



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

February 22, 2018

Leonard K. Lock  
Director, Instruction and Special Projects  
Alabama Commission on Higher Education  
100 N. Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104-3758

Dear Dr. Lock:

Enclosed you will find a Proposal for a Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) (CIP 51.2308). If approved, the plan is to implement this program in the fall semester of 2018.

The proposed Masters of Physical Therapy is an International Linkage Program between the University of South Alabama and a select group of universities in China. The program will directly support the mission of the University of South Alabama and the commitment on the part of the University to diversity and global engagement. It is projected that the proposed program can be delivered at no additional cost to the university.

Please let me know if additional information is required. We thank you for your assistance and welcome your feedback on this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony G. Waldrop'.

Tony G. Waldrop, Ph.D.  
President

TGW: ag

cc: Dr. David Johnson  
Dr. Charles Guest  
Dr. Gregory Frazer  
Dr. Harold Pardue  
Dr. Mary Templeton

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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**NEW APPLICATION TOOL FOLLOWS DIRECTLY BELOW**

*Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

**PROPOSAL FOR A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM – NEW APPLICATION TOOL**

Please check one:  Baccalaureate Program  Graduate Program

**A. General Information**

1. Institution: University of South Alabama
  
2. Institutional Contact Person:  
Title: Dr. Gregory H. Frazer  
Telephone: 251.445.9250  
E-mail: frazer@southalabama.edu
  
3. Program Identification--  
Field of Study/ Program Title: Physical Therapy  
Degree: Master's degree  
CIP Code:51.2308
  
4. Date of Proposal Submission: February 23, 2018
  
5. Proposed Program Implementation Date: August 21, 2018
  
6. Program Administration:  
Name of College/School: Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions  
Name of Dean: Dr. Gregory H. Frazer  
Name of Department: Department of Physical Therapy  
Name of Chair: Dr. R. Barry Dale

**Note: Please expand all response fields as necessary.**

**B. Program Purpose and Description**

1. In no more than one paragraph describe the purpose of the proposed program. Please also include a brief statement regarding how the program's purpose is related to the University's mission and goals.

The proposed Masters of Physical Therapy is an International Linkage Program between the University of South Alabama and a select group of universities in China. The purpose of this program is to create global linkages, foster innovation, and provide powerful learning experiences through an exchange of students and faculty. This program would directly support the mission of the University of South Alabama (USA) which is to be a leading comprehensive public university internationally recognized for educational, research, and health care excellence as well as for its positive intellectual, cultural, and economic impact on those it serves. At the core of this vision are commitments to Diversity and a Global Perspective which are manifested in institutional priorities that enhance research and graduate education and foster global engagement. The proposed Master of Physical Therapy program will be designed to meet the needs of Chinese clinicians. As such, the program will increase opportunities for our current undergraduate and graduate students to interact with international students, increase the number of international collaborations in research, scholarly, and creative activities, increase the global dissemination and impact of research and scholarship produced by USA faculty and postdoctoral fellows, increase the diversity of the student body, increase the incorporation of global perspectives into the educational environment, and increase engagement with international health care businesses and organizations. Although the program will be designed to meet the needs of Chinese clinicians based on memoranda of understanding with Chinese institutions, it is anticipated that students from other countries with Master's-level entry into the rehabilitation sciences may also be interested in the program, and that collaboration with other international institutions could be developed in the future.

2. Please provide a description of the specific kinds of employment opportunities, post-graduate professional degree programs, and other graduate programs that will be available to the graduates.

As an International Linkage Program, graduates of this program will be eligible to practice as rehabilitation professionals in China and will either return to their home country for employment in these positions or enroll in Doctor of Physical Therapy or graduate programs in Occupational Therapy or Speech-Language Pathology in the United States. Graduates will return home with the enhanced skills necessary to practice as a rehabilitation specialist.

3. Succinctly list at least four (4) but no more than seven (7) of the most prominent ***student learning outcomes*** of the program. These outcomes should lend themselves to subsequent review and assessment of program accomplishments.

**Students will be able to:**

- 1) Describe and discuss entry-level and advanced clinical services in a variety of healthcare settings.

- 2) Produce evidence-based research thereby contributing to the scholarly body of evidence-based practice in the field of Physical Therapy.
- 3) Describe and investigate leadership skills that impact the delivery of high quality care to patients.
- 4) Describe and investigate skills necessary to fulfill the role as patient educator, clinical educator, and faculty member.

