CLARKSON UNIVERSITY
DIRECTOR/CHAIR
OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM
The Opportunity

Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, invites inquiries, applications and nominations for the position of director/chair of its occupational therapy (OT) program. The University seeks an experienced, energetic and innovative professional with a record of successful leadership in OT. The new director/chair will bring a keen understanding of OT and health science education, particularly as it applies to a rural setting. The director/chair will possess the ability to build relationships in the community and work collaboratively in the larger University context. The next director/chair will also strengthen and expand existing programs, with the goal of increasing and sustaining program enrollments.
The Occupational Therapy Program

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program is one of three fully accredited graduate-level programs in the health sciences, which also includes physical therapy and physician assistant studies. The programs are part of the newly formed Earl R. and Barbara D. Lewis School of Health Sciences, which is located in downtown Potsdam, just a short distance from the University’s main campus. The program’s recently renovated facilities for administrative and instructional space, as well as new state-of-the-art equipment, can serve an enrollment of 90 students in the program.

The OT program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). ACOTE awarded the program a 7-year, full accreditation in August 2017. In addition, the University is accredited by the United States Board of Regents. The OT program has been registered by the New York State Education Department. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapists, administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. In 2019, 100% of Clarkson graduates sitting for certification passed.
The Lewis School of Health Sciences

Through a transformational gift from Earl and Barbara Lewis, Clarkson established the Earl R. and Barbara D. Lewis School of Health Sciences for its growing portfolio of programs. This will assure the highest quality education for its students and advance careers, research and innovation with an emphasis on meeting rural and distance-challenged healthcare needs. The Lewis School currently consists of three fully accredited graduate-level programs: OT, physician assistant studies and physical therapy.

As it begins, the Lewis School consists of six to 10 faculty per program, 30 students per program cohort and approximately 225 students. The OT program offers a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, the physician assistant program offers a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and the physical therapy program offers the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

The Lewis School is located in downtown Potsdam, just a short distance from the University’s main campus.

Under the Lewis School, existing programs are expected to expand, and additional programs in healthcare professions will be developed with a special emphasis on rural health. The University’s location allows students to experience the uniqueness of providing healthcare in a more rural setting, from working with individuals who sustain farming or industrial injuries to serving highly competitive athletes who use Lake Placid’s Olympic facilities.
Institutional Overview

Founded in 1896 to honor Thomas S. Clarkson, a pioneering entrepreneur and humanitarian, Clarkson today is a private, national research university and a leader in technological education and sustainable economic development through teaching, research, scholarship and innovation. Clarkson’s main campus is located on 640 wooded acres in Potsdam, New York, near the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park, with the Lewis School of Health Sciences located nearby on the downtown Potsdam campus. Additional graduate program and research satellites are located in the New York Capital Region (Schenectady), Beacon, Saranac Lake (in partnership with the Trudeau Institute) and New York City. Its 4,300+ undergraduate and graduate students hail from 42 states and 63 countries. Clarkson produces remarkably effective and entrepreneurial engineers, scientists, educators, health professionals, businesspeople and creative leaders by creating an exceptionally demanding, boundary-spanning educational experience. Clarkson graduates earn salaries that are among the top 2% in the nation; one in five alumni already leads as a CEO, senior executive or owner of a company.

Clarkson is the institution of choice for enterprising, high-ability undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in 90+ rigorous academic programs of study. Clarkson faculty are on the leading edge of research with international relevance in healthy global solutions, advanced materials development, computational and data-enabled discovery and next generation medicine and healthcare. Clarkson understands that new technologies, emerging fields and expanding career opportunities require new approaches to learning. That is why Clarkson students are grounded in the fundamentals, but also learn how to successfully manage the unique challenges of today’s complex world.
Clarkson University is well positioned among U.S. higher education institutions:

- Clarkson is ranked as a **Top-Tier National University** by *U.S. News & World Report*, Best Colleges.
- Clarkson has been named among **Top 10 Best Colleges** for Producing Engineers by *IndustryWeek*.
- Clarkson has produced **44 Goldwater Scholars** since the program began in 1989 and has won the awards for 21 consecutive years.

