

**NEW GRADUATE DEGREE OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE  
FORM D**

**UNIT PREPARES IN QUADRUPLICATE**  
Route as indicated below under approvals. Return to the  
Registrar's Office once all signatures have been obtained.

Date: September 10, 2007

**\*Allow up to one year for the process to be  
completed for a certificate, and 18 months  
for a degree.**

Susan Queen, P.T., Ph.D.  
(Name of individual initiating Graduate Degree or Graduate Certificate)

Director/Assoc. Professor/272-5451  
(Title, position, telephone number)

squeen@salud.unm.edu  
(Email address)

Orthopaedics/Physical Therapy Program  
(Department/Division/Program)

OCT 10 2007

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Note: Proposals for new graduate degrees or graduate certificates need to follow an approved format. Please call the Office of Graduate Studies and ask for an outline. Revisions of graduate degrees and some new certificates also may need state approval, depending on the extent of changes proposed. Please consult the Office of the Provost for advice prior to initiating this form.

Attach the following required documents:

1. Executive Summary.
2. Program Proposal (in the approved format).
3. Catalog Description (to include program curriculum).
4. Graduate Program Projected Costs (only for new degrees).
5. Library Impact Statement.

Does this new degree affect any existing program? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, attach statement.

Proposed date to admit new students: Term Fall Year 2008

**Required Signatures:**

Department Chair <u>on attached sheet</u>	Date _____
College Curricula Committee <u>on attached sheet</u>	Date _____
College or School Dean <u>on attached sheet</u>	Date _____
Dean of Library Services <u>Jamie Teal, Dept. of Health Sci Lib.</u>	Date <u>10/10/07</u>
Office of the Registrar—Catalog <u>Elizabeth A. Burton</u>	Date <u>12/20/07</u>
FS Graduate Committee _____	Date _____
Dean of Graduate Studies _____	Date _____
FS Curricula Committee <u>Kathleen Keating</u>	Date <u>1-18-08</u>
Office of the Provost _____	Date _____
Faculty Senate _____	Date _____
Board of Regents _____	Date _____

**Additional Approvals for Degrees:**

Board of Regents _____	Date _____
Council of Graduate Deans _____	Date _____
Academic Council of Higher Education _____	Date _____
Higher Education Department _____	Date _____
State Board of Finance _____	Date _____

Entered Banner

Entered Catalog

For Registrar's Office ONLY:

Copies Mailed

## Signature Page

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Robert C. Schenck Jr. 3/21/07  
Robert C. Schenck Jr., MD, Chair, Department of Orthopaedics Date

Ellen Cosgrove 5/9/07  
DTS/SOM Curriculum Committee Date

Paul Roth 6/19/07  
Paul Roth, Dean, UNM School of Medicine Date

Ellen Cosgrove 6/22/07  
School of Medicine Committee of Associate Deans Date

N/A  
School of Medicine Committee of Chairs Date

Please see attached minutes. 6/21/07  
School of Medicine General Faculty Date

Dean of Library Services Date

CIRT Date

Elizabeth A. Baxton 12/20/07  
Registrar's Office Date

Kasey K. Gartin 1-18-08  
Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Date

**Physical Therapy Program  
New Degree Proposal, Executive Summary  
Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)**

**Program Purpose**

The University of New Mexico Physical Therapy Program proposes to offer the professional clinical doctorate (Doctor of Physical Therapy, DPT) as the new entry level degree. The purpose of the proposed degree conversion is to 1) ensure the ongoing top quality of our graduates for the citizens of New Mexico, 2) provide an advanced curriculum to increase the competencies of graduating physical therapists (PTs) beyond that offered in the Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) curriculum and 3) better prepare physical therapists to function as independent practitioners within the scope of PT practice, qualified to adapt to the changing needs of New Mexicans in diverse, future health care environments and 4) to increase health care access in rural areas. The UNM Physical Therapy Program is the only physical therapy educational program in the State of New Mexico. The MPT degree will be phased out after full inception of the DPT curriculum. The target date for inception of the new curriculum is Fall, 2008.

This new program proposal is presented to achieve two goals: 1) to provide a curriculum that leads to an entry-level professional Doctor of Physical Therapy for students who enter the program with a baccalaureate and 2) to provide a modified curriculum that allows those UNM MPT graduates to complete the added requirements for a DPT.

Curricular changes in the DPT reflect new accreditation requirements, effective January 1, 2006, set forth by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). These new CAPTE accreditation standards indicate the Doctor of Physical Therapy as the preferred entry-level degree.

## **Need**

The overwhelming majority of practicing physical therapists in New Mexico are graduates of our program and over 70% of our graduates stay in the State to practice following graduation. According to CNN.com, physical therapy jobs are expected to grow nationally at a rate of 36.75% over the next ten years. The New Mexico Department of Labor projects a 41.9% growth in physical therapist jobs through 2012. Nationally, physical therapy educational programs have upgraded their entry level degree status to the doctoral degree at a very rapid rate, with 83% of entry level programs currently offering the DPT degree and the remaining 17% in various stages of converting to the DPT degree. The University of New Mexico Physical Therapy program has experienced a dilution in our applicant pool. Each year more of our top candidates decide to leave the state for their physical therapy education in order to receive the doctoral degree. In the current year, 4 out of 65 eligible applicants declined interviews and 10 accepted students declined positions because they had already been accepted at out-of-state DPT programs. The number of queries to our program from NM employers seeking to fill vacant PT positions has dramatically increased over the past three years. UNM PT Program graduates must be viable and competitive in the national and local job market. Further, the Program must continue to provide physical therapists for the State of New Mexico. To continue to offer an entry level masters degree will, with each passing year, continue to handicap us relative to our applicant pool and to the long term viability of our graduates. Further, we need to offer former and current UNM MPT students the opportunity to complete the added requirements for a DPT.

## **Institutional Commitment to the Program**

The University of New Mexico School of Medicine faculty voted unanimous approval of the proposed DPT curriculum. The proposal also has the personal support of Dr. Paul Roth, Executive Vice President of the UNM Health Sciences Center.