

September 26, 2018

Sandra Negley,  
Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies  
University of Utah

Dear Sandy;

I am in full support of the creation of the Masters in Recreational Therapy (MSRT) program as detailed in the program proposal. The creation of this program in our department was an element in our agreement to merge Recreational Therapy and Occupational Therapy into one department with the re-alignment of the College of Health in 2016. It is an important program for supporting Recreational Therapy in the state and the region. We have purposefully hired two new tenure track faculty in preparation for the MSRT creation. I have reviewed the program prior to its submission and carefully considered the consequences of such a program on the existing programs and other work of the department.

Sincerely,



Lorie Gage Richards, PhD, OTR/L, FAHA, FAOTA  
Chair and Associate Professor

September 26, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

With this letter I convey my full endorsement for the proposed Master of Science degree in Recreational Therapy in the College of Health at the University of Utah. A primary purpose of the recent realignment of the College of Health from 7 departments and divisions to 5 departments was the creation of a department – Occupational and Recreational Therapies – to prepare graduate students in these fields of study.

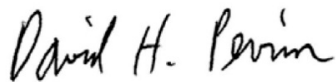
The creation of a Master's degree in Recreational Therapy is consistent with the College of Health and University of Utah's mission to improve the health of citizens of Utah and beyond. The proposed degree program will address workforce needs for licensed Master Therapeutic Recreation Specialists in Utah and beyond.

The realignment of Occupational Therapy and Recreational Therapy is creating new and exciting opportunities for interprofessional education and interprofessional practice. Graduates of the MS in Recreational Therapy will be well-prepared to work collaboratively upon graduation with other health care professionals in a variety of medical and clinical settings.

The multi-faceted rationale presented in the new academic program proposal for this program is sound and consistent with the essentials of academic program planning. The College of Health and Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies have also added research faculty that will support the teaching, research, and clinical activities of the proposed degree program.

I would be pleased to provide any additional information or justification in support of the proposed Master of Science degree in Recreational Therapy. Thank you for your consideration of this important academic program proposal.

Sincerely,



David H. Perrin, PhD  
Dean and Professor

DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES  
AND DISORDERS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
KINESIOLOGY, AND  
RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION  
AND INTEGRATIVE  
PHYSIOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL  
THERAPY AND ATHLETIC  
TRAINING

DEPARTMENT OF  
OCCUPATIONAL AND  
RECREATIONAL THERAPIES





State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT  
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SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ANN SILVERBERG WILLIAMSON  
*Executive Director*

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
DOUG THOMAS  
*Director*

Utah State Hospital  
DALLAS L. EARNSHAW  
*Superintendent*

September 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in full support of the Master of Science in Recreational Therapy (MS in RT) in the Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies (OTRT). As a member of the Recreational Therapy (RT) Advisory Board, Alumni of the MS in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT) with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation (PRT-TR), and a major employer of recreational therapists in the State of Utah, I understand the importance of a MS in RT.

The realignment of the COH in 2015 provided an opportunity to reposition the PRT-TR to the newly formed Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies (OTRT). As an Advisory Board Member, I have witnessed the excellent changes in the RT curriculum and celebrated the first BS/BA graduating class. The intention of the realignment included the move of the PRT-TR to the MS in RT, in the OTRT Department and over the last two years, the advisory board has been included in discussions regarding the development of the MS in RT and have offered suggestions and feedback.

The proposed training and academic rigor of the MS in RT aligns with other traditional healthcare professions, advances interprofessional inquiry, and provides the opportunity for advanced study in the clinical and management practices of RT. The proposed MS in RT enhances the quality of preparation of the master's student wishing to practice in the RT profession. The need for recreational therapist who are prepared to engage in advanced practice, assume administrative positions, and support evidence-based practice is essential for the profession and employers in the State of Utah.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer my support for the Master of Science in Recreational Therapy, in the Department of OTRT, in the College of Health, at the University of Utah.

Gary Ethington, M.S., MTRS, CTRS  
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September 27, 2018

Sandra K. Negley M.S., MTRS, CTRS, FDRT  
Assistant Professor  
Program Director of Recreational Therapy  
University of Utah College of Health  
Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies  
520 Wakara Way, Room 330  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

Dear Professor Negley,

The J. Willard Marriott Library appreciates your request to comment on our ability to support students earning an M.S. in Recreational Therapy.

The Marriott Library has extensive holdings to support study in recreational therapy, including media, monographs, databases and journals. The Library has been supporting scholarship in recreational therapy for decades.

The Library regularly acquires scholarly books in recreation, recreational therapy, adventure therapy, play therapy, aging, exercise programming, leisure, kinesiology and other related disciplines. Over the past eight years, the Marriott Library has purchased over 100 monographs on recreational therapy. We are able to purchase specific books and films upon request, and we encourage faculty and students to work with librarians to build Marriott Library collections in any needed areas.

The Library currently maintains subscriptions to a number of noteworthy journals that would support this degree, including: *The Annual of Therapeutic Recreation*, *Therapeutic Recreation Journal*, *International Journal of Athletic Therapy & Training*, *American Journal of Play*, the *Journal of Rehabilitation*, *International Journal of Athletic Therapy & Training*, and many other similar high-impact publications.

Students in this program will have access to a particularly strong collection of supporting databases, including: *Academic Search Ultimate*; *Academic One File*; *PubMed*; *Scopus*; *Embase*; *Web of Science*; *Physical Education Index*; *SportDiscus*; *Dissertations & Theses Global*; *PsycINFO*; *Social Services Abstracts*; *Social Work Abstracts*; *Sociological Abstracts*; *Oregon PDF*; *ERIC*; *Nursing Reference Center Plus*; *CINAHL Complete*; the *Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Collection*; the *Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Collection* and several others.

The Marriott Library offers access to a number of facilities and resources that support this program, including video and audio production studios and equipment for viewing media and games in all formats. Most recently, the Marriott Library has begun to purchase virtual reality equipment and is actively exploring the creation of dedicated teaching and learning spaces for virtual and interactive reality.

Professional library staff offer training workshops, online tutorials, and one-on-one consultations to University of Utah students and faculty. Similarly, we offer class presentations and one-to-one consultations with library specialists who will suggest appropriate research strategies and help students to locate relevant resources for their course-related and independent research projects.

The Marriott Library is looking forward to engagement with the faculty and students in this new program.

Sincerely,

**Mark England**

Mark England  
Head, Collection Management  
J. Willard Marriott Library

October 31, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

As Program Director for the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT), I am writing to confirm our full support of the Master of Science in Recreational Therapy (MS in RT), in the Department of Occupational and Recreational Therapies, in the College of Health. The creation of the MS in RT was a part of the 2015 realignment of the College of Health and the proposed degree demonstrates the increased health and interprofessional health collaboration necessary for the recreational therapy (RT) student.

PRT continues to support the students who are completing their PRT-RT Emphasis in the undergraduate and master's program as well as provide teaching and office space for the new RT program. The majority of the RT faculty are adjunct faculty in the PRT Department and the PRT faculty continue to Chair master degree committees for the PRT-RT emphasis students and serve on search and advisory committees for the OTRT Department. PRT will also continue to support RT in research methods courses relevant to thesis students. Overall, we believe the MS in RT supports the evolving needs and demands of the profession.

Please contact me if you have any further questions regarding this important academic proposal.

Sincerely,



Kelly Bricker, Ph.D.  
Professor, Director, Parks Recreation, and Tourism