

**Graduate Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2026
UC 221, 4:00 pm**

Members Present: Cynthia Chovich, Cassidy Herringer, John Reece, Tess Shideler, Erik Packard, Christi Sanders Via, Austin Hanson, Barry Laga, Bridget Marshall, Justin Pomeranz, Jonathan Hinkle, and KyoungHwa Oh

Members Absent: Jill Van Brussel

Ex-officio members present: Robert Cackler, Janel Davis, Maygen Simm, and Barbara Borst

Recording Secretary: Lisa Bessette

Chair Chovich called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

I. Announcements

A. None.

II. Ex-Officio Reports

A. Senior Associate Vice President

i. No update.

B. Registrar's Office

i. No update.

C. Financial Aid

i. No update.

D. Library

i. No update.

E. Catalog Description Reviewer

i. No update.

F. SLO Reviewer

i. No update.

III. Old Business

A. None.

IV. Curriculum Proposals

A. Curriculum proposals begin on page 3.

V. Information Items

A. None.

VI. New Business

A. Chair Covich reminded committee representatives to notify her of their replacements if their terms expire this year.

- B. Election of Vice Chair and Chair: Herringer motioned, with a second from Marshall, to nominate Cynthia Chovich as GCC Chair for academic year 2026-2027. The committee voted and unanimously approved Cynthia Chovich for GCC Chair. There were no nominees for Vice Chair. Chair Chovich asked the committee to consider the position further and a Vice Chair will be elected at the first committee meeting of academic year 2026-2027.

Reece motioned to adjourn and with no objections from the committee, Chair Chovich adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.

GCC Proposals

April 1, 2026

Effective Term - Summer 2026

Programs

The following is a summary: Additional information can be found on the individual curriculum proposals.

Program	Degree	Committee Action	Motion Second
8158: Occupational Therapy	MS	Program Modification – Approved	Hinkle Pomeranz

GCC Discussion: 1.) New Accreditation Standards - ACOTE recently published new accreditation Standards that went into effect in July of 2025. The SLOs and topical course outline have been updated to reflect the new standards. 2.) The faculty requested a change in the program start date from the spring semester (January) to the fall semester (August), and the Suggested Course Plan has been updated accordingly. This change is needed for the following reasons: Most occupational therapy programs start in fall and align with OTCAS, which currently has two admissions cycles causing confusion. A fall start would unify cycles, match other universities, and allow applications when most students apply, clarifying admissions. Most undergraduates graduate in spring and start graduate studies in fall, but our students wait about 8 months to begin in January. Moving to a fall start would shorten this wait and reduce the “melt” of students accepting seats but leaving for fall start programs. In the future, we would like to develop a 3+2 program. Changing to a fall start would be necessary to align with the traditional undergraduate academic calendar. Provide clarity on the program and the new fall start date for the 2 different cohorts. To avoid hindering current students' progression in the program, we created a new prefix to replace OCCU; the new prefix is OCTH. Every OCCU course was transitioned to OCTH, but they remain available until students in catalog years who need OCCU courses are complete. 3.) The Program Overview section has been revised to reflect the updated accreditation standards established by ACOTE and NBCOT, which took effect in July 2025. These revisions include the incorporation of program completion requirements related to certification examinations and state licensure, in alignment with the new accreditation criteria. Additionally, the Admissions Requirements subsection has been updated to specify a minimum GPA of 3.0 for both undergraduate and prerequisite coursework, consistent with current accreditation expectations. The section now also includes updated contact information for the Occupational Therapy program at CMU, as well as for the ACOTE Accreditation department. 4.) The addition of the new prefix of OCHT for the fall start cohort was created to make the course sequence clearer and in numerical order, as well as to ensure the proper structure of content. The new OCHT courses were created to fill the content gaps that were missing between the previous OCCU program content and the new OCHT ACOTE requirements.

Change Item Description

List all proposed changes to the program:

Department Justification

1. SLOs & Topical Course Outline updated to reflect new ACOTE standards.
2. Change in Start Date to Fall semester. Program Specific Courses/ Requirements and Suggested Course Plans updated to have a Spring 2026 Cohort following the OCCU sequence of courses and the Fall 2026 Cohort following the OCHT sequence of courses. SLO table was updated to add OCHT coursework. Due to this start date change, to avoid hindering current students' progression in the program, we created a new prefix to replace OCCU; the new prefix is OCHT. Every OCCU course was transitioned to OCHT but will still be offered until students who are in catalog years where they need OCCU courses are complete.
3. Updated Program Overview content to include the new

ACOTE (Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education) Accreditation and NBCOT (National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy) standards required for the Master of Occupational Therapy Program, enacted July 2025. Updates were also made to the Admissions Requirements in the Program Overview section.

4. Added the following courses using the new Fall start cohort prefix of OCHT.

- The following courses are new courses with OCHT prefix and were created to fulfill the new accreditation course requirements outlined by the ACOTE: OCHT 517, OCHT 518, OCHT 519, OCHT 521, OCHT 526, OCHT 536, OCHT 537, and OCHT 545.

