, and other courses or programs as the Board of Regents may determine. (SDCL 13-57-1)

The Board implemented SDCL 13-57-1 by authorizing undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and in professional education and by requiring the University to promote excellence in teaching and learning, to support research, scholarly and creative activities, and to provide service to the State of South Dakota, the region, and beyond. The University of South Dakota is the comprehensive university within the South Dakota System of Higher Education.

Degrees are authorized at the associate, baccalaureate, masters, education specialist, and doctoral levels.”

Evidence that the program does not duplicate existing programming within the Regental System:

The University of South Dakota Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is the only occupational therapy program in the state.

Resource Implications:

Faculty Workload:

The development of Specializations in the OT program does not affect current faculty workload; no additional faculty will need to be hired. Electives are currently offered in the post-professional OTD program. Existing faculty have diverse practice experience and currently teach coursework based on their clinical expertise.

Effect on Class Size:

Creating the Specializations does not have implications for class size since 700 and 800-level courses do not have to meet the 7/10 rule AND, most importantly, these courses outlined below are already being taught by the current OT faculty.