# Graduate Council Motion to Approve Occupational Therapy, 12/8/16

The Graduate Council moves to approve the creation of a new department and master’s program in [Occupational Therapy](http://www.umt.edu/winapps/media2/facultysenate/committees/grad_council/Science/Occupational%20Therapy%20MS/OT_Curr%20BE%20edits.pdf) (OT) on academic merit with the following considerations for the Faculty Senate.  The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) funded a [feasibility study](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/Occupational%20Therapy%20Program%20Feasibility%20Study%20as%20of%209%2015%2016.docx) that clearly identifies the need for an OT program in the state of Montana.  The proposal submitted by Dean Humphrey demonstrates academic merit and provides a plan towards accreditation. Further, as outlined in the letter of support from interim [Provost Edmond (11‑28‑16)](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/documents/FSDocs%2016-17/edmond015%20Response%20to%20Graduate%20Council_OT.docx), funds to start this new program could come from several external sources or through UM program reallocation (Program Prioritization). The GC has deep concerns about the lack of committed funding sources essential for program development and start-up.   Specifically, the GC feels that an OT (or other) program that does not exist and is needed to serve the state of Montana should be provided with start-up funding from the state, or other external sources, and not through reallocation, which could weaken already struggling programs.