

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between
Canisius University
And
St. Bonaventure University
St. Bonaventure, NY

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made effective on the date it is signed by and between St. Bonaventure University and Canisius University.

- 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE:** This Agreement between St. Bonaventure University and Canisius University establishes a 4+2 Baccalaureate/M.S. Arrangement ("the 4+2 Arrangement") to provide a direct path to graduate study in occupational therapy for outstanding Canisius University students majoring in Health & Wellness and Sports & Exercise Health Care. Qualified students will complete their undergraduate studies at Canisius University entering the first year of graduate study for the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) degree program at St. Bonaventure University. The 4+2 Arrangement supports a smooth transition for Canisius University undergraduate Health & Wellness and Sports & Exercise Health Care majors into graduate studies at St. Bonaventure University in occupational therapy with the intent of strengthening the quality and breadth of academic programs at both institutions.
- 2. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES/AUTHORITY:**
 - A. St. Bonaventure University and Canisius University designate the person(s) set forth in Section 4 as their respective representatives to coordinate and manage the activities under this MOU. The representatives shall provide general oversight and connect pertinent individuals within each institution as needed to discuss this Agreement, changes to the Agreement, and any other topics of interest to either party.
 - B. Each party in this MOU retains full authority over and reserves the right to make changes in their respective courses, programs, and credential requirements. Each party shall publicize the 4+2 Arrangement in academic materials as appropriate and shall brief students as appropriate. Each party approves of the use of its name by the other party in connection with the other party's publication of the 4+2 Arrangement as anticipated in this Section 2(B). Neither party shall otherwise use the name or trademark of the other party without the prior approval of the other party.
 - C. St. Bonaventure University shall (in its sole discretion) establish admission criteria, review applications from students recommended by Canisius University and communicate directly with

applying Canisius University students on decisions related to acceptance to the occupational therapy program. Details regarding this process are set forth below.

D. St. Bonaventure University shall establish its tuition rates and shall collect and retain any tuition remitted for its courses.

3. PROGRAM DETAILS AND ADMISSIONS:

A. General Guidelines:

1. St. Bonaventure University's MSOT program is currently registered with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and maintains accreditation through the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. The program's accreditation and state registration ensure that graduates are eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy certification examination and to apply for licensure as occupational therapists in New York State, consistent with all applicable professional and regulatory requirements.
2. St. Bonaventure University will guarantee admission to five students from Canisius University each year who meet admission criteria.
3. Canisius University's Department of Kinesiology committee will serve as a nomination committee that will interview, identify, and nominate potential students each year who may fit the established criteria for entry to the occupational therapy program at St. Bonaventure after their junior year.
4. Canisius University has no obligation to nominate a student or students to St. Bonaventure University's occupational therapy program, even if a student fulfills the criteria. The Department of Kinesiology Committee may choose not to nominate any students in a given year or may nominate fewer students than would be allowable by this Agreement.

B. Admissions Policies and Criteria:

1. Canisius University students must complete a standard application to the MSOT program through St. Bonaventure University's internal website at <https://www.sbu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy> by November 15th of their senior year. Applications must include three letters of reference from Canisius University faculty members, licensed occupational therapists (OT) and/or work managers.
2. Students will apply as first-year graduate students.
3. Canisius students must complete the bachelor's degree in Health & Wellness and Sports & Exercise Health Care and provide an official degree-bearing transcript to the St. Bonaventure University Office of Graduate Admission by the time the MSOT program begins at the end of August of the respective academic year.

4. Canisius students must have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.2 at the end of their undergraduate program in Health & Wellness and Sports & Exercise Health Care.
5. Canisius students must have an overall grade point average greater than or equal to 3.2 in all prerequisite courses¹ with no grade lower than a C in these courses. AP and CLEP courses do not qualify. *Appendix A* identifies Canisius University equivalent coursework that satisfies the prerequisite undergraduate coursework required for admission to the MSOT program.
6. Once enrolled at St. Bonaventure University, Canisius University students must adhere to, and their continued enrollment will be subject to, the policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of the Occupational Therapy Program, including but not limited to its academic standing requirements for graduate students.
7. Coordinating contacts for consultation regarding admissions, academic preparation and student mentoring at each institution are as follows:

St. Bonaventure University Contact: Danielle Schmidt, Director of Graduate Admissions, St. Bonaventure University, 3261 West State Road, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778, (716) 375-2021, dschmidt@sbu.edu

St. Bonaventure University Contact: Suzanne Marasco, Ed.D., MS, OTR/L, Assistant Director, Assistant Professor, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Department of Occupational Therapy, DePerro School of Health Professions, St. Bonaventure University, 3261 West State Road, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778, (716) 375-2623, smarasco@sbu.edu

Canisius University Contact: Karl F. Kozlowski, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Kinesiology, Associate Dean, School of Behavioral and Health Studies, Canisius University, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208. 716-888-8471 kozlow13@canisius.edu

¹ Prerequisite courses include Anatomy & Physiology I with lab (4 credit hours); Anatomy & Physiology II with lab (4 credit hours); General Physics or Kinesiology (3 credit hours); General Psychology (3 credit hours); Abnormal/Maladaptive Psychology (3 credit hours); Developmental Psychology (3 credit hours); Sociology or Anthropology (3 credit hours); The prerequisite course work is listed at <https://www.sbu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy/admission-criteria>

C. **Tuition:** The OT program is full-time and 23 months in length (five semesters). Tuition and fees while attending St. Bonaventure University will be charged at its prevailing rate. Canisius University students will be eligible to apply for federal student loans to cover the cost of education.

