

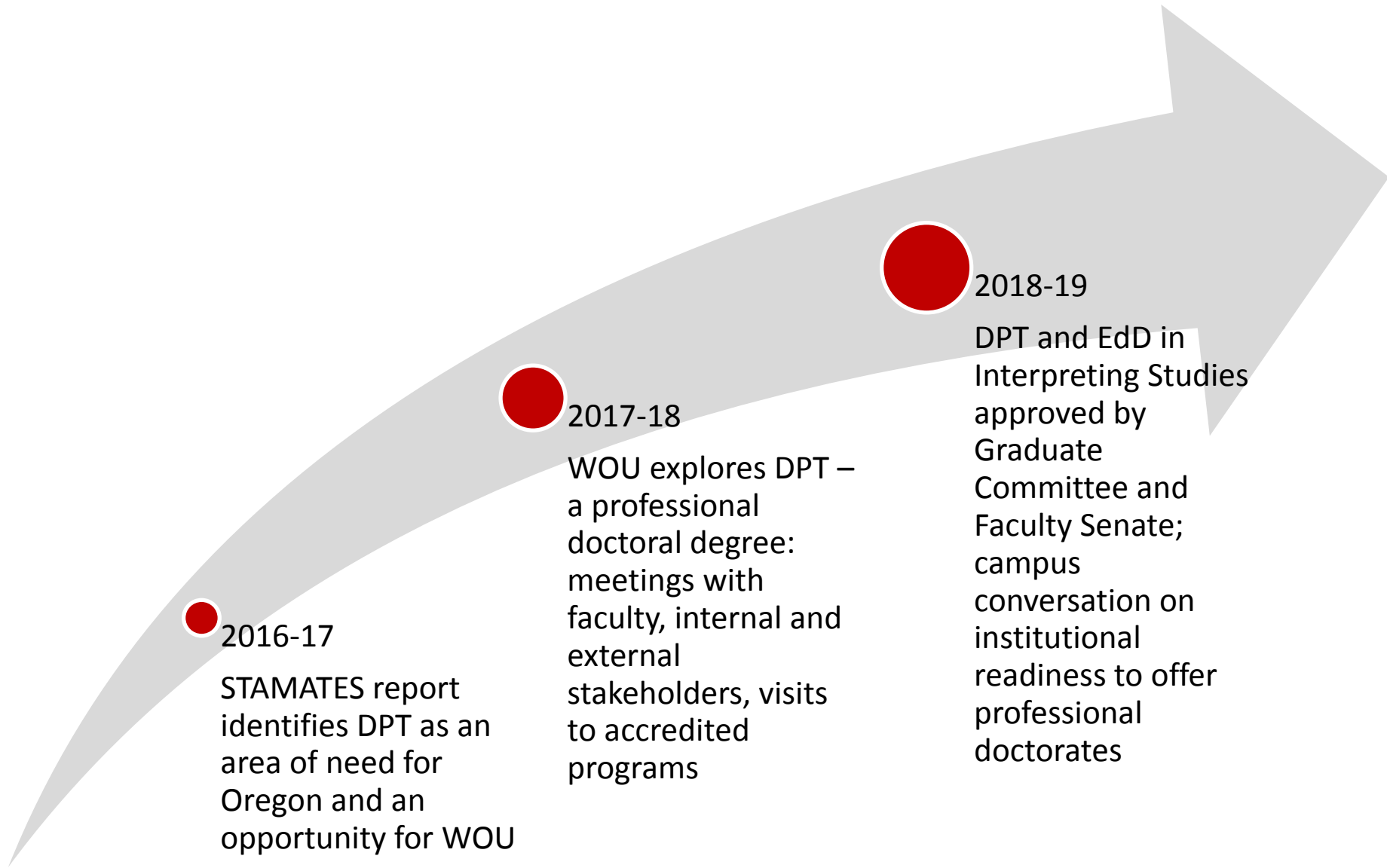
Professional and Research Doctorates

*brief presentation to Faculty Senate
April 23, 2019*



Western Oregon
UNIVERSITY





TWO TYPES OF DOCTORATES

NWCCU follows federal government language

Research Doctorate

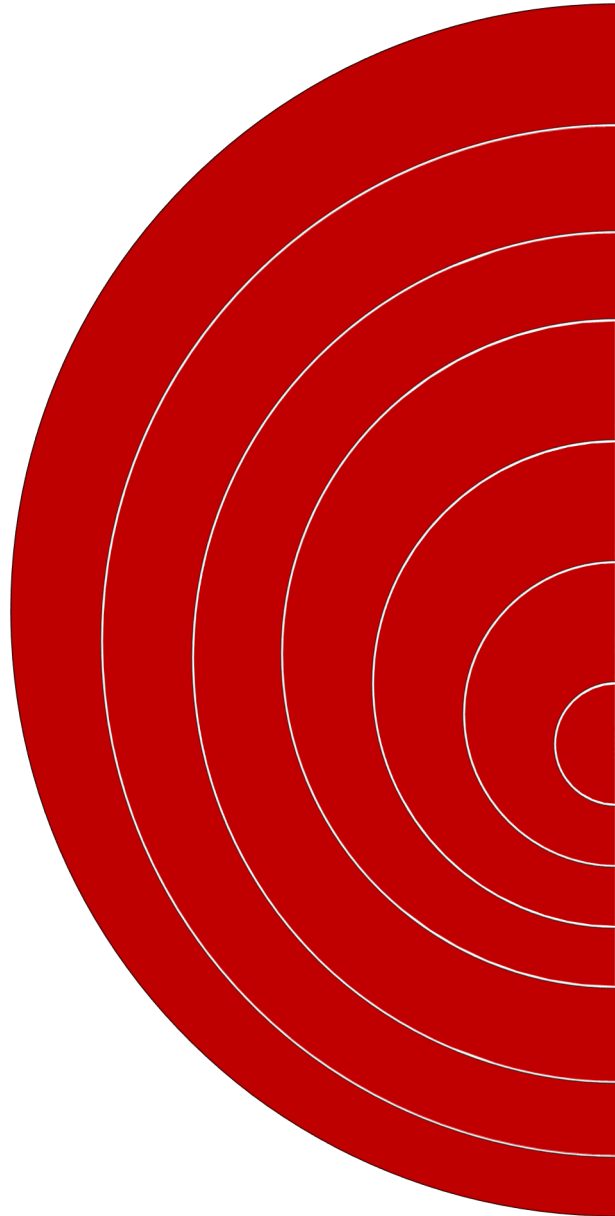
According to the U.S. Department of Education, the research doctorate, or the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and its equivalent titles, represents the highest academic qualification in the U.S. education system. While the structure of U.S. doctoral programs is more formal and complex than in some other systems, it is important to note that the research doctorate is not awarded for the preliminary advanced study that leads to doctoral candidacy, but rather for successfully completing and defending the independent research presented in the form of the **doctoral dissertation**.

Professional Doctorate

Professional doctorate degrees, also known as first-professional degrees, represent a category of qualifications in professional subject areas that require students to have previously completed specified undergraduate coursework and/or degrees before enrolling. They are considered graduate-level programs in the U.S. system because they follow prior undergraduate studies, but they are in fact **first degrees** in these professional subjects. Several of these degrees use the term “doctor” in the title, but these degrees **do not contain an independent research component** or require a dissertation...

...and should not be confused with PhD degrees or other research doctorates.

This language indicates that the federal government and our accrediting agency are primarily concerned that professional doctorates might be mistaken for research doctorates.



What is the EdD in Interpreting Studies as proposed at WOU?

Reflective Practice

Completion of independent research (dissertation)

Doctoral degree not required to enter field at this time

Not accredited

Preparing interpreter educators

Research Doctorate



What is the Doctorate in Physical Therapy as proposed at WOU?

Curriculum, including competencies, defined by accrediting agency (CAPTE)

Clinical placements

First degree, required for entry into the field

No independent research required of students

Accredited, with licensing exam

Professional Doctorate

Questions or comments:
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