

Occupational Therapy (M.S.)

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a health care profession in which therapists work with people whose abilities to manage everyday tasks of living are affected by developmental deficits, the aging process, environmental barriers, physical injury or illness, or psychosocial issues. Occupational therapists are in high demand across the country as critical caregivers in today's rapidly growing health care system. The profession offers many opportunities for a career rich in both meaning and reward.

Occupational therapists help individuals of all ages identify and return to the occupations and activities that are important to them. The word *occupation* refers to how people use time, or are *occupied* in their daily lives. Occupational therapists assist people to adapt old methods or learn new strategies so they can participate in valued life activities and roles after illness or injury. OTs are employed in a variety of settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, homecare, schools, private practice, and community agencies.

The MS in Occupational Therapy at Sage is the only master-level Occupational Therapy Program in New York's Capital Region accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Qualified men and women who possess a bachelor's degree and who fulfill the prerequisite courses for the Occupational Therapy Program may apply directly through the Sage Graduate School. Students can complete the 80-credit program in just over two years, with one initial online course followed by face-to-face coursework including a research project and six months of full time fieldwork. Upon successful completion of academic, research and fieldwork courses, students are awarded an MS degree in Occupational Therapy and are eligible to sit for the certification exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) that leads to national certification and eligibility for state licensure.

MSOT Program Accreditation

Russell Sage College's Occupational Therapy program is registered with the New York State Education Department and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. You may contact ACOTE by phone at (301) 652-6611 and by visiting www.acoteonline.org. The most recent reaccreditation was granted in December 2016. Upon graduation, students are eligible to sit for the national certification exam that is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice occupational therapy; however state licenses are usually based on the results of the national certification exam. A felony conviction may affect a student's placement in fieldwork settings, or a graduate's ability to sit for the certification exam or to attain state licensure.

Mission and Philosophy

Mission - The Sage Occupational Therapy Program encourages students to be self-directed and engaged actively in their learning. The program provides opportunities for reflective practice and critical inquiry with vibrant problem solving. We emphasize experiential learning that builds occupation-based clinical reasoning practices explicitly linking the person, environment and occupation. Our graduates will occupy diverse workforce roles and contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, populations and society.

Philosophy - In occupational therapy, we believe in the positive relationship between occupation and health. Occupations refer to the everyday activities that people do as individuals, in families and with communities to occupy time and bring meaning and purpose to life (WFOT, 2012). Occupations carry both practical and symbolic significance, and include things people need to, want to and are expected to do.

Occupations can be observed by others, occur over time, have purpose and meaning, occur in context, and are influenced by a person's performance patterns, performance skills, and underlying client factors (AOTA, 2020).

The Russell Sage College Occupational Therapy Program recognizes engagement in occupations as the core of individual, community, and societal well-being.

Occupational engagement occurs within complex relational systems that provide connection to other persons and environments. The curriculum design of the program emphasizes the contextualized lived experiences of individuals and the intricate nature of occupational engagement. The Person-Environment-Occupation model serves as the theoretical framework for the program.

In accord with the Russell Sage College mission, "To be, to know, to do," occupations are vehicles for doing, becoming, and knowing in the world.

References

Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process—Fourth Edition. (2020). *American Journal Occupational Therapy* 2020;74 (Supplement_2):7412410010. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S2001>

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2018). Philosophy of occupational therapy education. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 72(Suppl. 2), 7212410070. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2018.72S201>

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2017). Philosophical base of occupational therapy. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 71(Suppl. 2), 7112410045. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2017.71S06>

World Federation of Occupational Therapists. (2012). *Definition of Occupational Therapy*. Retrieved from <https://www.wfot.org/about-occupational-therapy>.

Occupational Therapy Curriculum Design

The occupational therapy curriculum emphasizes the person, environment and occupation relationship and incorporates an experiential approach that focuses on students engaging as active learners. Foundation and upper level clinical courses promote an understanding of the dynamic relationship between health, well-being and occupational engagement for a person's ability to participate in valued life activities and roles. Students are immersed in learning opportunities to both promote clinical reasoning skills and develop a systemic view of health and service delivery system. The curriculum model is organized around three elements: *Foundations and Professional Identity*, *Evaluation and Intervention in Practice Settings*, and *Professional Responsibility and Research*. It is further supported by three major themes that are infused throughout coursework: *Person-Environment-Occupation Relationship*, *Therapeutic Use of Self*, and *Entry Level Practice*.

