SUBJECT
New Specialization: USD Specialization in Mental Health in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
BOR Policy 2:23 – Program and Curriculum Approval

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a specialization in Mental Health in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree program, including authorization to offer more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization through distance delivery.

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 Neuroscience & Rehabilitation Specialization. This Specialization 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 USD’s practice partners.

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 (32-33 credits), and an A earned in a minimum of 24 credits.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION
USD requests no additional financial or faculty resources to offer the new specialization.

Board office staff recommends approval of the program.

ATTACHMENTS
New Specialization Request Form: USD – Mental Health within the Doctor of Occupational Therapy

DRAFT MOTION 20200624_4-D(3):
I move to authorize USD to offer the specialization in Mental Health in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy as presented.
### SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
#### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

#### New Specialization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY:</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:</td>
<td>Mental Health Specialization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:</td>
<td>Doctor of Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</td>
<td>7/13/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROPOSED CIP CODE:</td>
<td>51.2306</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</td>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☒ 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_

3/19/2020

Institutional Approval Signature

President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

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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.

   Mental illness is a growing cause of disability and the World Health Organization predicts that it will soon be the most prevalent cause of disability. In response to this trend, this specialization was developed to provide students with the opportunity to focus their research, fieldwork experiences, and capstone to prepare them to provide mental health treatment and prevention services for children, youth, the aging, and those with severe and persistent mental illness.

   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 Mental Health 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 (30 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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Course Title (add or delete rows as needed)</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>New (yes, no)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>Human Gross Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCHR</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>The Meaning of Occupation</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>Structure, Movement and Occupation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>Occupational Performance: Childhood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>Philosophical &amp; Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>Neurological Foundation of Occupation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>Therapeutic Use of Self &amp; Groups</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>Occupational Performance: Adulthood</td>
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<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>Physical &amp; Psychosocial Health Conditions</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>Therapeutic Adaptations to Enhance Occupational Performance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>Promotion of Health &amp; Prevention of Disability</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>Environmental Influences on Occupation</td>
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<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>Professional Identity &amp; Field Experiences I</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>Preparatory Methods: Physical Agent Modalities &amp; Orthotic Devices</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>OCTH</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>OT Assessment &amp; Intervention: Adult Physical Disabilities</td>
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<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>OT Assessment &amp; Intervention: Psychosocial Practice</td>
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<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>Interruptions to Adult Occupations</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>Interruptions to Adult Occupations II</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>Leadership &amp; Management in Healthcare</td>
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<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>Social &amp; Political Contexts of OT Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>OT Assessment &amp; Intervention: Childhood &amp; Adolescence</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH</td>
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<td>Interruptions to Childhood &amp; Adolescent Occupations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>OCTH 770</td>
<td>The Health Professional as Academic &amp; Clinical Educator</td>
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<td>OCTH 777</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork in Mental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 780</td>
<td>Research Design and Data Analysis</td>
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<td>OCTH 781</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 784</td>
<td>Scholarly Project Proposal</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 786</td>
<td>Scholarly Project (1 cr taken 2x)</td>
<td>2 (1 cr taken 2x)</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 800</td>
<td>Capstone Proposal (1 cr taken 2x)</td>
<td>2 (1 cr taken 2x)</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 831</td>
<td>Capstone Experience in Mental Health</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 832</td>
<td>Capstone Project in Mental Health</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHGY 735</td>
<td>Human Physiology for OT</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Choose one:</td>
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<td>OCTH 759</td>
<td>Trauma Informed Care (3 cr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 592</td>
<td>Special Topic (3 cr)</td>
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</table>

Total number of hours required for completion of specialization: 30
Total number of hours required for completion of degree: 114

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)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On campus</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Intended Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Off campus</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>If Yes, list location(s)</th>
<th>Intended Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>If Yes, identify delivery methods</th>
<th>Intended Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>AAC Guideline 5.5.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>If Yes, identify delivery methods</th>
<th>Intended Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>U15 – Online asynchronous Term Based</td>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>U18 – Online synchronous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>U98 – Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The full OTD curriculum with or without one of the 4 specializations is delivered primarily on campus. Delivery options for 831 &amp; 832 will vary based on the practice site selected.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.