



New academic program pre-proposals are initiated and developed by the faculty. Approval of the pre-proposal must be obtained from department chairs and college deans or equivalent administrators before submission for USF System level review and consideration for inclusion in the USF Annual Work Plan. Details of the pre-proposal [process and a timeline](#) can be found on the [Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Academic Program Planning and Review](#) website.

Original copies of completed pre-proposals (including required signatures) must be submitted by **October 1st** to Kelly Bergquist, BEH 339. (For questions: kbergqui@usf.edu 4-2450)

USF Institution	School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences
Degree Program Title (e.g. M.A. in Biology)	PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences
CIP Code	51.2314
Proposed Mode of Delivery (% online if applicable)	Traditional/in-class
Enrollment Projections (FTE) : Year 1 and Year 5	Year 1: 1 Year 5: 20
Proposed Implementation Date (e.g. Fall 2012)	Fall 2015

: *(Briefly describe the proposed program)*

1. Briefly summarize the overall rationale for the new academic program. Include a consideration of any ways in which the proposed program is distinct from others already offered in the SUS (use the 4-digit CIP as a guide). Discuss how this program supports specific university and SUS missions. Consider collaborative opportunities with other SUS institutions as appropriate. (maximum length 250 words)

Numerous faculty vacancies exist in core rehabilitation sciences disciplines both within Florida educational institutions and nationally, e.g. physical therapy, audiology, occupational therapy, athletic training, and chiropractic alone. Faculty vacancies are a barrier to achieving or maintaining accreditation or expanding enrollments. Looming retirements require the development of a new generation of faculty. Human longevity has accelerated the need for rehabilitation sciences. We seek qualified students locally and nationally drawn from rehabilitation disciplines. This program will create a new generation of faculty with a broad perspective of enablement and link that knowledge to the economic development of and betterment of the health and welfare of our state. This program aligns with our USF System and Tampa campus strategic plans to achieve AAU status as other peer institutions. The Rehabilitation Sciences program would align USF with nine AAU institutions that have PhD programs in Rehabilitation Sciences. The PhD program also strongly aligns with the FL BOG Strategic Priorities for 2012-2025; (1) Teaching & Learning- Educating the next generation of faculty to populate the graduate and professional educational programs which produce health care professionals, (2) Scholarship, Research & Innovation- Converting research in rehabilitation sciences into commercial products, such as mobility aids, prosthetics and therapeutic robotics (3) Community & Business Engagement- Increasing faculty capacity to support a vibrant healthcare workforce. Our PhD program is an integral component of our USF-Tampa Veterans' Reintegration Strategy. The PhD program will become the hub through which existing USF-Tampa assets can leverage the full capability of the SUS.

: (Describe the demand in the SUS for the proposed program)

2. Briefly describe the demand for the proposed program and consider the following in your narrative:

- Recognizing that programs at different levels may require different degrees of justification (e.g., greater duplication may be warranted at undergraduate and master's levels), indicate why duplicative programs should be warranted.
- Consider the numbers of graduates and students enrolled at similar programs currently offered online or face-to face.
- Consider as applicable: place-bound learners, underserved populations in the field/profession, and professional credentials requirements. (maximum length 250 words)

The University of Florida in Gainesville offers a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences which supports approximately 30 students. The needs for expanding capacity in this discipline at the research doctoral level have previously been articulated. Numerous new PhD programs in Rehabilitation Sciences have been initiated in the past year at prominent U.S. universities(e.g. MUSC, UAB, Indiana University and UC-Denver Health Sciences Center).

We do not anticipate students in other doctoral programs changing majors within the institution for this PhD program **as it requires preparation/licensure in rehabilitation or rehabilitation sciences related discipline** as a condition of admissions. We believe that this program will draw new graduate students to USF - Tampa, due to the unique construction of the proposed curriculum and the various resources of the USF-Tampa campus and rehabilitation sciences focused research centers, including CNMSR and CARRT. The richness of our current interprofessional collaborations across colleges, schools and disciplines sets us apart as well as our focus on "**Real World, Real People Research**" in areas such as spinal pain and disability prevention, prosthetics, robotics and mtbi. The School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences currently attracts a racially and geographically diverse student body. We anticipate this will continue with the implementation of the PhD program. Since neither FAMU nor FIU (HBCU & MI, respectively) do not currently offer or have institutional work plans to implement a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences, we will not impact them but potentially assist with their future faculty development.