Foundations & Professional Identity

Foundational courses provide students with a basis for understanding the distinct occupational perspective and how the profession contributes to health promotion and participation in society. The *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework* is introduced along with the major practice models and theoretical frameworks that define the language and philosophy of occupational therapy. Students explore the intersection of the areas of occupation, client factors, performance skills and patterns as well as context and environment.

Evaluation & Intervention in Practice Settings

Evaluation and intervention courses focus on a variety of service delivery models and provide a framework for developing client-centered intervention. The application of practice models within this content guides the

development of critical thinking. Students engage in case driven labs and fieldwork experiences to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to clinical settings, in order to hone clinical reasoning skills, and achieve entry level competence.

Professional Responsibility & Research

Students learn about the roles and associated responsibilities of the OT profession through coursework that addresses occupational therapy service delivery, advocacy, ethics and health policy administration. A multi-course research sequence prepares students for scholarly inquiry guiding them to become evidence-based practitioners. Working collaboratively with faculty, and clinic and community-based sites, student teams develop and implement research studies whose outcomes augment current literature and meet the information needs of research partners. The culminating requirement is a presentation at the annual Graduate Research Symposium. Through these experiences, students develop the broad perspective required for promoting and providing best practice.

Supporting Themes

Person-Environment-Occupation Relationship

Students explore how factors related to the person, environment and occupation impact health, well-being and participation in society. Throughout the curriculum students engage in scholarly inquiry, case-based learning, and field experiences with persons, groups and organizations. Together these learning activities assist students to analyze the elements that promote occupational performance.

Therapeutic Use of Self

Students develop skills in forming therapeutic relationships through experiences that foster self-awareness, personal maturity, and effective communication. Emphasis on client-centered practice supports the student's ability to engage in a collaborative intervention process.

Entry Level Practice

Entry level practice as an occupational therapist is facilitated through the development of critical thinking skills, therapeutic use of self, and professionalism. The application of ethics, evidence-based practice, and clinical reasoning are woven throughout coursework and fieldwork experiences. Students develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors required for best practice.

Fieldwork

Students complete five part-time and full-time fieldwork experiences to refine clinical reasoning and therapeutic skills while working with clients. Level I fieldwork involves three multi-week experiences in clinical settings integrated within first- and second-year coursework. Level II fieldwork involves two full time, 12-week internships during the summer and fall following the second year of study. These affiliations give students the opportunity to practice the clinical skills learned in the classroom in occupational therapy settings under appropriate supervision. The expected outcome of Level II fieldwork is entry-level therapist performance and independent practice. Sage maintains a working relationship with 500 clinical sites located throughout the country.

Faculty

Students enjoy an excellent student-to-faculty ratio of 15:1 that facilitates personal attention and close working

relationships. The Russell Sage Occupational Therapy faculty are specialists in the fields of pediatrics, psychosocial practice, rehabilitation, gerontology and research. To ensure fresh program content delivery, Sage faculty are engaged in scholarly work and clinical practice in addition to their teaching responsibilities. Sage professors hold advanced certification in pediatrics, neurorehabilitation, sensory integration, neurodevelopmental treatment, and hand therapy. Faculty doctoral degrees and advanced study include occupational therapy, chronic illness, expressive arts, education, ethics, maternal health and pediatrics. They are able to bring new ideas and technologies into the classroom, and expose students to contemporary practice in their respective therapy specialties. Students also benefit from faculty expertise through collaboration in ongoing research projects.

OT Program Outcome Statements

At the conclusion of the occupational therapy educational program, students will:

Foundations & Professional Identity

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the profession, the scope and role of occupational therapy within the health delivery system, and its contributions to health promotion, wellness and participation in society.
- Establish and sustain client centered therapeutic relationships and support intergenerational and cultural sensitivity in client interaction.
- Function in the generalist role and assume a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Develop professional behaviors, attitudes and actions reflective of ethical standards and values.
- Demonstrate a strong command of the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework language when communicating effectively in writing or speaking to a variety of audiences.
- Advocate for the profession and the people we serve through active participation and membership in community and professional organizations.

Evaluation & Intervention in Practice Settings

- Value culture and other person-environment factors in developing meaningful interventions across clinical and community settings.
- Apply knowledge of the relationship of theory to practice using theoretical models and frames of reference to guide clinical reasoning.
- Distinguish and use appropriate screening and assessment methods to determine client goals and document the need to refer to other disciplines as indicated.
- Develop and implement occupation-based intervention plans that support the client's ability to return to desired habits, routines, roles, and rituals within their environment.
- Document services to ensure accountability and meet standards for reimbursement.
- Work cooperatively with members of interprofessional teams and other stakeholders within the health delivery system.
- Demonstrate ability to analyze and adapt environments to promote occupational health and wellness.

