



CEDARS-SINAI

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL
MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

February 9, 2015

Dr. Erlinda J. Martinez
President, Santa Ana College
1530 West 17th St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Dear Dr. Martinez,

The Department of Physical Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is pleased to write this letter in support of Santa Ana College's proposed baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies. Santa Ana College continues to host a highly successful Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. The proposed Bachelor of Science degree will provide a solid foundation for practitioners seeking to transition into graduate-level course work in Occupational Therapy.

Cedars-Sinai is located in Los Angeles, California and approximately serve more than 30,000 patients per year through the department. These patients receive Occupational Therapy Services throughout its entire continuum of care (from Acute Therapy to Inpatient Rehabilitation and to Outpatient Rehabilitation). We have an existing contract with the OTA program and we offer spots for clinical affiliations on a regular basis. There are very limited OTA programs locally and supporting an existing program with a transition to a Bachelor's degree is very much in line with our vision for the profession of Occupational Therapy.

In supporting Santa Ana College's proposal, we acknowledge that the baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies would increase the breadth and depth in all areas of clinical training of OTA Students and COTA staff including the provision of quality clinical care, ethical decision-making, cultural competency, application of research-based evidence, and professional growth and leadership.

Cedars-Sinai will continue to work with Santa Ana College and the current Occupational Therapy Assistant program as well as the proposed Occupational Studies baccalaureate degree program. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maria Cecilia Alpasan, MA, OTR/L
Quality and Education Coordinator
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation-CSMC
Los Angeles, CA