(Describe how the proposed program meets workforce and

economic development needs)

3. Briefly describe how the proposed program meets workforce and economic development needs and consider the following in your narrative:
- Impact of this program (local, state, national, international)
 - Impact of research funding
 - Changing professional credential requirements (maximum length 250 words)

There is currently a looming and growing shortage of academically qualified faculty for various rehabilitation disciplines educational programs; e.g. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Audiology, Athletic Training, Chiropractic within existing and newly developing educational programs. Within the State of Florida, there are 7 SUS Physical Therapy Educational Programs, all of which currently have at least 1 faculty vacancy at a time when we are unable to graduate a sufficient number of physical therapists to meet the state's annual needs. The proposed PhD degree program would provide an avenue for producing qualified faculty for Florida's physical therapy and other health professions education programs.

Federal funding, primarily that from the Department of Defense is being directed more and more to "rehabilitation science" areas such as prosthetics, warfighter performance and wounded warrior rehabilitation.

The transition of entry-level physical therapy education to the first-professional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree has accelerated the demand for PhD educated faculty members. In addition, new accreditation standards are now mandating a 50/50 ratio of DPT and DPT+ PhD faculty qualifications. Evolving accreditation standards in other rehabilitation disciplines for faculty have accelerated the need for PhD qualified faculty.

□		
Dr. Ralph Wilcox		

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College/ Division	Medicine
Department	Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences
Are any other academic programs at USF offered under this CIP code? If yes, list them:	No
Target date for submission to USFBOT (Must be either May or October meeting)	May 2013

4. How does this program support the institutional, USF System, and SUS Strategic Plans?

1. Milestone of COM/SPTRS/CoPTRS Strategic Plan
2. Build World-Class Academic Programs and Research Capacity
3. Meet Statewide Professional and Workforce Needs
4. Program Access and Degree Production in STEM-H Fields
5. Competitive PhD Student Recruitment in STEM-H Fields
6. Increase Federal Research Expenditures and Economic Impact

5. Does this program offer collaborative and/or interdisciplinary opportunities at other institutions in the USF and SUS systems? If so, what efforts have been made to initiate collaboration?

Professional collaborations with:

- College of Behavioral & Community Sciences (Audiology, Rehabilitation Counseling, Social Work, and Aging),
- College of Education (Exercise Science)
- College of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering/Rehabilitation Engineering),
- College of Medicine (Basic Sciences, Athletic Training)
- College of Public Health

6. Provide information on the available resources and capacity for your program. In your response, include faculty availability and student support resources including the library. How will department/college resources be shifted to support the program?

The USF PhD degree in Rehabilitation Sciences will be based in the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Medicine on the USF Tampa campus as an interprofessional partnership with stakeholders from the Colleges of Medicine (basic sciences), Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Education (Exercise Science), Engineering (Mechanical/Rehabilitation Engineering), Behavioral & Community Services (Aging, Rehabilitation Counseling, Social Work) and administered through the SPTRS and Graduate School as a USF Tampa campus graduate degree. Leveraging the existing resources of the Tampa campus, including USF Health, along with an array of currently funded faculty researchers in spinal pain and disability, prosthetics, tbi, cancer survivorship and veterans' reintegration will provide a robust intellectual environment to recruit 2-4 prospective students per year.

7. Please list the Student Learning Outcomes for the program (undergraduate programs must comply with BOG Regulation 8.016 “Academic Learning Compacts”).

Knowledge

- Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge in a focused area of study within the field of rehabilitation sciences.
- Students will demonstrate a foundational knowledge of clinical research methodology, such as epidemiology, experimental design, and biostatistics.

Skills

- Students will demonstrate satisfactory oral and written communication skills required for the presentation of clinically relevant research in various forums.
- Students will successfully master laboratory-based or other outcome assessment skills in a focused area of study within the field of rehabilitation sciences.

Abilities

- Students will demonstrate the ability to critically analyze the current best available evidence related to clinical research and evidence-based practices.
- Students will successfully complete a dissertation research project.
- Students will successfully submit one or more manuscripts for publication in a refereed journal
- Students will successfully apply for a research grant under the guidance of a faculty mentor as either a principal investigator or co-investigator.