Professional Responsibility & Research

- Integrate knowledge of state, federal and professional standards and regulations that shape community and clinical practice.
- Demonstrate skills in the management of occupational therapy services including supervision and an understanding of the health care team, budgeting and reimbursement and leadership.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the occupational therapy scope of practice through legislative advocacy, consumer education and knowledge of trends and opportunities.
- Critically analyze research literature to make evidence-based decisions and engage in scholarly

- activities that contribute to best practice
- Apply current research methods to design and execute a novel research study.

OT Program Curricular Objectives

Foundations and Professional Identity

1. Demonstrates consistent personal and professional ethical behavior
2. Demonstrates positive interpersonal and interprofessional skills
3. Communicates the values and beliefs of OT to clients, staff and family
4. Demonstrates beginning use of professional OT language
5. Seeks and responds constructively to feedback
6. Takes responsibility for own learning

Evaluation and Intervention in Practice Settings

1. Adheres to safety regulations in regard to safety of self and others
2. Demonstrates ability to establish rapport with clients and team members
3. Demonstrates respect for diversity factors and lifestyle choices of others
4. Analyzes impact of person-environment factors on OT evaluation and intervention
5. Selects appropriate screening and assessment tools based on client need, context and environment
6. Refers to specialists for consultation and intervention
7. Uses standardized and non-standardized screening and assessment tools appropriately
8. Uses theories, practice models, and frames of reference to guide and inform evaluation and intervention
9. Makes informed practice decisions based on critical analyses of the evidence
10. Develops and implements occupational based interventions based on appropriate theoretical approach and client needs
11. Demonstrates skills in supervising and collaborating with OTAs
12. Documents services and maintains records to ensure accountability and meet reimbursement and facility standards
13. Demonstrates knowledge and compliance with reimbursement mechanisms
14. Monitors and reassesses the effect of OT intervention and need for continued or modified services
15. Develops discharge plans and terminates OT services as appropriate
16. Report evaluation results and modify practice as needed to improve outcomes
17. Provides client and family education to support occupational participation

Professional Responsibility and Research

1. Manages time, schedules and prioritizes workload appropriately
2. Develops strategies for effective use of OT and non-OT staff
3. Understands trends in models of service delivery and their effect on OT practice
4. Considers the impact of contextual factors on management and delivery of OT services
5. Demonstrates ability to design processes to manage quality and develop program changes
6. Understands factors that promote policy development and provision of OT services
7. Demonstrates knowledge of state, federal and professional standards that shape practice
8. Demonstrates knowledge of advocacy to benefit consumers and the profession
9. Identifies opportunities to address societal needs by participating in the development and marketing of OT services

10. Understands and critiques research studies
11. Uses research/professional literature to make evidence-based decisions
12. Designs and implements novice research studies relevant to occupational therapy
13. Identifies strategies for ongoing professional development
14. Participates in professional activities to advance the profession.

Program Academic Standards

The M.S. in Occupational Therapy is a professional education program. Students enrolled in the program must demonstrate achievement in academic and clinical competencies necessary for professional practice, and meet academic standards consistent with graduate school criteria. Students must also demonstrate effective professional behavior as detailed in the *Standards of Professional Behavior*.

1. Grade Point Average (GPA)
 - A minimum overall grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained in Occupational Therapy coursework each semester. A semester GPA below 3.0 will result in probation for the following semester.
 - If the semester GPA is below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, the student will be subject to suspension from the full-time program.
 - A student must attain a minimum overall 3.0 GPA prior to enrolling in fieldwork courses.
 - A student must achieve a minimum overall 3.0 GPA to be eligible to graduate. A grade of "C" or lower will not be rounded up.
2. Passing Course Grades
 - If a grade of "F" is obtained in a course, the student will be suspended and the course must be repeated before continuing in the curriculum. A course may be repeated only once and the student must achieve a minimum of "B-" ("P" is pass/fail course) on the second attempt. If a student receives a grade of "F" in two OT Program courses, the student will be dismissed from the program. A grade lower than "C" will not be rounded up.
3. Lab Practical/Proficiency Exam Grades
 - After the first semester of the program, each student is expected to pass every oral/practical/proficiency exam on the first attempt with a minimum passing grade of 80%. If unsuccessful, the student will be allowed one retake of the exam. If the student does not achieve the minimum passing grade of 80% on the retake, the student will receive a grade of "F" for that course and will be suspended from the program.
 - The second occasion that a student needs to repeat an oral/practical/proficiency exam will result in probation. On the third occasion, the student will be suspended from the program.
 - Each student is expected to demonstrate competency in all safety items in order to successfully pass the lab practical exam or proficiency.
 - Repeat of a lab practical is at discretion of an instructor to meet minimum standards. The redo of a lab practical will earn a maximum of 80%.
4. Professional Behaviors
 - Professional behavior feedback is provided by one course instructor each semester.
 - Professional behaviors require mastery learning in time management, safety, ethics, professional behaviors, and verbal and written communication. Students must "Meet Standards" in order to go to fieldwork.
 - A student receiving "needs improvement" on time management, engagement, ethics, or safety, and/or has greater than 6 total areas of "needs improvement" will be reviewed by every course instructor the following semester.
5. Retention and Dismissal
 1. Probation

