Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

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Mission Statement

Through excellent teaching, research and service to the community, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is committed to enhancing quality of life, promoting participation and autonomy, and improving function for citizens in Alberta and beyond.

171 The Professors

171.1 Teaching and Scholarship

In recognition of excellence in teaching, Professor Shaniff Esmaiil was selected as the 2010 recipient of the Faculty Teaching Award. Other teaching award recipients for 2010 are Melissa Skoczyla for the Faculty Sessional Teaching Award, and Christine Daum for the Graduate Student Teaching Award.

171.2 Members of the Faculty

Officers of the Faculty

Dean and Professor
M Ferguson-Pell, PhD

Associate Deans—
Professional Programs and Teaching
L Taylor, PhD

Associate Dean—Graduate Studies and Research
J Holstein, PhD

Professor Emeritus
T Valeman, MD, PhD

Professors
D Bennett, PhD
K Fouad, PhD
S Warren, PhD

Assistant Professor
K Adams, PhD

Adjunct Professors
S Kong, PhD
G Faulkner, PhD
S Hagisawa, PhD
J Wolfaardt, PhD

Adjunct Associate Professors
J Anderson, PhD
D Dyer, PhD
G Maier, MSc
M Pasdar, PhD

Adjunct Assistant Professors
J Anderson, MSc
I Henderson, BA, DSPE
S Leew, PhD
S Smith, PhD
J VanderZalm, PhD
J Wakefield, PhD

Assistant Dean—
Administration and External Relations
A Yates

Director of Development
M Robb

Research Facilitator
J DePauw

Manager of Communications
L Wang, PhD

Occupational Therapy

Professor and Chair
L Liu, PhD

Professors Emeriti
BB Fifield, MSc
V Hollis, PhD
HM Madill, PhD

Professors
Y Bhambhani, PhD
ES Brintnell, MSc, BOT, Dip P and OT
J Magill-Evans, PhD
D McConnell, PhD
J Misiaszek, PhD

Associate Professors
C Brown, PhD
S Esmail, PhD
M Miyazaki, PhD
E Taylor, PhD

Assistant Professors
S Bremault-Phillips, PhD
A Leung, PhD

Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education
C Schmitz, MEd, BScOT

Administrative Officer
K Shuttle, MA

Adjunct Professor
A Alsop, PhD

Adjunct Associate Professors
G Chand, PhD
M Iwama, PhD
S Mulhallian, MSc, BOT
J Shankar, PhD
P Weilandt, PhD

Adjunct Assistant Professors
L Miller, MSc
N Reynolds, BScOT
W Tilley, BScOT

Clinical Lecturers
L Able-Webster, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
N Allende, LifeMark Health Centre NB
D Ambrose, Ryan Fitzpatrick Occupational Therapist Services
A Amini, Community Rehabilitation Program
L Anderson, Hazelton School (Early Education Program)
M Anderson, Peace Country Health - Mental Health
H Barnett, St Therese Health Centre
K Beckers, Alberta Children’s Hospital
M Benson, Grey Nuns Community Hospital
K Boldt, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
S Boodram, Red Deer 49th Street Community Health Centre
Y Bowin, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital
W Brandt, Home Care Calgary
L Brutelas, Regina General Hospital

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172 General Information

The importance of Medical Rehabilitation was recognized by the University when it established a program in Physical Therapy in 1954 and a program in Occupational Therapy in 1960. The Division of Speech Pathology and Audiology first offered courses in 1969.

172.1 Undergraduate Programs

The Department of Occupational Therapy is currently not admitting students to the BScOT Program. Students interested in occupational therapy must apply to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MScOT) program. Please refer to §205.52.1 Occupational Therapy Graduate Studies and Research General Information section of the Calendar. Contact the Department for more information.

All students must undertake clinical practice during their course of study in approved institutions under the supervision of qualified professional staff. Students will be required to complete some fieldwork/clinical placements in the summer months and may include regional, national and international locations. Students must travel in order to meet the clinical education requirement. Students are responsible for the costs associated with fieldwork/clinical placements (e.g., travel, accommodation, appropriate dress and immunization expenses).

172.2 Programs for Master’s Degrees

The Faculty offers master’s degrees in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Language Pathology as well as a doctoral program in Rehabilitation Science. Refer to 4205 Graduate Studies and Research section of the Calendar for program details.

172.3 Membership in Professional Associations

Occupational Therapy

Graduates from the Occupational Therapy program may be eligible for membership in the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).

To establish eligibility, CAOT requires successful completion of a certification examination.

Physical Therapy

Graduates from the Physical Therapy program may apply for membership in the Canadian Physiotherapy Association and the College of Physical Therapists of Alberta.