**C. Need for the Program**

1. State need. Briefly describe why the program is specifically needed for the State of Alabama. (State need is considered a priority in the review process.)

The State of Alabama’s innovation ecosystem is becoming increasingly global and must be so to remain competitive. The link between networking, international exchanges, and innovation is well known as a driving force in job creation. For example, the State’s fifth place ranking in the US for medical technology job creation is in large part due to global innovation partnerships. This International Linkage Program will provide the State an additional platform for global collaboration in education, research, and healthcare. This program will bring highly trained international clinicians to the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions to interact with our Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy faculty and students. This East-West exchange will provide a rich environment for our students and clinical and didactic faculty to learn about population and socialized medicine as well as traditional Eastern forms of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Student and faculty participation in international rehabilitation research teams and extramural grants will foster innovation in education and healthcare thus accelerating the State’s ability to absorb and leverage emerging trends and innovations.

2. Employment Opportunities. Based on your research on the employment market for graduates of this program, please complete the following table reporting the total projected job openings (including both growth and replacement demands) in your local area, the state, the SREB region, and the nation. These job openings should represent positions that require graduation from a program such as the one proposed.

Career and College Readiness/Preparation -- Projected Job Openings

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Local						
State						
SREB						
Nation						

Please briefly describe your methodology for determining employment opportunities – projected job openings. Be sure to cite any data sources used in formulating these projections. The actual survey instrument, detailed results, and associated data file(s) must be maintained internally by the institution for five years from the implementation date. The survey upon which the proposal is based must be available for ACHE Staff examination upon request for that five year timeframe. The survey instrument, detailed results, or associated data file(s) should not be included in the proposal.)

US employment opportunities for this International Linkage Program are not applicable. Graduates will be eligible to become practicing rehabilitation professionals in China and will return to their home country unless accepted into advanced educational programs in the US upon graduation. Graduates of this program will not be eligible for licensure in the United States and all program materials will include this information. The spillover effect of this program will be to increase the State's ability to create local jobs as a result of the networking and exchange of students and faculty and the partnerships that are developed with Chinese and potentially other international institutions and Chinese healthcare partners.

3. Student Demand - Enrollment projection. Please briefly describe your methodology for determining enrollment projections. If a survey of student interest was conducted, please briefly describe the survey instrument, number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

(The survey instrument, and associated data file(s) need not be included in the proposal. This proposal information should be maintained for ACHE Staff review for five years from the actual implementation date.)

Student demand for the program is based on the need for rehabilitation clinicians in China. It is conservatively estimated that there are over 85 million adults and children in China who meet the international definition for disability (Zhang & Shen, 2014). Prior to the 1980's, the Chinese government used Traditional Chinese Medicine to treat these individuals. Unfortunately, the use of acupuncture, moxibustion, massage, and Qigong did not positively impact the effected individuals. In recent years, over 2 million Chinese suffer cerebrovascular accidents every year that render 80% of these patients unable to live independently (Wang, 2014). Beginning in 1986, the central government began an initiative to provide community-based care. Since 1988, 24.615 million Persons with Disabilities have benefited from the key rehabilitation programs. By the end of 2013, community-based rehabilitation work had been carried out in 2,915 counties (cities, districts) across the country. As a result of the catastrophic effects of stroke and the overwhelming need for rehabilitation services, the central government has not been able to develop an effective "rehabilitation infrastructure" to prepare a sufficient number of clinicians to treat this large number of patients (Zhou, 1991). The government encourages universities with medical schools and health programs to partner with international universities to provide the education and training of physicians, nurses, rehabilitation technicians, physical therapists, and occupational therapists to enhance the rehabilitation skill set within China. During a December 2017 conversation with Secretary Lidian Chen, Chairman of the University Council at Fujian University and a

member of the State Council for Rehabilitation (national rehabilitation council), he stated that Beijing estimates it needs 19,000 physical and occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists in Shanghai alone to meet the need for rehabilitation service in that city alone. The current coalition of universities is unable to graduate a sufficient number of clinicians to satisfy the demand.

Currently, the University of South Alabama has Memoranda of Understanding with Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. During an upcoming March 3<sup>rd</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> visit to China, the USA Provost plans to execute four additional MOUs with Tongji University, Sanda University, Zheziang Chinese Medical University, and Qiqihar Medical University.

