



## **Amendment to Agreement**

1. This Amendment (the "Amendment") is made by the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, parties to the Rural Health Opportunity Program Agreement dated January 27, 2020 (the "Agreement").
2. The Agreement is hereby amended as follows:
  - Add the Occupational Therapy Program to the list of degree programs identified in the second paragraph of the Recitals Section on page 1.
  - Add the Occupational Therapy Program Standards to the end of Attachment A.
3. Except as set forth in this Amendment, the Agreement is unaffected and shall continue in full force and effect in accordance with its terms.

### **Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Nebraska Medical Center**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Chancellor, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (RHOP)  
PROGRAM STANDARDS for the OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (OT) OPTION  
Participants and Alternates**

**PARTICIPATING NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES (NSC):**

Chadron State College  
Peru State College  
Wayne State College

**COURSE WORK**

Participants and alternates are hereafter referred to collectively as “students”. Students must

1. Must complete all prerequisite courses for UNMC Occupational Therapy (OT) Education, listed under the UNMC Division admissions website.
2. Must complete a course of study culminating in a bachelor’s degree in four academic years. Any exception to this time frame must be approved by both the State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee.
3. Obtain approval from the undergraduate State College Occupational Therapy Advisor before registering for or dropping any class.

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

The following Academic Standards apply to remain in good standing and continue in the Nebraska State College (NSC) phase of the RHOP OT Option. Students must

1. Earn a “C-” or better in the required prerequisite courses (see UNMC Division website).
2. Maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) and a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher.

**ACADEMIC PROBATION**

RHOP academic probation will be allowed for only *one* semester. Probation is recommended and communicated by the designated State College Occupational Therapy Advisor responsible for monitoring student performance. The State College Occupational Therapy Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee, will determine student requirements to improve academic performance to be removed from RHOP academic probation. RHOP academic probation results if a student:

1. Earns less than a “C-” in any course. The course must be retaken and the student will be placed on RHOP academic probation the following semester.
2. Cumulative or semester GPA falls below 3.0.
3. Withdraws from one or more classes which results in dropping below the required full-time academic enrollment status (defined as 12 credit hours per semester)
4. Withdraws from all classes without prior approval of the State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee.

**DISMISSAL**

Dismissal from RHOP constitutes formal action by the UNMC OT RHOP Committee in consultation with the NSC institution. The student will be dismissed from the RHOP Program if the student does not:

1. Comply with the terms of an academic probation.
2. Complete all of the recommendations for improving academic performance.
3. Obtain a grade of “C-” or better in a required course that has been retaken.
4. Raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher after one semester of remediation.
5. Satisfactorily complete the NSC coursework as defined by academic standards for good standing.
6. Satisfactorily complete the professional development requirements.

Immediate dismissal from RHOP may result from illegal or unprofessional behavior. A copy of the dismissal notice and terms provided to the student by the NSC institution will be shared with the Chair of the OT RHOP Committee.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THE NSC PHASE**

A student who chooses the RHOP OT Option is expected to be dedicated to a career in rural practice. To enhance their understanding and knowledge of the field, students are expected to:

1. Log professional development using the Discovering Occupational Therapy format (see UNMC Division website). Some of the experiences must be relate to rural Nebraska so the student develops significant knowledge of occupational therapy practice in rural Nebraska.
2. Logs must be submitted electronically to the State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP at the end of each semester.
3. Attend required events conducted by UNMC for RHOP participants.
4. Visit UNMC at the Omaha or Kearney campus during regularly scheduled RHOP trips.
5. Visit, work, or volunteer with persons across a variety of age ranges in a variety of settings (school, hospital, community center, camp, clinic, day care, nursing home, health screen, etc.).
6. Participate in on-campus activities that enhance their ability to interact with people.
7. Write a reflection paper summarizing their professional development across semesters. Submit this as part of the application materials for admission to the UNMC Professional Program.

### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DURING THE NSC PHASE**

#### **PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING DATE OF ENTRY**

Any RHOP student wishing to change the date of admission into the professional phase of the program must petition in writing to both the undergraduate State College Occupational Therapy Advisor and the Chair of the UNMC OT RHOP Committee. The petition should state in detail the reasons for the requested change, the proposed new date of admissions, and what academic preparation will continue for entry into the OT professional program at UNMC. A decision whether to allow the change or not will be made as soon as possible after the submission of the request.

#### **ALTERNATE TRANSITION TO PARTICIPANT STATUS**

In the event that any of the candidates selected as participants in this class and in this option decide not to accept a position, withdraw after entering the program, or are dismissed from the program, the RHOP admissions interview team from UNMC and the undergraduate institution may select a replacement from among the alternates in that class. Academic accomplishments, progress within the curriculum, and participation in professional development activities as described in the Program Standards will be considered in the selection of an alternate to fill each vacancy. A second interview may be requested.

#### **ENTRANCE OF PARTICIPANTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM**

While successful completion of the requirements for the NSC phase of the Occupational Therapy Option will normally guarantee admission to the UNMC professional phase of the program, students must also complete the formal application and interview process during their final undergraduate year. Prior to matriculation into the professional phase, the student must:

1. Meet all academic and professional development standards and personal behavior requirements according to the RHOP Agreement and Standards.
2. Apply through the Occupational Therapist Central Application Service (OTCAS) following designated deadlines of the senior year.
3. Submit a reflection paper (noted above) before the interview summarizing his/her professional development through Discovering Occupational Therapy activities.

4. Interview with the UNMC Occupational Therapy Education Admissions Committee to evaluate the student's readiness for professional study at UNMC.

Students failing to demonstrate adequate professional development, in the judgment of the UNMC Occupational Therapy Education Admissions Committee, will be denied admission to the Professional Program.

### **CAMPUS ASSIGNMENT**

The UNMC OT Program has two campuses, Omaha and Kearney. RHOP participants, upon successful completion of the NSC Phase, are eligible to attend either campus. Campus assignments will be made by the OT Program with every attempt to honor the applicant's preference. Priority for campus assignment preference is based on the strength of the application and the OT program interview per the UNMC Admissions Committee procedures for all applicants. Applicants with quality direct patient care experience, shadowing and patient care hours above the minimum requirements, high grades in required pre-requisite coursework, and a strong interview are most likely to receive their preferred campus assignment. Final campus assignments are at the discretion of the UNMC OT Program.