- Clarkson boasts **13 Fulbright Scholars** in the last decade.
- The Brookings Institution named Clarkson one of the top 10 universities in the nation for enhancing graduates’ salaries; a Clarkson degree increased expected salaries by 42%.
- Clarkson alumni salaries **rank in the top 2%** of salaries in the United States, according to PayScale College Salary Report.

- Clarkson is recognized as one of 25 universities with the **highest-paid graduates** in the *Money & Career Cheat Sheet*.
- The University is cited in *The Princeton Review’s The Best Value Colleges, 13th Edition: 75 Schools That Give You the Most for Your Money*.
- Clarkson is rated among the **Top 40 Best Value Schools** (U.S. News & World Report, Best Colleges).

- Clarkson is recognized as one of the **Best Colleges for Veterans** (U.S. News & World Report, Best Colleges).
- Clarkson is **ranked number one** in the National Model Undergraduate Program in Entrepreneurship Education by the U.S. Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- Clarkson’s online MBA program **ranks in the top 40 nationally**, according to U.S. News & World Report.

The alumni community is **44,000+ strong** and resides in **87 countries** around the world. Clarkson’s global reach extends even further through the activities within its schools and its ROTC command, as well as through more than **55 international university exchange partners**.
Potsdam and the North Country

Clarkson’s main campus is located in Potsdam, New York, in the foothills of the Adirondack Park. With 15,000+ year-round residents, the Village of Potsdam is nestled along the Raquette River in the heart of St. Lawrence County. It is home to a variety of shopping and dining experiences, an active downtown corridor, two world-class universities as well as outstanding recreational outlets. Lewis School programs partner with St. Lawrence Health System, which includes Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center, Alice Hyde Medical Center, Adirondack Medical Center-Saranac Lake and Canton-Potsdam Hospital (CPH). CPH, one of several clinical and internship/co-op partners, is a 94-bed facility with core programs in emergency medicine, acute care, hospitalist medicine and critical care, supplemented by outpatient health services throughout the region. A number of physicians with an entrepreneurial spirit have been attracted to practice in the area due to CPH’s affiliation with Clarkson’s Shipley Center for Innovation, which supports the commercialization of medical device technologies.

With four other universities in the immediate region (SUNY Potsdam, St. Lawrence University, SUNY Canton and Paul Smith’s College), Potsdam is truly “a college town.” The Village of Potsdam is located on the banks of the beautiful Raquette River. The Village was the 2019 recipient of a $10-million Downtown Revitalization Grant from New York State. Its tree-lined streets and historic red sandstone buildings contain an array of modern stores and restaurants. Clarkson and SUNY Potsdam are within walking distance of one another. Among the Village’s outstanding cultural features is the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, which offers extraordinary vocal and instrumental performances and concerts by world-class musicians.

Just an hour and a half from Clarkson is Lake Placid, a year-round resort town with all kinds of entertainment, shopping, dining and recreation. This famed Olympic site in the Adirondack Mountains offers not only a spectacular setting and world-class sporting events, but also a variety of unique experiences like wheeled bobsled rides, views from
atop a former Olympic ski jump and a wheelchair-accessible elevator to the summit of Whiteface Mountain. Having hosted the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics, Lake Placid is renowned for winter sports. Clarkson took a major role in the region’s preparations to host the International Children’s Games in 2019 and is again helping prepare for the 2023 Winter World University Games.

