

Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) Natural Sciences Faculty Panel Statement on Submission of Anatomy & Physiology Courses (March 2018)

The OTM guidelines provide substantial detail on the expectations for courses that are submitted for possible approval as OTM Natural Sciences courses. Unfortunately, the nature of anatomy as a discipline makes it difficult for traditional Anatomy & Physiology courses with a laboratory component to meet these expectations. As a result, all such submissions reviewed by the panel in recent years have been disapproved, and recent changes in the OTM guidelines have not changed this approval rate. The biggest problems faced by these courses are typically associated with the lack of sufficient scientific inquiry-oriented lab activities that represent the process of “doing science.” For natural science lab courses to achieve OTM approval, the equivalent of at least two hours per week for ten weeks of lab activities must meet all the expectations laid out in Guideline 13 of the OTM guidelines. While some physiology experiments can meet these requirements, most submitted Anatomy & Physiology courses fall well short of this ten week threshold. The OTM Natural Sciences Faculty Panel considers that activities emphasizing observation, identification, labeling and dissection do not focus on scientific inquiry and thus do not count toward this core ten weeks of required lab activities.

We ask institutions to carefully consider whether their submissions meet the requirements for an OTM natural sciences course before submitting Anatomy & Physiology (and related) courses for OTM approval. In order for such submissions to be approved, the institution will need to clearly demonstrate how their course meets these expectations.