#### **D. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for Program**

What is the specific rationale (strengths) for recommending approval of this proposal? List no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) potential program strengths.

1. The Department of Physical Therapy has a 46-year history of excellence in producing physical therapy clinicians.
2. The program will help the University of South Alabama meet its commitment to diversity and a global perspective.
3. The program will increase opportunities for our current undergraduate and graduate students to interact with international students, increase the number of international collaborations in research, scholarly, and creative activities, increase the global dissemination and impact of research and scholarship produced by USA faculty and postdoctoral fellows, increase the diversity of the student body, increase the incorporation of global perspectives into the educational environment, and increase engagement with international businesses and organizations.
4. This program will collaborate with Chinese Universities for funding programs.
5. The model for this program can be expanded to other countries and, potentially, other disciplines.
6. Currently there are only two such programs in the nation: Creighton University in Omaha and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. The Dean of Allied Health was the developer of the successful program at Duquesne University.

**Please note that letters of support may be included with the proposal.**

## **E. Similar Programs**

Using the ACHE Academic Program inventory found at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Content/Departments/Instruction/StudentInfo.aspx> List below all programs at the same degree level (by institution) that utilize the same 6-digit CIP code as the one being requested in the program proposal.

Also, list any programs at other CIP codes that may be offering similar instruction.

If there are no similar programs place a "0/none" by 1. in the listing directly below.

Note: Institutions should consult with ACHE Staff during the NISP phase of proposal development to determine what existing programs are considered duplicative of the proposed program.

The following institutions offer similar programs at this level:

1. 0/none

Please add numeration and list additional similar programs, if applicable.

If the program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to another program already offered in the State, provide justification for that duplication. Also, if a graduate program, please identify and list any similar programs at institutions in other SREB states.

There are no similar programs in the State of Alabama.

## **F. Collaboration With Other Institutions/Agencies**

Does the institution plan on collaborating with other institutions in the delivery of this program?

Yes      No

If yes, please indicate below which institutions and describe the basis of this collaboration.

If no, please indicate your reasons why.

There are no other master's degree programs in the rehabilitation sciences providing linkages to international universities in the state of Alabama. This program will have no impact on the recruitment or enrollment of the Doctor of Physical Therapy, Master of Occupational Therapy, or Master of Speech Language Pathology programs at the University of South Alabama or at other Alabama institutions. The University of South Alabama is currently working with Duquesne University who offers a similar program

## **G. Curriculum**

1. Program Completion Requirements: (Enter a credit hour value for all applicable components, write N/A if not applicable)

Credit hours required in major courses	<u>  30  </u>
Credit hours required in minor	<u>   0  </u>
Credit hours in institutional general education or core curriculum	<u>   0  </u>
Credit hours required in support courses	<u>   0  </u>
Credit hours in required or free electives	<u>   0  </u>
Credit hours for thesis or dissertation	<u>   0  </u>
<b>Total credit hours required for completion</b>	<b><u>  30  </u></b>

2. Will this program be related to other programs at your institution?

If so, which ones and how?

Yes, it is related to the current Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The faculty who teach in the program will be members of the Department of Physical Therapy. Graduates would be qualified to apply for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

3. Please identify any existing program, option, concentration or track that this program will replace at your institution.

This program will not replace any current academic offering at the University of South Alabama.

4. Is it likely that this program will reduce enrollments in other graduate programs at your institution? If so, please explain.

No, enrollments will not be reduced in any other program as this is not a degree that allows admission into clinical practice for a profession. Since 2015, entry into clinical practice in the United States is restricted to graduates of Doctor of Physical Therapy programs and graduates of the proposed program would not qualify for U.S. licensure.

5. If this is a graduate program, please list any existing undergraduate programs at the institution which are directly or indirectly related to the proposed graduate program. If this is a doctoral proposal, also list related master's programs at your institution.

There are no undergraduate programs at the University of South Alabama that directly or indirectly relate to the program.

6. Please complete the table below indicating the proposed program's courses. Include the course number, and number of credits. (If feasible/useful, please group courses by sub-headings within the table.)