As the home mountain for Clarkson’s ski teams, the downhill skiing at nearby Whiteface Mountain is unrivaled in the East, and regular roundtrip transportation to Whiteface, as well as Titus Mountain, is available from the Clarkson campus. The international Olympic flavor pervades the whole region. Olympic year-round training sites include not only the towering ski jump, but also the luge, speed skating, biathlon and bobsled facilities. Recreational opportunities abound throughout the year, ranging from golf, tennis, horseback riding, hiking, white water rafting, biking and sailing amid mountain splendor. Hiking trails abound; many faculty, staff and students become “46ers” in recognition of climbing all 46 high peaks in the region. Caves that are hidden throughout the Adirondacks wait to be explored. The numerous lakes and rivers of the North Country offer kayaking, fishing and other rafting action, as well as scuba diving and boat tours to see the shipwrecks and old forts from the War of 1812 in several waterways.

Two of Canada’s major cities are within a two-hour drive of the University. French-speaking Montreal is one of the most cosmopolitan and sophisticated cities in North America. Famed for the multicultural cuisine of its ethnically diverse restaurants and the glitter of its nightlife, this urban environment offers unique francophone experiences, including the charms of Old Montreal, with echoes of 400 years of history. Destinations include the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Place des Arts and Montreal Canadians hockey games, as well as performances in the arts and entertainment fields.

Ottawa, which is Canada’s capital, offers world-class cultural attractions, including the National Arts Centre, National Gallery of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Canada Science and Technology Museum, Canadian Museum of Nature and Parliament Hill, as well as A-list musical and stage performances. It is also home to the Ottawa Senators. A favorite local tradition shared by Clarkson students is skating on the famous Rideau Canal, which runs for miles through the city.
The Opportunity for the Program’s Director/Chair

This is an opportunity for an innovative and inspiring leader in OT to play a leadership role in advancing the program’s agenda of educating students for challenging and meaningful careers in a growing profession. Reporting to the founding dean of the Lewis School, the program director/chair will partner with faculty to articulate a vision and corresponding plan that will result in the program being recognized nationally as a leader in preparing superior OT care providers.

The successful candidate will serve as the spokesperson and advocate for the program, providing energetic leadership and support in student recruitment and placement, as well as interprofessional education and collaboration with other disciplines across the University. The program director/chair will report directly to the dean and serve on the University’s Academic Leadership Council. As a member of the School’s leadership team, the OT program director/chair will work with the dean and other health science program directors/chairs to play a pivotal role in launching the new School.
The Leadership Agenda for the Program Director/Chair

The charge for the next OT program director/chair will include the following key opportunities and challenges:

**Expanded Enrollments:** To be the administrative leader for the program, candidates should have exceptional communication skills and a high degree of professionalism, along with considerable financial acumen and a clear understanding of what it takes to help grow enrollment and advance all academic programs in a competitive higher education environment. The program director/chair will work collaboratively with related University offices to coordinate and oversee student recruitment, retention and advisement.

**Clinical Placements:** The health science programs enjoy an impressive portfolio of clinical sites regionally and nationally. The next director/chair will develop new and existing relationships with untapped healthcare systems in the North Country to create additional opportunities for internships and clinical placements and to further promote service to underserved populations.

**Strategic Partnering:** The director/chair, together with faculty and staff, will work with the dean and the other health science programs to develop the School’s national reputation through an emphasis on academic excellence, interprofessional education (IPE) and increased service in this rural community. Initiating relationships with area hospitals and healthcare providers will also be key. The program director/chair is also expected to engage with alumni and continue to build relationships in the community, as well as pursue grant activity and collaborations with other educational institutions, corporations and government agencies.

**Faculty Development:** Clarkson is home to a strong and dedicated faculty. The program director/chair will play a key role in recruiting, mentoring and retaining faculty and serve as an advocate to University leadership in support of opportunities that will foster career development and achievement of the faculty’s professional and individual goals.