- The following courses were created under the OCHT prefix as equivalent courses to the OCCU prefix courses with the same course numbers but with minor course changes to align with ACOTE requirements: OCCU 513 to OCHT 513, OCCU 516 to OCHT 516, OCCU 550 to OCHT 555, and OCCU 594 to OCHT 594.

- The following courses were created under the OCHT prefix as equivalent courses to the OCCU prefix courses but with different course numbers and minor course changes made to align with ACOTE requirements: OCCU 515 to OCHT 535, OCCU 534 to OCHT 544, and OCCU 523 to OCHT 545.

- The following courses were created under the OCHT prefix as equivalent courses to the OCCU prefix courses with the same course numbers but with changes in credit values and titles: OCCU 512 is a 2-credit hour course – OCHT 512 was created with an increase in credit hour to 3 credit hours, OCCU 520 is a 3-credit hour course – OCHT 520 was created with a decrease in credit hour to 2 credit hours, OCCU 522 is a 2-credit hour course – OCHT 522 was created with an increase in credit hour to 3 credit hours, OCCU 542 is a 4-credit hour course – OCHT 542 was created with a decrease in credit hour to 3 credit hours, OCCU 551 is a 1-credit hour course – OCHT 551 was created with an increase in credit hour to 2 credit hours, OCCU 552 is a 1-credit hour course – OCHT 552 was created with an increase in credit hour to 2 credit hours, OCCU 553 is a 1-credit hour course – OCHT 553 was created with an increase in credit hour to 2 credit hours, OCCU 554 is a 9-credit hour course – OCHT 554 was created with a decrease in credit hour to 6 credit hours, OCCU 555 is a 9-credit hour course – OCHT 555 was created with a decrease in credit hour to 6 credit hours, and OCCU 593 is a 1-credit hour course – OCHT 593 was created with an increase in credit hour to 2 credit hours.

- The following courses were created under the OCHT prefix as equivalent courses to the OCCU prefix courses with the different course numbers and with changes in credit values and titles (content the same): OCCU 510 is a 2-credit hour course – OCHT 528 was created with an increase in credit hour to 3-credit hours, OCCU 550 is a 1-credit hour course – OCHT 538

was created with an increase in credit hour to 2 credit hours, and OCCU 540 is a 2-credit hour course – OCH 548 was created with an increase in credit hour to 3- credit hours.

Effective Term - Summer 2026		Courses	
The following is a summary: Additional information can be found on the individual curriculum proposals.			
Title	Credits	Committee Action	Motion Second
OCTH 512: Foundational Skills in Occupational Therapy	3	Course Addition - Approved	Herringer Marshall
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 512 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 512 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 513: Functional Anatomy	4	Course Addition - Approved	Herringer Marshall
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 513 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 513 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 516: Applied Theories in Occupational Therapy	2	Course Addition - Approved	Herringer Marshall
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 516 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 516 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 517: Applied Kinesiology in Occupational Therapy	2	Course Addition - Approved	Herringer Marshall
GCC Discussion: 1) The Occupational Therapy faculty has identified weaknesses and knowledge gaps in the curriculum that interfere with teaching and learning for both faculty and students.			
2) The existing curriculum utilized the anatomy lab to teach skills typically found in a kinesiology course (range of motion, transfers, manual muscle testing, etc.). Therefore, the OT students never utilized the			

cadaver lab as it was intended. Creating a designated kinesiology course will allow the students to use the anatomy lab time as it was intended.

3) The Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) created new standards for all master's level occupational therapy graduate programs. The new Standards went into effect July 2025. Based on these changes, the Occupational Therapy faculty proposed changes that align with the updated Standards.

Change Item Description	Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report		

OCTH 518: Creative Occupations	2	Course Addition - Approved	Herringer Marshall
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GCC Discussion: 1) The Occupational Therapy faculty has identified weaknesses and knowledge gaps in the curriculum that interfere with teaching and learning for both faculty and students. 2) The current curriculum has knowledge gaps related to activity analysis, the the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF), and professional reasoning. The faculty would like to add this course because it emphasizes experiential learning to build foundational knowledge and skills in these areas. 3) The Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) created new standards for all master's level occupational therapy graduate programs. The new Standards went into effect July 2025. Based on these changes, the Occupational Therapy faculty proposed changes that align with the updated Standards.

Change Item Description	Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report		

OCTH 519: Evidence-Based Practice	2	Course Addition - Approved	Herringer Marshall
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GCC Discussion: 1) The Occupational Therapy faculty has identified weaknesses and knowledge gaps in the curriculum that interfere with teaching and learning for both faculty and students. 2) Under the current curriculum, students are not exposed to evidence-based decision making (locating and evaluating articles, scholarly writing) until the second semester of the program. Adding this course would ensure these skills are introduced in the first semester and reinforced throughout the remainder of the program. 3) The Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) created new standards for all master's level occupational therapy graduate programs. The new Standards went into effect July 2025. Based on these changes, the Occupational Therapy faculty proposed changes that align with the updated Standards.

