

# **Strategic Plan**

## Department of Physical and Occupational Therapy (2021 – 2024)

### **Introduction by the Head of the Department**

The Department of Physical and Occupational Therapy at the Hashemite University, which was established in 1999, is considered one of the first departments in Jordan to award a bachelor's degree in the fields of physical therapy and occupational therapy. Each major consists of 136 credit hours, including hours for theoretical subjects, hours for practical laboratories, and hours for field training.

The Department has a distinguished academic staff and includes 14 doctoral and masters holding faculty members from prestigious international universities, and 9 laboratory instructors to deliver practical training. Currently, 450 male and female students are studying in the Department. The Department includes 7 laboratories for the application of the practical modules which are equipped with the necessary equipment and tools. In addition to these laboratories, the Department is linked to the Community Rehabilitation Center of the Hashemite University, which aims to provide rehabilitation services to the local community in the governorates of Zarqa and Mafraq.

The Department of Physical and Occupational Therapy enjoys a close relationship with many medical institutions outside the University for the purpose of training students. These relationships include joint cooperation agreements with the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services, several associations (such as the Hussein Society for the Physically Challenged and the Doctors Without Borders Association), as well as private sector hospitals. In the future, the Department of Physical and Occupational Therapy hopes to establish a master's program in Rehabilitation Sciences in addition to other programs. Note that the Department is currently working on establishing a higher diploma program in cooperation with the Al-Hussein Society for the Physically Challenged in Community Rehabilitation.

Amongst the Department's most important achievements in the past years has been implementing voluntary medical care providing days, inside and outside the University campus, organizing scientific trips for the students of the Department, coordinating visits by specialists in the field of rehabilitation sciences to the University, participating many conferences inside and outside the University, in addition to holding seminars and workshops for students and graduates to develop their clinical and academic skills.

Over the past years, more than 500 physiotherapists and occupational therapists have graduated qualified to work in the local and foreign medical sector. Since its establishment, the Department has continued to attract distinguished faculty members and laboratory supervisors with practical experience and whom continuously update their study plans and content of materials in line with the development of the medical sector and creating agreements and partnerships

with hospitals and health authorities in Jordan, in addition to the effective and continuous integration of students in the teaching process.

### **The Department Values**

We believe and strive in the Department in applying the ethics of medical professions based on providing benefit to patients, respecting their privacy and independence, as well as maintaining a high level of performance, and following the regulations and laws at the level of the institution, the country, and community service, all of which is consistent with the approach of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that is based on the values and teachings of the Islamic religion.

### **The Vision:**

Granting students the best international educational experience of high quality that meets the needs of the profession and society.

### **The Mission:**

Preparing academically and scientifically distinguished therapists, who are professionally qualified to develop and improve the various health services provided to the community.

## **The Strategic Axes, Goals and Objectives of the Department of Physical and Occupational Therapy**

### **1 Scientific research and creativity**

#### **1.1 Development of research laboratories**

1.1.1 Raise the level of coordination with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to facilitate researchers' access to potential research participants (patients or medical care providers)

1.1.2 Encouraging qualitative research and the allocation of the necessary resources (laboratories and equipment)

1.1.3 Coordination with the Deanship of Scientific Research to implement workshops on how to apply for available research grants

1.1.4 Study an initiative (research department) for each hospital

1.1.5 Increase joint research with local and international research centers and universities

1.1.6 Increase the number of research laboratories and raise the efficiency of the currently available

## **1.2 Developing the research capacity of faculty members**

1.2.1 Encouraging attendance at world conferences

1.2.2 Holding specialized research workshops and seminars for the department members

1.2.3 Hosting distinguished researchers in the Department

1.2.4 Reducing the teaching load for faculty members to focus on scientific research

1.2.5 Holding an annual scientific conference or day on physical and occupational therapy

## **1.3 Encouraging scientific publishing for undergraduate students**

1.3.1 Presenting publishable research topics of an applicable nature that affect the needs of society in a research material in physical therapy

1.3.2 Encouraging the various faculty members in the department to supervise students' research

1.3.3 Periodically review the plans of the research materials presented in the section

## **1.4 Raising the efficiency of the support units**

1.4.1 Providing scientific laboratories for advanced modern equipment and facilitating the means of purchasing or obtaining them