- A student who receives a grade of "C" or "C-" in any course will be placed on probation for the next semester. Probation for two consecutive semesters will result in suspension. Probation for three semesters will result in dismissal.
- Violations of the OT Program's *Standards of Professional Behavior* or *AOTA Code of Ethics* are also grounds for being placed on probation.

2. Suspension

- Suspension from the program will be for a one-year period of time. A program of remediation will occur during this time period. Since the program is a lock-step curriculum, courses that were not successfully completed cannot be repeated until the following year.
- A second suspension results in dismissal.
- Repeated violations of the OT Program's *Standards of Professional Behavior* or *AOTA Code of Ethics* are also grounds for suspension.

3. Dismissal

- A student is subject to dismissal from the OT Program for any of the following:
 - Student receives a grade of "F" in two courses;
 - Student has to retake a lab practical/proficiency exam in three courses;
 - Student has two suspensions;
 - Student has three probations;
 - Student does not achieve a minimum grade of "B-" ("P" in pass/fail course) when repeating a course;
 - Egregious conduct that violates professional and/or legal standards.
- A student who is academically dismissed from the OT Program may apply for readmission after a period of one year. A program of reassessment and review will be required during this period. Students having difficulty maintaining the academic standards may be required to enroll in an extended curriculum.
- Students who withdraw or who are dismissed for reasons other than GPA will have their records reviewed for possible readmission by Occupational Therapy program faculty. Readmission will be determined by the faculty based on this review and any additional criteria required at the discretion of the faculty.

6. Fieldwork

- By the terms of the College's contractual agreement with fieldwork sites, only students who have satisfactorily completed the requisite professional courses and demonstrate safety and competence in all lab proficiency exams/check-offs will be placed in fieldwork.
- Students must have demonstrated the ability to meet the academic and program standards of the OT Program outlined in the *OT Student Handbook*, demonstrate effective interpersonal communication, professional behavior, and judgment necessary for the field setting, and be recommended by faculty for fieldwork education.
- Faculty will formally review all students' progress at the end of the spring semester of the second year of professional coursework (or equivalent) to ensure that students are demonstrating mastery of material and are ready for Level II fieldwork. This appraisal includes a review of students' grades and professional behavior. Faculty retains the final decision to approve students for fieldwork placements.
- Students who frequently display unprofessional behavior and/or judgment, or who are unable to address professional behavior concerns that have been identified by faculty, will be required to appear before a sub-group of the OT Program faculty that includes at a minimum the fieldwork coordinator, program director, and faculty advisor. This faculty group may impose sanctions which can include probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program, and/or delay the student from engaging in the fieldwork portion of the curriculum.
- Students must successfully complete Level II fieldwork within 15 months beyond the date of completion of evaluation and intervention courses, or repeat the course(s), and/or

demonstrate academic and clinical competency in the course(s) prior to beginning fieldwork experiences.

- Students must obtain permission of faculty prior to repeating a failed fieldwork experience. Failure to complete a fieldwork or having to be removed from a placement may result in a student's dismissal from the program. Students who need to repeat more than one Level II fieldwork course will be dismissed from the program.

7. Academic Leave

- All students are required to maintain continuous matriculation in the program. In the event a leave of absence is required, this must be requested and approved by Occupational Therapy Program faculty in order for the student to maintain a place in the program and eventually be eligible to graduate. Students who have requested and obtained a leave of absence from the program will need to complete program requirements in the time frame indicated in the letter from the program approving the leave. In most cases a leave will not be approved for a period in excess of one calendar year. Students who have been inactive in coursework or who are two or more years beyond the date of completion of their last Level II Fieldwork placement will need to request permission of the faculty to be readmitted to the program. Students will be required to repeat all of the evaluation and intervention courses or demonstrate academic and clinical competency in each of these courses, via examination, to be allowed to complete the program and be eligible to take the certification examination.