Course Number and Title	Number of Credit Hours	* If New Course
PT 620 Kinesiology w/ Lab	3	
PT 621 Foundational Concepts of Medical Rehabilitation w/ Lab	3	*
PT 625 Therapeutic Modalities w/ Lab	3	
PT 627 Physical Therapy Examination Methods	3	
PT 628 Prosthetics and Orthotics w/ Lab	3	
PT 650 Orthopedic Science and Practice w/ Lab	3	*
PT 651 Neurologic Science and Practice w/ Lab	3	*
PT 652 Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Science w/ Lab	3	*
PT 653 Differential Diagnosis and Assessment w/ Lab	3	*
PT 654 Therapeutic Exercise w/ Lab	3	*

7. Enumerate and briefly describe any additional requirements such as preliminary qualifying examination, comprehensive examination, thesis, dissertation, practicum or internship, some of which may carry credit hours included in the list above.

There are no additional requirements for this program.

8. Does the program include any options/concentration. If so, please describe the purpose and rationale and list the courses in the option.

There are no options or concentrations available in this program.

9. State and list if the program has any special admission requirements. If none, state: "The program has no special admission requirements".

Applicants must have earned an undergraduate degree in a closely related field and meet the general USA requirements for entry into graduate study.

## **H. Program Review and Assessment**

In the final analysis, the institution and its governing board are accountable for the quality, utility and productivity of this and all other programs of instruction.

With this in mind, please describe the procedures that will be used in assessing the program's outcomes.

Be sure to include:

1. An assessment process for the student learning outcomes;

The assessment process for the International Linkage Program courses will include a variety of assignments designed to measure student learning and prepare graduates to provide entry-level and advanced clinical services in various healthcare settings. All of these assessments will be used to track and monitor student acquisition of learning outcomes. The International Linkage Program assessment methods are designed to give students the opportunity to develop their clinical, scholarly, and leadership skills so that they may serve as patient educators, clinical educators, and/or clinicians. The intent of the program is to demonstrate improved health outcomes by improving the quality of care through fostering specific skills in students. The International Linkage Program will be a tangible and deliverable academic product that is continually reviewed and evaluated by the faculty. Course assessment activities will include reflective writings, presentations, practical exams, and laboratory testing of both psychomotor and cognitive domains. Faculty will use the course assessment activities to evaluate accomplishment of course objectives. Program oversight will be provided by the College of Allied Health Professions Director of Graduate Studies and program faculty. Students will submit course assignments directly to course faculty or through our learning management software, USAOnline.

The overall evaluation of the program will be guided by the USA Annual Assessment Program which requires that faculty review data for each Student Learning Outcome (SLO) and target action planning for any SLO that does not meet benchmarks. The Dean of the Covey College of Allied Health will monitor the progress each semester as well as more formally on an annual basis via the USA Annual Assessment Program.

2. A follow-up plan to determine accomplishments of graduates such as obtaining relevant employment or being admitted to a masters or doctoral program (graduate or professional).

An annual survey of graduates will be completed to evaluate the program's success. Questions will include employment and graduate education questions. Students will be

expected to return to hold enhanced positions with greater clinical authority and responsibility after graduation.

### **I. Accreditation**

If there is a recognized (USDE or CHEA) or other specialized accreditation agency for this program, please identify the agency and explain why you do or not plan to seek accreditation. If there is no accrediting or similar body for this degree program state as such in your response.

There is no accrediting body for this program.

### **J. Instructional Delivery Method**

1. Describe which instructional delivery methods will be utilized in delivering this program.

The instructional methods used in this program are a combination of traditional didactic instruction, laboratory instruction, clinical instruction, problem-based learning, and clinical mentorship.

2. If distance technology is being utilized, indicate an approximate percent of the total program's courses offered that will be provided by distance education \_\_\_\_\_0\_\_\_ %
3. If distance education is not being utilized, please explain why not.

Distance education would not be effective in meeting our diversity and global perspective goals and programs in which students integrate into U.S. culture are more attractive to international students than are online programs. Some components of distance education within courses may be utilized but all courses will be delivered in a face-to-face setting.

### **K. Resource Requirements**

1. Faculty. Do not attach the curriculum vitae of each existing or additional faculty members to this proposal. (The institution must maintain and have current and additional primary and support faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active.) *Please do provide a brief summary of Faculty and their qualifications specific to the program proposal.*

a) Please provide faculty counts for the proposed program:

Status	Faculty Type	
	Primary	Support
Current- Full Time	10	0
Current-Part Time	5	0
Additional-Full Time (to be hired)	0	0
Additional-Part Time (to be hired)	0	0

b) Briefly describe the qualifications of new faculty to be hired.