**Academic Excellence and Program Enhancement:**
The program enjoys excellent academic standing, with a high rate of successful placements upon graduation. The next program director will promote excellence in teaching and exploration of new pedagogical methods to strengthen curriculum and ensure learning effectiveness, accreditation compliance and successful outcomes by students so they can excel as clinicians and future educators. The director/chair will also foster the development of distinctive curricula that maximizes the reputation of existing programs and establishes Clarkson as a university known for rural healthcare. Alignment with related fields, as well as Clarkson’s leadership in and proximity to winter athletics and venues, would also be valued.

**Interprofessional Education:**
The health science programs collaborate closely with each other, as well as programs in the life sciences and engineering. There is a strong desire by faculty to strengthen ties with all relevant Clarkson programs, thereby increasing team-based learning experiences and opportunities with nearby institutions for interprofessional education to prepare students for the current and emerging healthcare environment.

**Advocacy:** The new director/chair will advocate for the program’s faculty, staff and students while working collaboratively with the other program directors/chairs and deans and the University administration. The director/chair will play a vital role in representing the program on the main campus to ensure meaningful collaboration across the University. It will be important for the director/chair to engage the faculty, staff and students in this process, as well as to maintain an environment of transparency.
Qualifications and Qualities

Candidates must possess a doctoral degree in occupational therapy, a PhD or equivalent terminal degree, as well as achievement in educational, research and/or clinical pursuits that would warrant appointment as a tenured professor.

The successful candidate must also possess these qualifications:

- Fulfillment of all standards specified by the Accrediting Agency for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).
- Progressive administrative leadership experience in an academic environment.
- Experience with program planning, assessment and accreditation that reflects best practices in health professions education.
- Strong management skills and interest in interprofessional education among the health sciences and with other fields of study, regionally and nationally.
- Financial and operational acumen in terms of personnel, students, resources, curricula and budgets.
- Successful engagement with external resource development, including, but not limited to, research funding, partnerships or contracts.

This position represents a significant opportunity to help shape the vision for the OT program to achieve the institution’s overall goals and objectives. As such, the next director/chair will demonstrate these qualities:

- Commitment to open, transparent, shared governance and to building upon the University’s inclusive environment for faculty, staff and students.
- Proven leadership experience that includes nurturing the development of a diverse faculty, many of whom are clinical faculty whose primary responsibilities are in teaching, while others have additional expectations for scholarship.
- Enthusiasm and commitment as a teacher-scholar, with demonstrated excellence in teaching and scholarship.
- Engagement with and interest in the use of instructional technology to teach traditional, hybrid or online courses as needed and support faculty in using these tools.
- Commitment to a collaborative teaching and learning environment, with particular focus on interprofessional education and practice in health science.
- Knowledge about opportunities in service and research between clinical professions and health practitioners and familiarity with recent advances and challenges in healthcare.
Procedure for Nomination and Application

The Search Committee for the director/chair of the Occupational Therapy Program will begin reviewing applications in early June and will continue until the position is filled. For best consideration, **applicant materials should be received by July 10, 2020.**

Nominations and expressions of interest are encouraged and will be accepted through the application deadline. An appointment is anticipated by mid-September, with a start date to be determined based on the current commitments of the successful candidate.

The search is being assisted by Richard Wueste and Dr. Concetta Stewart of AGB Search. Nominations and inquiries may be directed to:

- richard.wueste@agbsearch.com, (540) 431-5131.
- concetta.stewart@agbsearch.com, (908) 341-2178.

Application materials should be submitted electronically (in Adobe PDF or MS Word) to members of the Search Committee at ClarksonChairOT@agbsearch.com and include:

- Cover letter responding to the “Leadership Agenda for the Program Director/Chair” in this profile.
- Complete resume or vita.
- Contact information, including email, phone and relationship to five professional references.

All nominations, inquiries and applications will be received and evaluated in full confidence; references will not be contacted without the candidate’s expressed permission.

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An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, Clarkson actively seeks and encourages applications from minorities, women and people with disabilities.

All offers of employment are subject to the applicant successfully passing a background check (including, but not limited to, employment verification, educational and other credential verification, and criminal records).