1.4.2 Providing research and teaching members to assist in the aims of the research

1.4.3 Subscribe to databases and electronic journals that cover the Department's specialties

## **2 Good Bachelors and Postgraduate programs**

2.1 Developing a new postgraduate program for rehabilitation sciences (physical therapy and occupational)

2.1.1 Creating a committee to study the need for starting a masters program in rehabilitation sciences at HU

2.1.2 Communicating with professors and faculty members in international universities for collaboration

2.1.3 Having sufficient number of staff members with the appropriate ranks (professors)

2.1.4 Activating the Community-Based Rehabilitation Diploma in association with the Hussein Society

2.1.5 Admitting students who excel in academia and clinical practice

2.2 Graduating students with high level of knowledge both theoretically and practically

2.2.1 Modifying curricula to accommodate the updated guidelines from different accreditation bodies

2.2.2 Maintaining the international accreditation that was granted for the occupational therapy program

2.2.3 Enhancing student performance in final comprehensive exams

2.2.4 Increasing the number of locations for clinical placement for students (including military, public, and private hospitals, in addition to rehabilitation centers the fall under the ministry of Social Development)

2.2.5 Improving clinical practice skills for our students

2.2.6 Unifying assessment methods for clinical placements and training of trainers to improve the quality of placements

## **3 Electronic education and blended learning**

3.1 Blending physical and online education

3.1.1 Increasing the number of courses that are taught online

3.1.2 Add new courses that can be taught online

3.1.3 Moving towards more interactive teaching

3.1.4 Enhancing the role of the student in the learning process

3.2 Improving online teaching skills among faculty members

3.2.1 Encouraging faculty members to present their course electronically

3.2.2 Following the most recent methods and platforms for online learning

3.2.3 Participating in workshops that improve skills on online teaching

3.2.4 Decreasing loads on faculty members to be able to communicate in a better way with students and assess them properly

3.2.5 Submitting regular reports presenting the process of online learning

## **4 International accreditation**

4.1 Having advanced curricula

- 4.1.1 Revising and improving curricula regularly in accordance with guidelines from international accreditation bodies
- 4.1.2 Precisely adding or removing courses
- 4.1.3 Providing the most recent and updated references and updating them regularly
- 4.1.4 Purchasing major textbooks and references
- 4.2 Increasing the number of faculty members to ensure the extension of accreditation
  - 4.2.1 Inviting expert faculty members
  - 4.2.2 Providing scholarships for new members to get PhD degree
  - 4.2.3 Proving a healthy atmosphere in the department to work productively
  - 4.2.4 Increasing the number of staff members and lab supervisors to match the requirements of different accreditation bodies
- 4.3 Providing equipment and increasing the number of labs
  - 4.3.1 Finishing preparing hydrotherapy lab
  - 4.3.2 Placing a plan to purchase important equipment (like shockwave therapy)
  - 4.3.3 Placing a plan to replace the old devices and equipment
  - 4.3.4 Increasing the number of based equipment and devices to match the increasing number of admitted students
- 4.4 Quality assurance
  - 4.4.1 Following up on course plans at the beginning and end of each semester
  - 4.4.2 Ensuring the match between course goals and objectives with accreditation bodies and the ministry of higher education
  - 4.4.3 Following up on departmental plans for quality assurance

## **5 Student, University, and Social Environment**

- 5.1 Polishing student personality to better interact with peers
  - 5.1.1 Enhancing the connection to the department and the university
  - 5.1.2 Awarding students who demonstrate good connection to the department and university
- 5.2 Enhancing communication skills among students
  - 5.2.1 Including communication skills as part of some courses in the program
  - 5.2.2 Encouraging volunteerism among students
  - 5.2.3 Enhancing the presence of good communication skills during clinical placements
  - 5.2.4 Having regular meetings between students and faculty members
- 5.3 Involving students in different social events
  - 5.3.1 Encouraging students to take part in difference social events that help support the university or the local community
  - 5.3.2 Encouraging students to participate in open-days or workshops conducted at the department of university
- 5.4 Increasing the number of extracurricular activities
  - 5.4.1 Encouraging extracurricular in the department
  - 5.4.2 Having sports events in the department
  - 5.4.3 Having artistic events in the department

## **6 University Governance**

- 6.1 Applying governance regulations in the department
  - 6.1.1 Enhancing transparency in all decisions made in the department

- 6.1.2 Encouraging faculty members to be part of the decision making process
- 6.1.3 Encouraging taking responsibility from staff members and fair assessment of all members of the department