
UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2022

GOAL 7 for Occupational Therapy

LEARNING

One UND Strategic Plan Goal 7: Attract support for the University by actively engaging alumni and donors. Goal by 2022, increase alumni contribution participation to 10% and achieve targeted fund raising goals set for each Dean, Vice President, and President.

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 7: The SMHS will achieve the targeted fund raising goals set for the SMHS Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs.

1. Describe if/how your unit has addressed this goal.

To meet the outcomes of Goal 7, the OT department participates as indicated in SMHS strategy to increase alumni funding support. Two ongoing methods used to recognize the significant role of alumni to the department are through thank you letters from department scholarship recipients sharing the impact of the scholarship on their educational goals, and through monthly birthday cards signing, which are split amongst faculty at both campuses. The department also actively works to promote benefits to alumni and has identified methods to maintain contact with alumni in addition to the two above-mentioned actions (i.e. official social media, alumni events).

The department strives to host an annual alumni event through at least one format, for example the American Occupational Therapy Association National Conference, to connect with alumni, to publically recognize the important role that alumni play in the department, and to maintain strong bonds that further alumni involvement. Summer 2023 will provide a unique opportunity to recognize and connect with alumni at the Wyoming location as the department celebrates 30 years at that site. Additionally, alumni are highlighted in a twice-yearly department newsletter, alternating selection between a campuses at a rate of 2 GF: 1 WY.

 On Track

2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

One concrete measure of alumni responsiveness to department actions is the establishment of student OT scholarships. The initial goal of establishing one department scholarship every three years has been exceeded, as the department currently has 9 department scholarships, with a 10th department scholarship endowed in fall 2022. 15 students were awarded with OT Department scholarships in spring 2022 for the 2022-2023 AY. Note, five were awarded to individuals considered by the committee to belong to unique/underserved/diverse groups within the OT profession.

A UND Alumnus donated funding to establish a fund for students to support doctoral experiential placement (DEP) projects that serve ND children and their families. Applications were accepted in fall 2021 for this funding opportunity and students were awarded funding for the DEP for Spring 2022.

Alumni frequently contact the department to share stories for the newsletter and offer help with guest speaking, express interest in adjunct instruction, and explore the requirements for fieldwork supervision. The OT department connection to alumni is very strong and results in many benefits to students through networking and financial support.

3. Describe how your unit analyzed these data and what assessments were determined.

Data regarding department scholarship funding and applicant qualifications are provided by the UND financial aid office to the Chair of the OT Scholarship Committee. The number of scholarships, funding amount, and consideration of diversity are assessed annually by the committee chair, and reported to the department.

Student scholarships are well publicized via the UND OT webpage where information related to them is easily accessible, resulting in increases of application year over year. Students enrolled in the UND OT program are well-informed about the availability of the scholarships, the individual scholarship requirements and the scholarship application process via emails and reminders. They are also giving tech support options and multi-modal ways to have questions answered.

Tracking of additional alumni contact, for example guest speaking and other volunteer activities, is not conducted, but is more than ample for department needs. These volunteer offerings provide students with networking opportunities, a rich understanding of the benefits of an OT education from UND, and very often, employment.

4. Describe how your unit will implement any further changes and what barriers may exist.

The department goal continues to focus on increases fundraising for the benefit of students and associated activities. An additional goal is to explore the requirements of an endowed chair/professor inside of the OT department; this goal will be reviewed as the new department strategic plan is developed during the 2023 CY.

PROVIDE A RATING OF YOUR PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL: ● On Track; ● Delayed; ● Behind

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Additional Information on Goal 7 (optional):

Insert any additional information here.