

September 26, 2008

Elliot Slotnick, PhD
Associate Dean
Graduate School
250 University Hall
230 South Oval Mall

Dear Elliot,

The Masters of Occupational Therapy faculty have unanimously approved a change in our curriculum. We now request approval by the Graduate School and Office of Academic Affairs to change our degree requirements such that MOT students must complete their fieldwork prior to graduating. Currently the MOT students graduate and then complete their fieldwork. This revision will add 12 credits of fieldwork to the MOT degree (from 94 to 106); however, it does not change the requirements for students, because they always needed the 12 credits of fieldwork to sit for their national certification examination.

When the MOT degree was first approved (in 2003), we designed the curriculum so that students could graduate in June (after two years of full-time study) and then would take 12 credits of full-time fieldwork after graduation. This fieldwork is required by our accreditation standards and is mandatory for students to sit for the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists Examination. This “early” graduation date has become a problem because we have had a couple students graduate with the MOT degree, but not pass their fieldwork; therefore, they can not practice as an occupational therapist. This creates confusion among consumers and the public as to what the degree means. In addition, we have had issues with students maintaining their health care benefits and maintaining their visa during fieldwork.

We have been able to arrange the fieldwork schedule so that the students can graduate in Autumn, which will enable them to sit for their examination as early as January. We believe this change will benefit the students and will improve the integrity of the degree. Although it changes the quarter of graduation and the number of credits required for the degree, it does not actually change what is required to complete the program and become an occupational therapist. We would like to implement this change as early as the coming year (i.e., 2009).

Thank you for submitting our request for review and for the support of the Graduate School in making this curriculum change.

Sincerely,

Jane Case-Smith, Ed.D., OTR/L
Director, Occupational Therapy Division

Dena Myers

From: Elliot Slotnick
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 5:33 PM
To: 'Cormier, J. Briggs'
Cc: Dena Myers
Subject: FW: Curriculum Info (1)
Attachments: Request to change graduation date of MOT program.docx

Briggs,

Here is the MOT program change proposal submitted by Jane Case-Smith and approved by the Graduate Council. It is ready for CAA review...

Best,
elliott

From: Dena Myers
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2008 9:09 AM
To: 'Susan Williams'; 'montalto.2@osu.edu'; Melanie Bales; early.22@osu.edu; Hanan Kashou
Cc: Elliot Slotnick
Subject: FW: Curriculum Info (1)

Everyone

Please see attachment (1). I will be sending more attachments and we will be reviewing all information in the order noted.

Dena

From: Elliot Slotnick
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2008 5:33 PM
To: Dena Myers
Subject: FW: email copy

Hold for CC

From: Case-Smith, Jane [mailto:Jane.Case-Smith@osumc.edu]
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2008 5:30 PM
To: Elliot Slotnick
Subject: email copy

Here is an email copy of my request with some typos corrected and I will send along a hard copy. Thank you!

Jane Case-Smith
Professor and Chair
Occupational Therapy Division
School of Allied Medical Professions
The Ohio State University
614-292-0357