

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
New Academic Directions
Working Group Report

Proposal A3: Merge SHRS (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences) and PETM (Physical Education and Tourism Management) into a Single Larger School

The Working Group recommends that a formal merger not be pursued, but advises that structural improvements could achieve some administrative efficiencies.

The Working Group's analysis revealed that a merger would produce little in cost-savings through faculty/staff/administrative reductions or space sharing. In fact, because a merged school would double in size and occupy seven locations, the possibility exists that additional staff and administrators would have to be hired in order to support the projected growth in both SHRS and PETM programs.

Academic opportunities would also not be improved by a merger. The degree and certificate offerings of SHRS and PETM are quite different currently, and the future directions of the schools do not align. PETM offers predominantly undergraduate programs, and SHRS offers predominately graduate programs, so undergraduate degrees rarely feed into graduate degree programs. Some synergy exists between exercise physiology in SHRS and kinesiology in PETM. Ongoing research relationships already exist, such as sharing equipment and faculty serving on doctoral committees, so both schools will continue to seek similar efficiencies around teaching and research in those areas.

PETM and SHRS will develop further efficiencies by sharing personnel associated with fundraising for the annual fund as well as grant preparation and submission. Both schools hope to realize significant efficiency with the new structure created by the reorganization of university marketing and communications within Public Affairs and Government Relations.