

# School of Allied Health

## Summary of Course Fee Proposal

### Bachelor of Science and Master of Occupational Therapy

The Department of Occupational Therapy Education is proposing a FY 2010 course fee of \$100 per credit hour for the entry level Bachelor of Science and Master of Occupational Therapy degree (MOT). To support the costs of clinical laboratories, students currently pay laboratory fees that are paid directly to the department, and thus are not included within the student's financial aid package. With the implementation of this course fee, the cost can be included in the student's financial aid package and the departmental laboratory fees discontinued.

Each year the department accepts 32 students into the entry-level occupational therapy degree program. During the first year, students complete their Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Studies. Students must spend two additional years in graduate education to complete their studies and earn a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree.

The BS/MOT program consists of 82 credit hours, and is taught by tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, research faculty and clinical faculty. In addition, occupational therapists from the community assist in providing content-specific lectures in specialized areas. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA's) assist in the clinical laboratory courses and other courses where the student-faculty ratio needs to be smaller.

This course fee would allow KU to continue developing its nationally recognized OT program and maintain its high standing among other occupational therapy programs. According to US News & World Report, the KU OT program is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> nationally.

Among the program needs that can be met after three years of the proposed course fee are three additional teaching faculty, an additional TA for teaching support, and acquisition of specialized teaching lab equipment and supplies. Even with the new course fee, the University of Kansas Master in Occupational Therapy will continue to be the least expensive program in the region.

To gauge student support for this proposed course fee, the department chair met with students and the student leadership in all the programs to outline the proposal. Students were encouraged to discuss their ideas and raise questions to make sure there was adequate time to consider all aspects and all points of view. Students expressed their strong desire to make sure the KU program maintains its quality and integrity. Letters of support from the leaders of the KUMC Student Occupational Therapy Association are available from the School of Allied Health.