There will be no additional faculty hired for the program.

2. Equipment. Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

Yes  No

If "Yes", please list:

The cost of the new equipment should be included in the table following (Section K.).

3. Facilities. Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program?

Yes  No

If "Yes", please list. Only new facilities need be listed. Their cost should be included in the table following (Section K.).

4. Library. Are there sufficient library resources to support the program?

Yes  No

Please provide a brief description of the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

The Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library is a 35,000 square foot facility that serves students in the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing, and the 11 programs in the College of Allied Health Professions. The collections housed at the Biomedical Library include scholarly books and journals, indexing and abstracting tools, and reference materials appropriate for this subject area in print and electronic formats and students are also able to access additional materials through interlibrary loan. As the Biomedical Library has already been judged to adequately support the needs of our Physical

Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology students, the Executive Director of the Libraries has indicated that no additional library resources will be necessary for the proposed program.

If "No", please briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied; include the cost in the table following (Section K.).

5. Assistantships/Fellowships. Will you offer any assistantships specifically for this program?

Yes       No

If "Yes", how many assistantships will be offered? Be sure to include the amount in the table following.

Number of assistantships offered

Be sure to include the cost of assistantships in the table following (Section K.).

6. Program Budget. The proposal projected that a total of \$  in estimated new funds will be required to support the proposed program.

A projected total of \$  will be available to support the new program.  
**\*over the first five years of the program (see table below)**

Tuition receipts are expected to finance the delivery of the program.

### **L. New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary Form**

- In the following "NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY" table, please provide a realistic estimate of the costs of the program.
- This should only include the additional costs that will be incurred, not current costs.
- Indicate the sources and amounts of funds available for the program's support.
- DO NOT LEAVE ANY PORTION/SOURCES OF THE NEW FUNDS OR FUNDS AVAILABLE BLANK. ENTER "\$0" IF THERE ARE NO NEW FUNDS NEEDED OR NO FUNDS AVAILABLE.
- THERE MUST BE AN ACTUAL DOLLAR AMOUNT PROVIDED FOR TUITION, SINCE THOSE FIGURES REPRESENT PROJECTED ENROLLED STUDENTS.
- **If it is stated that new funds are requested or if it is a reallocation of resources, please explain directly below from what source(s) the funds for the proposed new program, (e.g. faculty, equipment, etc.) will be attained.**
- **If tuition is used to support the program, what start-up revenue source will be used to initiate the program.**

**Also, include enrollment and completer projections.**

- New enrollment headcounts are defined as **unduplicated** counts across years. For example, if “Student A” would be initially enrolled in the program in year 2, and again is enrolled in the program in years 4 and 5; “Student A” is only counted in the new enrollment headcount in year 2.
- Total enrollment headcounts represent the actual number of students enrolled (both part-time and full time each year. This is a **duplicated** count).

**NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

INSTITUTION University of South Alabama

PROGRAM Masters of Physical Therapy

**ESTIMATED NEW FUNDS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT PROPOSED PROGRAM**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
FACULTY	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>275,000</u>
LIBRARY	<u>          </u>					
FACILITIES	<u>          </u>					
EQUIPMENT	<u>          </u>					
STAFF	<u>6,250</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>18,750</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>72,500</u>
ASSISTANTSHIPS	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
OTHER	<u>75,500</u>	<u>75,500</u>	<u>75,500</u>	<u>75,500</u>	<u>75,500</u>	<u>377,500</u>
TOTAL	<u>144,750</u>	<u>148,500</u>	<u>151,000</u>	<u>157,250</u>	<u>163,500</u>	<u>765,000</u>

**SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
INTERNAL REALLOCATIONS	<u>          </u>					
EXTRAMURAL	<u>          </u>					
TUITION (includes program fees and is calculated at current rate based on projected headcount enrollment)	<u>140,000</u>	<u>224,000</u>	<u>280,000</u>	<u>420,000</u>	<u>560,000</u>	<u>1,624,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>140,000</u>	<u>224,000</u>	<u>280,000</u>	<u>420,000</u>	<u>560,000</u>	<u>1,624,000</u>

**ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS AND DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS**

*Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.*

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	<u>5-YEAR AVERAGE</u>
FULL TIME HEADCOUNT	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>11.6</u>
PART TIME HEADCOUNT	<u>          </u>					
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>11.6</u>
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>          </u>
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>AVERAGE 9</u>