Admission Requirements for M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Applicants may wish to visit the college and meet with a representative of the Occupational Therapy program. Candidates should call the OT program office at (518) 244-2266 to schedule an appointment with the program director. There are two points of entry into the M.S. in Occupational Therapy Program: direct entry through Sage Graduate Schools or through Russell Sage College via the 3+2 accelerated program or more traditional 4+2 program.

Direct Entry through Sage Graduate School

Qualified men and women who possess a baccalaureate degree and who have fulfilled the prerequisite courses for the graduate program in Occupational Therapy may apply directly to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program through Sage Graduate Schools. In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to Sage Graduate Schools, the successful applicant to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program will demonstrate evidence of the following:

- Earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- Minimum 3.25 GPA in overall undergraduate study and OT Program prerequisite courses with a science prerequisite GPA of 3.0.
- Completion of OT program prerequisite courses with grades of "C" or better in each required course.
- Completion of at least 20 hours of clinical observation under the supervision of an occupational therapist before beginning the professional program. Applicants are encouraged to complete clinical observation hours as early as possible. Students who are unable to complete observations prior to submitting the admission application must include a letter outlining a plan for completion of these hours with their applications (see observation documentation form in application packet).
- Submission of Academic Standards Statement and Documentation of Clinical Observation Hours Form with the Sage Graduate School Application (forms are available on the Sage OT program website).
- Submit complete application by February 1 priority deadline. After the February 1st deadline, applicants are reviewed on a rolling basis and admitted as space permits.

Entry through RSC 3+2 Accelerated Program to M.S. in Occupational Therapy Program

Students entering college directly from high school or transferring at the undergraduate level may apply to Russell Sage College for the 3+2 bachelor's degree leading to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy. Students admitted to the accelerated five-year program at Russell Sage College will choose an RSC undergraduate major. The bachelor's degree in the chosen major is awarded from Russell Sage College at the end of the fourth year and the M.S. in Occupational Therapy is awarded from Sage Graduate School at the end of the fifth year, plus fieldwork.

Undergraduate Academic Standards for Acceleration to M. S. in Occupational Therapy Program

Students who enroll at RSC in the 3+2 bachelor's degree leading to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy may enroll in OT graduate courses during their fourth year of undergraduate study and are guaranteed acceptance to the graduate OT Program, providing they maintain the following academic requirements in the first three years of undergraduate study:

- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in undergraduate study;
- Achieve a minimum 3.0 in science GPA in OT Program prerequisite courses;
- Achieve a grade of "C" or better in all OT program prerequisite courses;
- Complete and document 20 hours of observation with a licensed occupational therapist; and
- Complete undergraduate major requirements, RSC general education courses, and OT program prerequisites;
- Transfer students must complete a minimum of 45 undergraduate credits at Sage prior to entering the graduate program.

OT Prerequisite Courses for all Programs

The following prerequisite courses must be completed prior to entry to any graduate OT Program:

- Anatomy & Physiology I and II (with labs);
- Medical Terminology
- Introduction to Psychology (General Psychology)
- Human Development (Lifespan Development)
- Abnormal Psychology
- Statistics
- 3 credits in Sociology or Anthropology
- Recommended: Physics with Lab

Occupational Therapy (M.S.) Degrees and Certificates

Occupational Therapy (M.S.)

Degree Type

M.S.

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OT Program Summary

Item #	Title	Credits
OTH 504	Foundations of Occupational Therapy (Online)	2
OTH 501	Neuroscience	4
OTH 503	Models & Theories in Occupational Therapy Practice	1
OTH 507	Functional Anatomy & Applied Kinesiology/Labs A and B	6
OTH 515/515L	Occupational Engagement in Adulthood with Lab	4
OTH 567	Research Methods for Health Professions	3
OTH 606	Evaluation & Intervention of the Upper Extremity/Lab	4
OTH 608	Foundations of Physical Rehabilitation with Lab A	2.5
OTH 609	Evaluation and Intervention: Mental Health Occupational Performance with Lab	4
OTH 623	Fieldwork I: Community Mental Health	1
OTH 622	Fieldwork Seminar and Professional Identity Exploration	2
OTH 514	Occupational Performance in Children & Youth	3
OTH 624	Level I Fieldwork: Physical Rehabilitation	1
OTH 611	Evaluation/Intervention: Adult Physical Rehabilitation I	4
OTH 616	Evaluation & Intervention: School Based Practice with Lab	4
OTH 626	Fieldwork I: Pediatric Setting	1
OTH 620	Community OT Practice	1.5
OTH 669	Research Seminar I	3
OTH 512	Technology & Adaptations	1
OTH 612	Management of OT Services	3
OTH 617	Evaluation and Intervention: Early Intervention Settings with Lab	4
OTH 618	Evaluation and Intervention: Adult Physical Rehabilitation II with Lab	4
OTH 636	Clinical & Professional Reasoning Seminar	2
OTH 670	Research Seminar II	3
OTH 627	Fieldwork IIa	5
OTH 628	Fieldwork IIb	5