Provincial Licensing: In order to be a practising physical therapist in the Province of Alberta, graduates from the Physical Therapy Program at the University of Alberta are required to take the Physiotherapy Competency Examination which consists of both written (Qualifying Examination) and clinical (Physiotherapy National Examination) examinations. The fee for the examination is the responsibility of the student. Information on the cost of the examination can be obtained from the College of Physical Therapists of Alberta (CPTA). Successful completion of the PNE will enable graduating physical therapists to practice in Alberta. Contact (780) 438-0338 for more information.

Speech Pathology and Audiology

All graduates who intend to be certified to practice in Alberta are required to join the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (ACSLPA) and are eligible to join the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA). Applications may be obtained from ACSLPA at Suite 209, 3132 Parsons Road, Edmonton AB T6N 1L6 (phone: 1-800-537-0580) and from CASLPA at Suite 920 - 1 Nicholas St, Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7.

Provincial Licensing

Graduates from all programs intending to practise in Canada must comply with provincial licensing requirements regardless of their professional qualifications.

Employment in Other Countries

Information regarding practice in other countries may be obtained from the appropriate professional organization, which also advises on the degree of reciprocity of registration to be expected.

172.4 Budget

In the Department of Occupational Therapy, a $30 Sundries Fee is charged in the third and fourth years of the program.
Therapy normally consists of completing 12 or more courses offered by the University of Alberta on or off campus in Fall/Winter or Spring/Summer, of which at least 18 must be taken within a 12-month period.

(9) First-Class Standing: For the purposes of granting First-Class Standing and for granting awards open to students in more than one Department in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, a full normal academic course load is defined as a minimum of 30 taken during Fall/Winter.

(10) Academic and Clinical Requirements: To graduate, a student must meet the academic and clinical requirements outlined in the Calendar.

(11) Degree With Distinction: The Degree “With Distinction” is granted to students who obtain a minimum GPA of 3.5 in each of the final two years (third and fourth years) of the program, in each of which the student must take a minimum of 18 in Fall/Winter. Post Diploma Degree Completion students are not eligible to receive the Degree With Distinction.

(12) Repeating Courses
a. Students may repeat a failed course only once.

b. Students registered in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine may not repeat any successfully completed course in their program.

c. Students in any Faculty may not repeat for credit any successfully completed course offered by the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

(13) Reexamination Criteria: See §23.5.

173.3 Credit by Special Assessment

A student admitted to a degree program in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine may receive degree credit in a limited number of courses for knowledge or skill obtained in either a university or non-university context. “Non-university context” may include work completed at institutions not accredited for degree purposes or work experience that relates to university courses. The following conditions apply:

(1) Limitations
a. Number of courses allowed: Normally, only 12 obtained by special assessment may be applied to a four-year degree program in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. In exceptional circumstances, on the recommendation of a Department Chair, the Dean may permit additional credits by special assessment.

b. A student may attempt credit by special assessment only once for each course.

c. Courses not accepted: Graduate courses and certain undergraduate courses cannot be attempted by special assessment. Please contact Department concerned for courses in this category.

d. Special Students may not take courses under this category.

(2) Timing of Assessment (Deadlines): Examination or assessment must be completed three months from the date of application for credit by special assessment. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, students who do not complete assessment requirements by the specified deadline are considered to have cancelled their application and must reapply if they want to complete that assessment.

(3) Transfer of “Credit by Special Assessment”: Students who have obtained credits by special assessment (or similar means) while enrolled in another university, college, Faculty, or school are given advance credit in such courses only to the extent that the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine accepts such courses in its degree programs.

(4) Grades Assigned to Special Assessment Courses: In a course attempted by special assessment, the results are recorded either as a grade point or pass/fail according to the practice in the regular course. Students may not appeal the results in a course attempted by special assessment. Courses attempted by special assessment and failed are recorded on students’ transcripts and computed into their academic records.

(5) Fees: For information regarding fees, please refer to §22.2.

173.4 Practicum Intervention Policy

The Dean, or supervisor acting on behalf of the Dean, may immediately deny assignment of a student to, withdraw a student from, or vary terms, conditions, or site of practicum/clinical placement if the Dean or supervisor has reasonable grounds to believe that this is necessary in order to protect the public interest. Refer to §23.8.2 Practicum Intervention Policy for additional information.

173.5 Fieldwork/Clinical Practice Requirements

(1) Procedures: The procedures governing fieldwork/clinical practice are binding and will be provided in a procedures manual. Also refer to §174.1 and for information specific to the Occupational Therapy program.

