

School of Health Professions

Since the UPRAC suggestions of spring 2015, several conversations have occurred between the directors/department heads of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Health and Human Performance, and Nursing. Although no specific steps have been taken to move toward the creation of a School of Health Professions, these leaders have suggested the following ideas which demonstrate current practices and/or would further enhance collaboration.

Joint hires/joint appointments – where possible, this could benefit several of these departments to cooperate in hiring individuals who would be able to teach across programs. Such positions might be a basic scientist, a bio-statistician, and/or others. In addition, a proposed future program, if approved, might also allow for identification of other possible shared faculty areas.

Grant activities – several examples of such partnerships already exist between two or more of these departments. Shared interests and focus on health-related issues have enabled faculty to work collaboratively on grants which draw upon their individual areas of expertise. These grants also demonstrate the value placed by these areas on interprofessional work, a primary emphasis for these programs and an important accreditation element.

Shared courses/faculty– Both Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy share classes which are a part of the curriculum for both programs; these shared resources and faculty allow students to see how these degrees are interrelated and also demonstrate efficient use of space and personnel. Also, these two programs share an administrative assistant and a program coordinator who oversees the admissions processes

Future plans include continuing discussions about other potential areas and regular meetings involving the leaders of each of these programs.