Fieldwork Requirements:

Yearly physical examinations, immunizations, and CPR certification are required by fieldwork sites. In addition, many settings require students to be fingerprinted and undergo a criminal history review. Students are responsible for the arrangements and costs of these, as well as for transportation to and from fieldwork settings. A felony conviction may prevent student placement at some fieldwork settings.

Total Credits

80

Occupational Therapy (M.S.) Classes

OTH 501 : Neuroscience

This course is an integrated approach to the structure and function of the human nervous system. The laboratory/discussion format is devoted to topographical study, clinical problems, concept of the neurobehavioral sciences, the study of sensory systems, the quality of motor responses, and an introduction of neurological assessment. Open only to matriculated OT students.

Credits 4

OTH 503 : Models & Theories in Occupational Therapy Practice

This course emphasizes the occupational therapy theoretical frameworks to guide the clinical reasoning process using case-based discussion and critical analysis of literature.

Credits 1

OTH 504 : Foundations of Occupational Therapy (Online)

The profession's historical roots, and the guiding documents that outline constructs and terminology of the profession, scope of practice, code of ethics, and guidelines for supervision related to occupational therapy practice are investigated. In addition, the profession's relation to the concept of disability, wellness, patient rights, and environmental modifications are explored.

Course content delivered online.

Credits 2

OTH 504L : Foundations of Occupation Therapy Lab

In OTH-504 Lab, the terminology of the practice framework in relation to the person, environment, and occupation are examined. Skills related to group facilitation, scaffolding, grading and modifying activity, and individual patient care skills are practiced.

Credits 1

OTH 507 : Functional Anatomy & Applied Kinesiology/Labs A and B

This course provides an overview of the anatomical and movement dimensions of human occupation. Emphasis is on understanding how musculoskeletal function within an environmental context can support or hinder occupation. Case based discussions focus the concepts in both lecture and lab. Through lectures, discussions, and experiential learning, students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the dynamic relationship among movement, environment and occupation. The impact of pathology and aging on the biomechanics of human posture and movement will be introduced. Students will also develop a proficiency in anatomy/medical terminology. Two labs accompany this lecture. In the Functional Anatomy lab, students utilize problem based learning to explore the prosected cadaver specimen. In the Applied Kinesiology lab, students develop skills in palpation, biomechanical activity analysis, and the assessment of range of motion, strength and resultant occupational performance within the context of normal movement.

Credits 6

Prerequisites

Matriculated student in the OT program

OTH 512 : Technology & Adaptations

This course focuses on the adaptation of the individual and/or the environment to enhance or improve occupational performance. Topics include background and legislation, environmental and contextual adaptation, changing needs over the lifespan, consumer usability and compliance, current trends, models, barriers, assessment, education, funding, recycling/replacing, and hands-on discovery of high and low assistive technology devices, adaptive seating, wheelchairs, computer utilization and other technology.

Credits 1

OTH 514 : Occupational Performance in Children & Youth

This course presents an integrated view of development with a focus on the occupations of childhood including movement, play and adaptive/social behavior in babies, toddlers and youth. The focus of this course is in comparing and contrasting typical and atypical growth and developing appropriate observational and clinical skills necessary for professional practice. Performance concerns, disease/disabilities, and family/cultural dynamics that occupational therapists would likely encounter in professional practice with children will be reviewed.

Credits 3

OTH 515/515L : Occupational Engagement in Adulthood with Lab

This course provides a foundational view of the role of occupation with persons, groups and populations throughout typical and atypical adult development from young adulthood to end of life. Occupational performance, health and wellbeing will be examined with a focus on applying the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF-4) to adult development. The meaning of occupation with a personal exploration of meaningful choice of occupations will be considered. Lab will focus on adult development and the context and conditions that impact engagement in occupations. The principles of lifestyle redesign, functional group process, health and wellness interventions will be examined. Students will explore the development of their professional identity as an OT and gain emerging practitioner skills through therapeutic use of self and interview skills.