Change Item Description	Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report		

OCTH 520: Neuroanatomy	2	Course Addition - Approved	Hinkle Oh
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GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 520 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 520 under the updated OCTH designation.

Change Item Description	Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report		

OCTH 521: Occupational Therapy Assessment and Evaluation	3	Course Addition - Approved	Hinkle Oh
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GCC Discussion: 1) The Occupational Therapy faculty has identified weaknesses and knowledge gaps in the curriculum that interfere with teaching and learning for both faculty and students. 2) The faculty believe

it would be beneficial to add a course that builds skills in administering, scoring, and interpreting assessments. Introducing these skills early in the program and providing opportunities to practice will ensure students are prepared to apply what they have learned throughout the remainder of the program and during fieldwork. 3) The Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) created new standards for all master's level occupational therapy graduate programs. The new Standards went into effect July 2025. Based on these changes, the Occupational Therapy faculty proposed changes that align with the updated Standards. 4) To facilitate the transition from a spring cohort start to a fall cohort start, the course prefix has been changed from OCCU to OCHT. This change supports a clearer and more streamlined transition for students entering under the new fall cohort model.

Change Item Description	Old	New
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New proposal: no changes to report

OCHT 522: Conditions in Occupational Therapy	3	Course Addition - Approved	Hinkle Oh
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GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 522 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCHT, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 522 under the updated OCHT designation.

Change Item Description	Old	New
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New proposal: no changes to report

OCHT 526: Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics I	3	Course Addition - Approved	Hinkle Oh
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GCC Discussion: This course and OCHT 536 will replace OCCU 531 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. The content is being split between this course and OCHT 536 to provide greater breadth and depth of knowledge to better prepare students for pediatric practice. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCHT, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course and OCHT 536 will take the place of OCCU 531 under the updated OCHT designation.

Change Item Description	Old	New
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New proposal: no changes to report

OCHT 528: Research I	3	Course Addition - Approved	Hinkle Oh
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GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 510 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCHT, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 510 under the updated OCHT designation.

Change Item Description	Old	New
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New proposal: no changes to report

OCHT 535: Physical Rehabilitation I	4	Course Addition - Approved	Pomeranz Hinkle
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GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 515 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCHT, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 515 under the updated OCHT designation.

Change Item Description	Old	New
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New proposal: no changes to report

OCTH 536: Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics II	3	Course Addition - Approved	Pomeranz Hinkle
GCC Discussion: This course and OCTH 526 will replace OCCU 531 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. The content is being split between this course and OCTH 526 to provide greater breadth and depth of knowledge to better prepare students for pediatric practice. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course and OCTH 526 will take the place of OCCU 531 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
			Pomeranz Hinkle
OCTH 537: Leadership and Management in Occupational Therapy	2	Course Addition - Approved	Pomeranz Hinkle
GCC Discussion: This course is combining topics from OCCU 541: Leadership and Ethics and OCCU 543: Professional Development Preparation. This is necessary to help students build a realistic and comprehensive understanding of the roles and responsibilities associated with leadership roles.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 538: Research II	3	Course Addition - Approved	Pomeranz Hinkle
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 530 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 530 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 542: Community-Based Practice in Occupational Therapy	3	Course Addition - Approved	Marshall Herringer
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 542 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 542 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 544: Mental Health in Occupational Therapy	3	Course Addition - Approved	Marshall Herringer
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 534 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 534 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			

OCTH 545: Physical Rehabilitation II	4	Course Addition - Approved	Marshall Herringer
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 523 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 523 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 548: Research III	3	Course Addition - Approved	Marshall Herringer
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 540 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 540 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 550: Fieldwork Level IA and Seminar	1	Course Addition - Approved	Laga Pomeranz
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 550 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 550 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 551: Fieldwork Level IB and Seminar	2	Course Addition - Approved	Laga Pomeranz
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 551 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 551 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 552: Fieldwork Level IC and Seminar	2	Course Addition - Approved	Laga Pomeranz
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 552 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 552 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			

OCTH 553: Fieldwork Level 2 ID and Seminar	2	Course Addition - Approved	Laga Pomeranz
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 553 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 553 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 554: Fieldwork Level IIA	6	Course Addition - Approved	Laga Pomeranz
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 554 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 554 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 555: Fieldwork Level IIB	6	Course Addition - Approved	Laga Pomeranz
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 555 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 555 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 593: Occupational Therapy Culminating Experience	2	Course Addition - Approved	Marshall Herringer
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 593 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 593 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			
OCTH 594: Fieldwork Seminar	1	Course Addition - Approved	Marshall Herringer
GCC Discussion: This course will replace OCCU 594 for the new Fall-start cohort beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Due to the substantial revisions made to the OCCU curriculum, a new course prefix, OCTH, has been established for this cohort. As a result, this course will take the place of OCCU 594 under the updated OCTH designation.			
Change Item Description		Old	New
New proposal: no changes to report			