

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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October 29, 2018

TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Jean Standard, Chairperson, University Curriculum Committee
RE: Executive Summary – Proposal for the New Allied Health Professions Sequence

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached proposal from the School of Kinesiology and Recreation for a new Allied Health Professions Sequence in the Major in Exercise Science.

The School of Kinesiology and Recreation provided a reasonable rationale for adding this new sequence:

- Over the last nine years, the proportion of students within the Exercise Science major who identify at graduation as intending to follow a career in one of the allied health fields (physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician's assistant, athletic training, and nursing) has grown from 25% to 60%. In addition, the pre-professional advisor on campus has provided estimates of around 160 non-exercise science undergraduate students at ISU who are pursuing one of physical therapy, occupational therapy, or physician's assistant pre-professional paths. Currently, each of these students must continuously consult with their advisor or advisors so that they take the necessary prerequisites prior to graduation to ensure they are eligible for the relevant graduate program for their career path. This new sequence should provide a clearer path for students interested in these fields.
- It is also worth noting that interest in these career paths (physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician's assistant, athletic training, nursing) seems consistent throughout Illinois, and yet ISU does not currently have a major designed specifically to attract students interested in these careers. It is felt that this new sequence would have the potential to attract significant numbers of new students to ISU that previously would not have chosen to come here due to the absence of such a degree.

This new sequence incorporates the majority of the recommended prerequisite courses currently identified for the allied health professions career paths by the pre-professional advisor at ISU. These are blended with a selection of existing courses in exercise science to provide a well-rounded introduction to each of the sub-disciplines of exercise science: Functional anatomy, exercise physiology, sport and exercise psychology, biomechanics, and motor behavior.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new sequence.

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Attachments