Credits 4

OTH 567 : Research Methods for Health Professions

This course is the first of a multi-course research sequence. To begin the process of translating evidence into practice, students are introduced to different models and paradigms of research and presented with an opportunity to examine quantitative and qualitative approaches to using and conducting research. Topics include conducting literature reviews, occupation-centered research, quantitative and qualitative research designs, data collection and analysis strategies, writing research proposals, researcher ethics, and the responsibilities of an evidence-based practitioner. Upon completion of this course, students will submit a comprehensive literature review..

Credits 3

OTH 606 : Evaluation & Intervention of the Upper Extremity/ Lab

This course explores the occupational therapist's role with clients with difficulty performing everyday occupations due to common musculoskeletal problems, emphasizing the upper extremity and hand. Issues discussed include the impact of disabling events on occupational performance and the occupational therapist's role in assisting the client in adapting their home, work, and leisure activities and environments. The course explores the role of the Occupational Therapy Assistant in evaluation and intervention, focusing on the collaborative nature of the supervisory relationship. Students will learn the evaluation and intervention process, including planning, selecting appropriate methods, developing skills in assessment, and progressing interventions over time. Beginning documentation skills will be practiced through evaluations, SOAP Notes, and intervention plans. Laboratory activities will focus on clinical reasoning and skill in evaluation techniques and planning/ implementing appropriate interventions. Universal precautions will be discussed and utilized in laboratory activities.

Credits 4

OTH 608 : Foundations of Physical Rehabilitation with Lab A

In this course, common practices and preparatory methods are examined in relation to the client's occupational performance. Topics include splinting assessment and selection, special care units, functional mobility (transfers, ambulation, and wheelchairs), assistive dressing, and physical agent modalities. Application to case studies examine the need for common assistive technology and environmental modifications.

In physical rehabilitation skills lab (OTH-608AL), experiences include construction of splints and practice of safe patient handling techniques related to basic mobility and dressing skills, including use of common adaptive equipment and techniques.

Credits 2.5

Prerequisites

Completion of OTH 507, and completion of OTH 514 or 515

OTH 608BL : Modalities Lab

In the physical agent modality lab (OTH-608BL), experiences include demonstration of safe application of thermal and electrical modalities as preparatory methods to occupational therapy treatment.

Credits 1

OTH 609 : Evaluation and Intervention: Mental Health Occupational Performance with Lab

This course focuses on psychosocial evaluation and intervention in various settings. Individuals and families are viewed within a framework that considers how biological, psychological, and sociocultural issues influence occupational behavior. A client-centered approach is emphasized, with a corresponding interest in the client's subjective experience of meaning through activity. Though this course focuses on occupational therapy in mental health settings, implications for psychosocial practice in other contexts are discussed. Course content is intended to broaden the student's psychosocial perspective, applicable theoretical base, and clinical reasoning skills in working with individuals and families in various practice settings.

Credits 4

OTH 611 : Evaluation/Intervention: Adult Physical Rehabilitation I

This course analyzes a variety of clinical conditions that impact motor control and influence occupational performance in adults. Motor control and motor learning theories are examined as a foundation for the theoretical frames of reference that guide clinical evaluation and intervention. Client centered and evidence based evaluation, intervention and documentation of neuromotor, cognitive and perceptual problems are examined and applied. Therapeutic exercise, education and training is explored and practiced from the occupational therapy perspective with consideration to the role of the interprofessional team. Laboratory sessions focus on the therapeutic use of self, clinical reasoning and the development of clinical observation skills required for clinical practice. Students develop and apply evaluation and intervention including therapeutic handling skills to enhance occupational performance. Clinical documentation skills are developed and practiced.

Credits 4

Prerequisites

Completion of OTH 501, OTH 503, and OTH 515/515L

OTH 612 : Management of OT Services

This course provides students with an opportunity to explore the organization and management of occupational therapy services. Offered prior to student's full time Level II Fieldwork, students learn about the range of practice contexts and how policy issues influence OT practice; trends in models of service delivery; and managerial functions including human resource management, financial management and program management. Issues of reimbursement, marketing, program evaluation, and advocacy are explored. Special emphasis is on understanding the supervisory role, OT/OTA collaborative relationships and supervision as it relates to developing and implementing fieldwork education.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

OTH 624 or 623 or 626

OTH 616 : Evaluation & Intervention: School Based Practice with Lab

This course focuses on the application of educationally relevant occupational therapy service provision to support the school age child with specialized learning needs in the context of the public or private school

setting. Lecture topics include: legislation, understanding eligibility for special education services, collaborative team building, screening, assessment, developing, planning and implementing educationally relevant interventions, models of service delivery, documentation, the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process, issues related to diversity, transitions from school to adult services, policy development, and alternative strategies for supporting children in the educational process. Laboratory experiences focus on administration of and interpretation of assessments, and intervention strategies through use of case students, videotape cases, and actual fieldwork cases.