(2) Fieldwork/Clinical Practice at Sites: When students attend required fieldwork/clinical placements at approved institutions, students will also follow the administrative procedures and regulations of that institution. Students must attend fieldwork/clinical placement orientation seminars.

(3) CPR Certification: Students in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine must obtain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before entering their clinical fieldwork placements. All fees and other costs for CPR certification and recertification are the students’ responsibility. Students must maintain their certification by recertifying in each of the subsequent years they are in the program.

Occupational therapy students may complete approved CPR certification courses offered elsewhere.

(4) Security Clearance Check: Students should be aware that under the Protection for Persons in Care Act, they may be required to satisfy a criminal records check before being allowed to serve a period of internship, practicum placement, work experience or to complete a course requirement. Refer to §23.8.3.

(5) Immunization Requirements and Bloodborne Pathogens Policy: Rehabilitation Medicine students are health care professionals who will be exposed to patients during the course of studies at the University. To ensure, insofar as possible, both student and patient safety, the Faculty requires immunization, or proof of immunity, to poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and hepatitis B. As well, varicella titre and TB testing are required. A two-step tuberculin skin test is required in the first year of the program and should be performed by the University of Alberta Health Centre.

The University of Alberta recognizes its duty to minimize the risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens to/ by individuals studying or working at this University. The Bloodborne Pathogens Policy limits the possibility of bloodborne pathogens within the educational setting. The University recognizes, however, that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of infection. Refer to §20.5 University Bloodborne Pathogens Policy, for additional information.

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, in accordance with University policies and other available guidelines, has developed the following policies concerning bloodborne pathogens. These policies will be reviewed and adapted as further information becomes available.

Hepatitis B: Hepatitis B surface antigen testing will be performed by the University of Alberta Health Centre. For those students who test negative for hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAG), hepatitis B vaccination will be required. An exception will be made for those individuals who have proof of prior vaccination and test positive for antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen (antiHbs). After vaccination, students will receive a second test to determine if they have converted to produce the appropriate antibody titre. If they have not converted they will receive a second vaccination and again be tested. Those students who then fail to convert will be counselled as to their potential risk status during training and future practice.

For those students who test positive for HbsAG, their “e” antigen (HBeAG) status and the presence of hepatitis B viral DNA will be determined. If they are found to be positive for the “e” antigen or the viral DNA they will be counselled as to their risk of infecting patients.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV): The data relating to transmission of HIV from a health care worker to a patient in a health care setting are limited. Transmission from patients to a health care worker is more common. All students accepted into the Faculty are encouraged to undergo HIV testing at any time during their program when concerns about infection have arisen. Testing for HIV is not mandatory.

Immunization/bloodborne pathogen requirements must be fulfilled by the date published in the fieldwork/clinical placement procedures manual. Students must sign a waiver if they are unable to meet these requirements due to medical contraindication.

Note: For updates on changes to medical testing and immunization refer to the Faculty Office.

(6) Fit Testing for Respirator Mask, as required.

(7) Dress requirements: Students will be advised of dress requirements at the time of registration.
A student who has been assigned a grade of “W” or “NC” in a practicum placement is entitled to a second registration in this course, subject to prerequisites.

Students attend all listed hours of instruction. Students with any absences from an OCCTH 486 module with a doctor’s note will receive a grade of NC (failure, no grade point value assigned). Reexaminations are not permitted. Students with any absences from an OCCTH 486 module with a doctor’s note will receive a “W.”

A student who receives one “NC” in any OCCTH 486 module must either fail the second time in that same OCCTH 486 module, if it is offered, and pay the required course fees, or register and pay the required course fees for an additional OCCTH 486 module on the same or similar topic. If a student receives two “NC” grades for any OCCTH 486 module, the student is required to withdraw from the Department of Occupational Therapy. Students may appeal a grade of “NC” received for an OCCTH 486 module in accordance with §§23.8 and 173.6.

174.2 Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation Medicine

Master of Science degrees are offered in the areas of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech/Language Pathology. The Faculty also offers a MSc and PhD in Rehabilitation Science. See §205.

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine offers a number of credit post-baccalaureate certificate programs which formally acknowledge the study of particular themes within the rehabilitation discipline. The programs are designed to build on existing expertise of practicing clinicians and current students. The certificate programs provide both profession-specific as well as interdisciplinary evidence-based content and are offered in various formats which may include distance technologies and face-to-face learning. See §205.68.4.

175 Courses

Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine courses can be found in §231, Course Listings, under the following subject headings:

- Occupational Therapy (OCCTH)
- Physical Therapy (PTHER)
- Rehabilitation Medicine (REHAB)
- Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPA)