

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.14 Cleveland State University, Master of Physical Therapy

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study as well as the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the following new degree program is approved:

Cleveland State University  
Master of Physical Therapy

## **BACKGROUND**

### **CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

#### Master of Physical Therapy

Cleveland State University seeks Regents' approval for a graduate degree program entitled Master of Physical Therapy (MPT). This proposed new graduate program in Physical Therapy adheres to national standards in the discipline for the preparation of degree candidates for professional certification in Physical Therapy. This program would provide an entry-level, post-baccalaureate professional degree that would replace entirely Cleveland State University's current baccalaureate degree program in Physical Therapy. The anticipated implementation date for the MPT program is January, 2001, at the beginning of the Spring semester.

At the national level the field of Physical Therapy has evolved from a professional environment of dependent supervised practice into one of truly independent supervisory practice. The increasing demands of the Physical Therapy profession, therefore, require that the entry-level professional be fully capable of applying complex problem solving techniques, critical inquiry, and independent decision-making in order to be fully effective in this new health care environment. The requisite higher level of practitioner performance, involving independent rather than dependent practice, is less consistent with an undergraduate program of study and far more consistent with the more rigorous demands of an advanced degree program, like the Master of Physical Therapy degree program. Accordingly, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education has adopted a plan to limit the scope of professional accreditation to post-baccalaureate educational programs as of January of 2002. The Master of Physical Therapy degree program proposal, therefore, is intended to bring Cleveland State University program into compliance with these new national-level professional accreditation standards.

The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study has reviewed extensive written documentation provided by Cleveland State University on this proposed graduate program and, in response to expert reviews of these descriptive materials, provided the University with appropriate critical comments. The University, in turn, provided additional written descriptive materials and sent its program representatives to the July 28, 2000 meeting of the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study. After a detailed presentation by representatives of the College of Arts and Sciences and its Department of Health Sciences that was followed by questions from individual campus representatives, the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted with unanimous assent to approve the Master of Physical Therapy degree program at Cleveland State University.