Cyclical Review

Executive Summary

Cyclical Review of the Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy

Degree(s):
Master of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy

Submitted to:
Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

June 8, 2015

Senate of the University of Ottawa
November 28, 2016
Executive Summary
Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy
Cyclical review year 2015-2016
Approved by the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Meeting of June 8, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Program Reviewed</th>
<th>Occupational Therapy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Master of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible academic units</td>
<td>School of Rehabilitation Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Evaluation</td>
<td>Good quality, with reports due on October 31, 2017 and May 31, 2021.</td>
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Significant Strengths of the Program

The faculty members, including part-time professors and clinicians, are experienced and highly engaged; they show a strong commitment to student and community engagement, and to the continuous improvement of the Occupational Therapy program. The program is clearly aligned with the University’s mission and academic plans.

The Francophone nature of the program is highly appreciated both within and beyond the program.

The program provides varied and innovative work-integrated learning opportunities (clinical fieldwork) for students. The interprofessional clinic is particularly valued as it provides an opportunity for authentic interprofessional collaboration in both practice and research. The program makes a conscious effort to balance the demands for theory, practice, and clinical training.

Areas for Improvement and Enhancement

Although the clinical fieldwork coordinator plays an essential role in assuring the delivery of a quality program, the part-time, contract-based nature of the position has resulted in some instability. The position has clear educational components, and a reclassification of the position to a full-time “Clinical Educator” position would allow this person to more effectively support the critically important experiential learning component of the program.

There is scope to build on the success of the interprofessional clinic by building elements of interprofessional training, and other evolving trends in the profession, more extensively into the curriculum.

While the number of faculty members is currently adequate to deliver a quality program, any planned or unplanned absences (e.g. sabbatical leave, medical leave, transfer to an administrative position) could leave the program in a precarious position. In addition, while the program can be delivered in its present form, opportunities for growth are limited unless the faculty complement is extended. Moreover, a number of possible retirements on horizon further underscore the need for developing a faculty renewal plan so that the program can continue to deliver a quality graduate education. To aid with succession planning and to facilitate a transition between program directors, it would be beneficial for
the program to formalize the program director’s job description.

Strengthening vertical communication channels in both directions, among the program, School and Faculty, will help to ensure that the program continues to run smoothly and effectively.

Recommendations

1. Re-evaluate the nature of the clinical fieldwork coordinator’s position with a view to stabilizing and extending support for the work-integrated learning components of the program.

2. Strengthen the interprofessional training element of the program, while continuing to strive for an appropriate balance between the research, practice and clinical components of the program.

3. In consultation with the Faculty of Health Sciences and the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, develop a faculty renewal plan and a formal job description for the director of the Occupational Therapy Program.

4. Strengthen vertical communication channels between program stakeholders at all levels.

Implementation Plan Overview

Calendar and Deadlines

Recommendations 1 and 2 must be addressed in the report to be submitted by October 31, 2017. A plan to address recommendation 3 must be presented in the same report to be submitted by October 31, 2017. A report on the realization of recommendation 3 is to be submitted by May 31, 2021. The remaining recommendation should be addressed at the time of the next cyclical review, which is to be completed within seven years and no later than the 2022-2023 academic years.

Authorities

The authorities who are responsible for implementing and monitoring the recommendations include the Director of the Occupational Therapy program, the Director of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, and the Dean and Vice-Dean, Academic of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Implementation and Reporting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 1</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>To be completed</th>
<th>Reporting due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re-evaluate the nature of the clinical fieldwork coordinator’s position with a</td>
<td>Program Director</td>
<td>Within 1 year</td>
<td>October 31, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>view to stabilizing and extending support for the work-integrated learning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>components of the program.</td>
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</table>

Comments

The Program Director will:

- Ensure that the program has the capacity to properly deliver and support the work-integrated learning components of the program.
- Seek the support of the School Director and Dean to meet this objective.
### Recommendation 2

**Responsibility**
- Program Director
- Program Committee

**To be completed**
- Within 1 year

**Reporting due**
- October 31, 2017

**Recommendation**
Strengthen the interprofessional training element of the program, while continuing to strive for an appropriate balance between the research, practice and clinical components of the program.

**Comments**

The Program Committee will:
- Evaluate and adjust the curriculum to ensure that it places sufficient emphasis on interprofessional training, along with other content, in line with the developments and expectations of the field.

### Recommendation 3

**Responsibility**
- Program Director
- School Director
- Dean

**To be completed**
- Within 1 year
- Within 5 years

**Reporting due**
- October 31, 2017
- May 31, 2021

**Recommendation**
In consultation with the Faculty of Health Sciences and the School of Rehabilitation Sciences:
- a. develop a faculty renewal plan
- b. implement the faculty renewal plan and develop a formal job description for the director of the Occupational Therapy Program.

**Comments**

### Recommendation 4

**Responsibility**
- Program Director
- School Director
- Dean

**To be completed**
- Ongoing

**Reporting due**
- Next cyclical review.

**Recommendation**
Strengthen vertical communication channels between program stakeholders at all levels.

**Comments**
- The various levels of academic leadership should continue working to ensure smooth communications between program stakeholders.