Institution Submitting Request: University of Utah
Proposed Title: Athletic Training Education Program
Currently Approved Title: Athletic Training Education Program
School or Division or Location: University of Utah Health Sciences Center, College of Health
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: Athletic Training Education Program, Department of Exercise and Sport Science
Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code\(^1\) (for new programs): N/A
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 51.0913
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): Fall 2016
Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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*Requires "Section V: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

________________________________________
Signature
Date: [Insert Date]
Printed Name: Ruth Watkins, Senior Vice President

Section I: Request

This document requests an administrative realignment of the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP), currently an instructional unit of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, College of Health. The proposed administrative transfer would result in the ATEP moving into the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. This new department has been previously described and approved in the realignment proposal for the College of Health. This program includes the Athletic Training BS.

No curricular components have been changed. This is an administrative restructuring and the faculty and staff of the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training have actively contributed to and supported this request.

Section II: Need

There are both philosophical and pragmatic justifications for this realignment. Both Physical Therapy and ATEP are professional education programs that train students as clinicians in the health care field. The commonalities in clinical training needs, administration, and accreditation make this administrative transfer logical. This realignment will allow for greater efficiency and improved services and outcomes for students. This realignment will position the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training to demonstrate its expertise more effectively to the Health Sciences Center. This, in turn, will be attractive to University Health Care because it will result in cost savings in a climate where health care reimbursement is projected to decrease, the “fee for care” approach is expected to decline, and prevention and wellness will become even more critical.

Section III: Institutional Impact

It is anticipated that this realignment will enhance the visibility of the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training’s current academic programs and facilitate the recruitment of new students to the University of Utah. Administrative efficiencies will be gained through the combination of the units.

Section IV: Finances

No budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution is anticipated. The faculty and staff salaries associated with the ATEP will be transferred to the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. The productivity funds generated from students credit hours in the ATEP courses will also be transferred to the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training.

Section V: Program Curriculum

Not applicable for this request.
Faculty Consultation
In September 2014, the Dean of the College of Health appointed a Realignment Task Force comprised of junior and senior tenure-line and career-line faculty, representing each of the seven Departments/Divisions in the College. The Task Force met every other week throughout the fall semester. During the process, Task Force members communicated with their own faculty to gather input. Initially, the work focused on research of peer institutions nationally to gain insight into varied organizational structures. Examples of peer institutions reviewed included, but were not limited to: Arizona State University, Boston University, Ohio State University, Penn State, Purdue University, Texas A&M University, University of Delaware, and University of Florida. As a supplement to this research, information regarding the statistics for each current College of Health Department/Division in terms of SCH production, numbers of faculty, faculty to student ratios, and research expenditures were gathered and shared with the Task Force. Based on this research, five models were created and discussed. Subsequent discussions centered on characterizing the relative merits of the different models in comparison to our existing structure and in their ability to meet the objectives outlined above. The culmination of the committee’s work was the College of Health Realignment Task Force Final Report. The transfer of the ATEP from ESS to a new Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training was a recommendation in the Task Force Report.

College Review
A College of Health Faculty and Staff meeting was held on December 17, 2014 to discuss the Realignment Task Force Final Report. In addition, the College of Health Council, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, met on January 23, 2015 to discuss the report. The Dean of the College also met with the Dean’s Student Advisory Council, which included undergraduate and graduate students from each Department/Division, on January 23, 2015 to solicit student feedback and recommendations relative to the Report. Ongoing conversations regarding the realignment process with the Dean and the Dean’s Advisory Council continued throughout the fall and spring semesters. Finally, the Dean hosted meetings in February 2015 that brought together faculty and staff in the proposed Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. This meeting addressed the resources that would be crucial to the success of the program transfer. In addition, the Dean convened a meeting of all of the staff in the College to ensure an opportunity for input. All meetings were facilitated by Mary Anne Berzins, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources.

In general, faculty responses to the proposed transfer of ATEP to the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training have been positive. There is excitement about increased opportunities for collaboration around research and teaching, interprofessional education, and educational and administrative efficiencies. The staff proposed a number of potential ideas for administrative realignment. Students were consulted and their feedback was incorporated into the final proposals. There have not been substantive concerns expressed relative to fair treatment of students, staff, or faculty.

66% by 2020
The creation of the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training make it possible to move a well-subscribed undergraduate program, ATEP, into a more visible location that currently does not house an undergraduate degree offering. This increased visibility may encourage additional enrollment as students begin to see this as a viable undergraduate degree to pursue on their path toward graduate education. In addition, this undergraduate program produces frontline healthcare providers at the Bachelor’s degree level: Certified Athletic Trainers.
September 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

In July, the College of Health received all necessary approvals to engage in an administrative realignment. Part of our new structure involved the creation of the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. This Department was created to capitalize on the synergies between physical therapy, athletic training, and sports medicine and to create a space for these programs to coexist (as they currently reside in two departments).

With this letter I convey my full endorsement for transferring the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) from the Department of Exercise and Sport Science into the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training in the College of Health, effective fall 2016. This transfer will build upon existing collaboration between these two fields of study in both classroom instruction and clinical practice.

A priority within the health care professions is the development of new initiatives around interprofessional practice (IPP) and interprofessional education (IPE). The Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training will create new opportunities for faculty and students to work together on IPP and IPE programs and will foster new interdisciplinary research efforts.

The Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training will also strengthen and support important collaborations with the College of Health and Health Sciences, including the Department of Orthopaedics, the Neurosciences initiative, and others. In fact, we are currently conducting a national search for Director of the ATEP with a research agenda in sport concussion.

I would be pleased to provide any additional information or justification in support of the transfer of the Athletic Training Education Program to the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. Thank you for your consideration of this important academic realignment.

Sincerely,

David H. Perrin, PhD
Dean and Professor
September 21, 2015

Karen Paisley, PhD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
College of Health
CAMPUS

Dear Associate Dean Paisley:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the relocation of the BS degree in the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) from the Department of Exercise and Sport Science to the future Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. At present, the ATEP is a clinically-based, undergraduate degree with a focus on the prevention and treatment of athletic injuries. Earlier this year, a Strategic Alliance consisting of four organizations committed to the athletic training profession and to the delivery of quality healthcare to the public (the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC), the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) and the NATA Research & Education Foundation (NATA Foundation)), recommended that athletic training programs such as ours be transitioned to the master’s level. As a result of this recommendation, all professionally-based athletic training programs are mandated to convert to entry-level master’s degree programs within the next 7 years. Given the future emphasis on graduate, clinically-based education, the relocation of ATEP to the new Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training is ideal for maintaining its viability.

The Department of Exercise and Sport Science has been the academic home of the ATEP since its inception as an internship-based program and then as a curriculum-based, stand-alone BS degree. Therefore, the Department is very interested in maintaining this academic offering within the College and continues to support ATEP during this period of transition.

If I can be of further assistance in making this transition a seamless process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Shaw, PhD, FACSM
Associate Professor and Chair
September 22, 2015

Curriculum Administration
University of Utah

RE: Relocation of the Athletic Training Program to the new Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training

To Whom It May Concern:

As Chair of the department formerly known as the Department of Physical Therapy I am writing to let you know of my support for the inclusion of the Athletic Training Program in this Department. The Department name has already been changed to demonstrate that inclusion. The new name of the Department is the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. Our faculty have unanimously endorsed this merger.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

R. Scott Ward, PT, PhD, FAPTA
Professor and Chair
Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training