

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3366-19/AA/FGA
March 14-15, 2019

**SUPPORT FOR AB 829 (BLOOM) AND THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
DOCTORATE (OTD) IN THE CSU**

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) support and encourage the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees to support AB 829 (Bloom), which authorizes the CSU to offer an independent Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU affirm that OTD degree programs offered by campuses of the CSU, must be developed and approved by faculty through regular academic program review and approval processes (including individual campus academic senates) at all individual campuses; and be it further

RESOLVED: That all proposed OTD programs be developed in accordance with all appropriate national standards for such applied doctoral programs; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor, CSU campus Presidents, CSU campus Senate Chairs, CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, CSU Career Advisory Centers, California State Student Association (CSSA), California State University Alumni Council, CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association (CSU ERFSA), Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates (ICAS), Assembly Member Jose Medina, Chair of the Higher Education Committee, Assembly Member Steven S. Choi, Ph.D. , Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee.

***RATIONALE:** The demand for occupational therapists throughout California is strong. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, California exceeds the national growth projection of jobs for occupational therapists from 2016 to 2026 (24% vs 25+%), and it is estimated that California will experience an annual increase of 2,800 occupational therapy jobs between 2016 and 2026. ^{1&2} According to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, California currently ranks 44th in the nation in the level of access to occupational therapists.³*

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, *Occupational Therapists*, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm> (visited January 14, 2019).

²<https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/OccGuides/Detail.aspx?Soccode=291122&Geography=0604000001#FHOutlook>

³ <https://www2.calstate.edu/csuo-system/board-of-trustees/past-meetings/2019/Documents/jan-22-23-gov-rel.pdf>

While the demand for occupational therapists grows, state law currently prohibits the CSU from offering an independent Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree. Only 2 of the nation's 29 programs that offer an "entry level" OTD accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) are in California, and both of these are at private institutions (Samuel Merritt University in Oakland and University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences-California Campus in Oakland)⁴ In February 2019, Assembly member Richard Bloom introduced AB 829, which would authorize the California State University to establish Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree programs to focus on preparing occupational therapists to provide health care services."⁵

Currently, there are only two public occupational therapy master's programs in California, located at San José State University and CSU Dominguez Hills. The CSU's existing master's programs have been extremely successful in preparing students for careers in their field. Graduation rates for the programs are between 98 and 100 percent and graduates have a three-year pass rate of over 97 percent on their professional exams. Over 80 percent of San José State graduates are employed as occupational therapists within six months of graduation. This authority is needed at this time to ensure that the curriculum changes necessary to transition our current master's programs to doctoral programs can be made with sufficient time so that the first cohort of OTD students, anticipated to be admitted in 2022, can meet the changing professional accreditation standards. The ability of CSU programs to meet the new accreditation requirements is critical to providing health professionals in this field.

The ASCSU has offered its "Support for the Authority for the CSU to Grant Independent Professional/Clinical Doctorates" in the past (AS-2683-05/AA); allowing CSU campuses to offer independent doctorates specifically in occupational therapy will help address the ongoing shortage of occupational therapists in California. The cost for such programs would be more affordable than private schools or joint programs with UC. Access to the profession would be increased for students from historically underrepresented groups and those with socioeconomic barriers. Additionally, using the model for the Ed.D., it appears to be possible to offer such programs on a self-sustaining basis within three years.

Approved Unanimously – March 14-15, 2019

⁴ <https://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Find-School/AccreditEntryLevel/DoctoralEntryLevel.aspx>

⁵ http://ct3k1.capitoltrack.com/Bills/19Bills/asm/ab_0801-0850/ab_829_99_1_bill.htm

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2683-05/AA
January 20-21, 2005

**Support for the Authority for CSU to Grant Independent Professional/
Clinical Doctorates**

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) express its support for seeking legislative authorization for the California State University to offer, where needed and funded appropriately, independent, professional/clinical doctorates in applied fields of study; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge the Board of Trustees to pursue, as part of its legislative program, independent authority for the CSU to award professional/clinical doctorates; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU assist in this legislative effort.

***RATIONALE:** Several CSU campuses presently offer Masters degrees in audiology. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the accrediting body for professional preparation programs in audiology, speech and language pathology, has mandated that, beginning in 2007, audiologists must have an earned doctorate to attain professional certification. This will result in loss of accreditation for any audiology programs that do not offer the Au.D. including five CSU programs. The Au.D. emerged nationally during the last two decades in response to the increasing knowledge base and changing technology. Changes of this kind, where the existing entry level Masters degree is to be replaced by an applied doctorate in the appropriate field, are also possible in physical therapy and other disciplines.*

At present (January 2005), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association lists 63 universities in the US that offer the Doctor of Audiology degree, with just one (the joint program between SDSU and UCSD) in California. Among other states, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas have four, Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania have three, and many states have two. It is clear that the existing CSU programs in audiology, offered at the Long Beach, Northridge, Los Angeles, Hayward, and Sacramento campuses, will be obsolete if they are not converted into Doctor of Audiology degree programs.

At the same time, it is clear that the citizens of California need access to professional doctoral programs that grant entry-level credentials for careers in health-related and other information-rich fields. The state also needs a work

force properly educated and certified, with the appropriate degrees to deliver vital human, social, and business services.

*The Master Plan blueprint for higher education has created an evolution of academic strength that makes the CSU the best prepared and most interested in delivering many of these increasingly vital professional doctorates. Several campuses, principally San Diego State University, have enjoyed success in developing, implementing, and operating joint doctoral degrees—some of them in the aforementioned professional areas. This indicates the CSU's capacity to deliver high-quality professional doctoral education. Other areas in which applied doctorates might be offered include physical therapy, nursing, social work, communication studies, criminology, and health care administration (see *Rethinking Graduate Education in the CSU: Meeting the Needs of the People of California for Graduate Education for the 21st Century*, September, 2004).*

All of these programs require adequate funding. No CSU should implement a doctorate once authorized without an adequate funding base. Previous Academic Senate CSU resolutions regarding our historical lack of resources and the teaching load adjustments needed for advanced programs of this nature remain paramount. It is therefore necessary that the implementation of these programs be accompanied by the resources necessary to support them.

Approved Unanimously – January 20-21, 2005