4. **INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:** The following persons will provide general oversight and serve as the primary point of contacts at St. Bonaventure University and Canisius University and will communicate mainly by email and phone:

Canisius University Primary Point of Contact:

Bridget Niland, J.D., Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Canisius University
2001 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14208
716-888-2120
Email: Niland2@canisius.edu

St. Bonaventure University Primary Point of Contact:

David Hilmey
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
St. Bonaventure University
3261 West State Road
St. Bonaventure, NY 14778
Phone: 716.375.2603
Email: dhilmey@sbu.edu

5. **EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION:** This Agreement will be effective on the date it is signed by both institutions and will be valid for an initial period of **five years**. Upon expiration of the five years, the MOU will be subject to renewal upon written consent of both parties. Additions and changes to this MOU may be made at any time with the written agreement of both St. Bonaventure University and Canisius University. Students enrolled in the program who maintain continuous registration will not be affected by any changes in the provisions of this Agreement. Either party may withdraw from this MOU upon 90 days written notice to the other institution. Termination must be from authorized officials of each institution. Except to the extent required by (i) law or regulatory bodies, or (ii) necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of participating students, termination of this MOU shall not affect students already accepted into the program under the terms of this MOU. These students shall be allowed to complete the program under the terms outlined herein.

6. **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- A. **Independent Contractors:** St. Bonaventure University and Canisius University shall be independent contractors and not partners, joint ventures, principal and agent, or any other

similar relationship. Neither institution shall have, or hold itself out as having, the power or authority to bind or create liability for the other by its negligent or intentional act or omission.

- B. **Confidentiality:** The institutions may exchange information that could be confidential and not (a) generally known to the public, (b) already known, through legal means, to the party receiving the information, or (c) legally obtained from a third party. Each institution agrees to use the other's confidential information solely for the purpose contemplated by this Agreement and not to disclose such confidential information to any person or entity other than as necessary for such purposes or as required to be disclosed by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, administrative body or governmental body, or by subpoena, summons or legal process, or by law, rule or regulation.
- C. **FERPA:** In course of dealings between the parties, and in accordance with the Gramm-Leach Bliley Act (and the Federal Trade Commission's implementing regulations) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, each party represents, warrants and covenants that it is capable of maintaining appropriate safeguards for non-public personal financial information, student education records, and other protected information ("Protected Information") relating to students to which all parties involved in this Agreement will be provided access to. Protected Information shall be held in confidence and may only be used or accessed for the purposes set out in this Agreement or as required to be disclosed by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, administrative body or governmental body, or by subpoena, summons or legal process, or by law, rule or regulation. Each party will protect such Protected Information in accordance with generally accepted commercial standards and no less rigorously than it protects its own confidential information.
- D. **Execution:** This MOU sets forth the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter herein. The MOU may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. The Parties agree to accept electronic, .pdf and facsimile signatures as original signatures. No waiver shall be effective unless in writing, signed by the waiving party. This MOU may only be amended by a written instrument signed by both institutions.

****[Signature Page To Follow]****

** [Signature Page] **

APPROVAL: All parties identified below agree to the provisions and terms of this MOU.

APPROVED:

St. Bonaventure University

Name: David G. Hilmey, Ph.D.
Title: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature: _____

Date: _____

5-28-26

Canisius University

Name: Bridget Niland, J.D., Ph.D.
Title: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Bridget Niland

June 8, 2026

Appendix A

St. Bonaventure University Canisius University 4+2 Baccalaureate/M.S. Arrangement

St. Bonaventure University M.S., Occupational Therapy Program			
Undergraduate Prerequisite Coursework	Canisius University Course Equivalent		
	Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab (4)	BIO114 & BIO114L	Introductory Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab (4)	BIO115 & BIO115L	Introductory Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
Kinesiology, Exercise Physiology, or Physics (3)	KIN235 or KIN336	Kinesiology or Exercise Physiology	3
General Psychology (3)	PSY101	Introduction to Psychology	3
Abnormal/Maladaptive Psychology (3)	PSY303	Psychopathology	3
Developmental Psychology (3)	PSY 203	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	3
Sociology or Anthropology (3)	SOC110	Introduction to Sociology	3

