

Notice of Change form

Notice of Change for: Jeff G. Konin, Physical Therapy Department

Date: December 22, 2016

A. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Name of institution

University of Rhode Island

2. Name of department, division, school or college

Department: Physical Therapy

College: Health Sciences

3. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates, if appropriate.

Initiation date: Summer 2017

First degree date: Spring 2018

4. Intended location of the program

The program resides on the Kingston campus.

5. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages).

Please be sure to read this summary prior to each proposed course change.

The Physical Therapy Department is submitting these course changes and new course proposals all as part of our Doctoral Curriculum, which to date has been 109 total for all students. The program consists of one cohort of 32 students that enroll annually and take all of the same courses as a cohort through the 3-year curriculum. The majority of these proposed changes are recommendations from our recent accreditation report (where we received the maximum 10 years renewal) and serve for curricular efficiency and clarity for future programming. Here are the summaries of each proposed change:

- **Create new courses PHT 611, PHT 612, PHT 613, PHT 614 Integrated Clinical Experiences I, II, III, IV, respectively. Integrated Clinical Experiences (ICE) comprise of a student participating in a clinical observation weekly for 3-4 hours. As such, we are proposing these four (4) 1-credit hour courses to formally recognize ICE as free-standing curricular courses. Please note that these additional classes will not impact**

faculty workload in that assigned faculty were already supervising the ICE experience and being recognized for their effort.

- **Course name change and course description change proposal from Evidence Based Inquiry IV (PHT 640) to Physical Therapy Capstone to better reflect course objectives and content.**
 - **PHT Introduction to Physical Therapy (PHT 505) is currently offered for 2-credit hours. The proposal is to reduce to 1-credit hour. After a review of the course content, it was determined that near 50% of the class hours involved programmatic orientation related items in and out of class. This includes reviewing the program's policy and procedure manual and completing other university graduate student related issues. This serves as the first class in the curriculum and essentially the first time the students are on campus at URI.**
 - **Health Promotion (PHT 544) is currently offered for 4-credit hours. The proposal is to divide the course into two, 2-credit course offerings. The course currently is divided with two faculty members, each teaching 50% of the content. One half of the course content relates to "women's health" related topics. Hence, the proposal is to reduce the existing course from 4 to 2 credit hours under the same title, and to establish a new course for 2-credit hours titled "Women's Health". While the "Women's Health" section includes course objectives for all genders, this is consistent with the physical therapy profession's section content titled "Women's Health" and is standard acceptable language.**
 - **Proposal to establish a 4-credit hour course titled Pathophysiology for Physical Therapy (PHT 536). This is actually not a new course as it pertains to course content, but rather it is more appropriately aligning course credit within one course offering. Currently, PHT 535 (3-credit hours) is cross listed with Nursing. The Physical Therapy curriculum has established the need for 4 credit hours of Pathophysiology to be offered. This was previously addressed with a 1-credit hour course (PHT 519) titled "Pathology for PT", and was delivered collaboratively with PHT 535, a course that is cross-listed with Nursing. We propose to remove physical therapy from the cross-listing, and develop a 4-credit pathophysiology course (PHT 536) to address our curricular needs.**
 - **A library statement is included in this comprehensive proposal supporting minimal to no impact with these mostly administrative change proposals.**
 - **With respect to the specific physical therapy curriculum, this will increase the total number of credits required from 109 to 112. It will not change course content, nor will it increase tuition for students enrolled. In fact, it will decrease the tuition by 1-credit hour. This is possible since the four additional 1-credit hour ICE courses exist during fall or spring semesters when the students are already taking overload without additional costs. The proposed decrease of 1-credit hour for PHT 505 is during the summer, therefore reducing costs during that first summer class.**
6. **If applicable, please include the existing URI catalog language and proposed catalog changes indicated in Track Changes.**

Program requirements: a minimum of ~~112109~~ credits of specified physical therapy course work, including 12 credits of internship. This program is a three-year plan of required course work, with semesters at the 500 and 600 levels including internships at affiliated institutions. For internships, the student may have to pay travel and living expenses. A criminal background check and immunizations are required.

7. Signature of the President

David M. Dooley