

September 7, 2000

For Immediate Release

USI Board of Trustees approved new master's degrees at September meeting

At the regular meeting of the USI Board of Trustees held on campus today, the board approved proposals for two graduate degrees, the Master of Health Administration and the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy.

The Master of Health Administration will educate students for administrative leadership in health care delivery. Courses in the program are designed to meet the accreditation standards of the Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration. Students entering the program will be expected to have course work or demonstrate competency in fundamental principles of economics, statistics, and accounting. The program will prepare students for careers as executive and mid-level managers, planners, policy analysts, and consultants. Typical health-care opportunities include positions in hospitals, long-term care facilities, physicians' practices, outpatient facilities of all kinds, the health insurance industry, medically related equipment and supply companies, pharmaceutical firms, and government and local/regional public health agencies.

The Master of Health Administration degree can contribute to high quality cost-effective accessible health care. Nadine Coudret, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions which will offer the program, said, "It is important to have good management in the health care industry to balance health care costs and quality of care costs. We need competent hands-on care with good management of resources to contain costs."

Fall 2001 is the anticipated start date for the program. It will be reviewed by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education with funding pending through the state legislature.

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree will have a 39-hour curriculum. It is designed to provide opportunities for occupational therapists to gain advanced knowledge and practice skills. The graduate degree also will comply with changes anticipated in professional requirements by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. Graduates of this program will be competent to deliver services as occupational therapists in hospitals and clinics, rehabilitation centers, public and private schools, camps, business and industry, community facilities, home health agencies, nursing and residential centers, correctional facilities, mental health centers, and private practice.

Summer 2001 is the anticipated start date for the graduate degree in occupational therapy. It will be reviewed by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education with funding pending through the state legislature.

Both programs will be offered as distance learning classes utilizing the World Wide Web for delivery.

The two degree programs will bring the number of graduate programs offered at USI to nine.