Credits 4

Prerequisites

OTH 514

OTH 617 : Evaluation and Intervention: Early Intervention Settings with Lab

The focus of this course is in the application of principles of typical and atypical growth and development to support the development of students' observational and clinical skills that are necessary to evaluate and formulate a comprehensive intervention plan in pediatric practice for babies and toddlers in early intervention and preschool-age children. Course topics and activities include application of sensory processing and neurodevelopment theory to assessment and treatment in home and community settings; motor control and motor learning; therapeutic use of toys in play; working with caregivers; oral motor control and swallowing in evaluation and treatment of eating and feeding disorders; motor planning and executive processing; orthopedic aspects of developmental disabilities, interdisciplinary team coordination; the role of the OTA; supervision, safety, management of practice environments; the impact of culture and environment on intervention practices and outcomes; legislation that enables practice; documentation and evidence-based practice with young children.

Credits 4

OTH 618 : Evaluation and Intervention: Adult Physical Rehabilitation II with Lab

This course explores the evaluation and intervention of adults with chronic and co-morbid conditions across a variety of physical rehabilitation treatment settings. Students engage in client centered and evidence based evaluation, intervention and documentation of a variety of conditions impacting occupational performance including but not limited to cardiovascular, respiratory, and musculoskeletal in preparation for Level II fieldwork. Therapeutic interventions for individuals, populations and groups that consider health promotion, prevention and wellness are discussed and developed. The laboratory sessions focus on the development of therapeutic use of self and clinical reasoning to apply evaluation and intervention planning skills to enhance occupational performance. Clinical documentation skills are applied to case based learning with the use of the EHR.

Credits 4

OTH 620 : Community OT Practice

This course provides students with a community orientation to the practice of occupational therapy. Course discussions and exercises examine how community-oriented policies, theories, and models can be effectively bridged into practice. Students examine current health care trends that impact the interrelationships of person, environment, and occupation within a community-based setting. They identify a population whose

health and well-being could be enhanced by an intervention from a community-based occupational therapist; determine the contribution of an occupational therapy consultation; develop a client-centered program; and investigate funding mechanisms to meet the needs of the agency and its consumers.

Credits 1.5

Prerequisites

OTH 503, OTH 504, OTH 514, and OTH 515/515L

OTH 622 : Fieldwork Seminar and Professional Identity Exploration

The fieldwork seminar is a prerequisite to Level II Fieldwork. It is designed to assist students in their professional socialization and to identify issues related to professional behavior. Students will participate in a group process to effect personal change, to develop and apply communication skills, and to facilitate professional development. Through discussion and role-plays students are encouraged to become reflective practitioners who are more personally aware of themselves, the roles they are expected to play, and how their values and communication patterns may facilitate or interfere with the therapeutic process. Topics include: values as determinants of behavior; ethics; effective communication; group leadership and dynamics, teaching tools and strategies, and professional portfolio development.

Credits 2

OTH 623 : Fieldwork I: Community Mental Health

The overall purpose of the student fieldwork experience is to provide students with exposure to role emerging psychosocial practice settings where occupational therapy services can benefit consumers. The opportunity to work in primarily community settings with diverse populations and service providers help students to develop an understanding of how occupational therapists can address the needs of underserved populations. The focus of the learning experience is the application of skills learned through coursework to include observation, written and verbal communication, professional behavior, individual and group participation with clients, and beginning level evaluation and treatment planning.

Credits 1

Prerequisites

OTH-503, OTH-504, OTH-515, OTH-622

OTH 624 : Level I Fieldwork: Physical Rehabilitation

The overall purpose of the fieldwork experience is to provide students with exposure to clinical settings through observation and participation in the treatment process. The opportunity to work with clients and therapists helps students to examine their reactions to clients, themselves, and other personnel while integrating academic learning with clinical practice. The focus of the learning experience will be the application of skills learned through coursework to include observation, written and verbal communication, professional behavior, individual and group participation with patients and clients, and beginning level evaluation and treatment planning.

Credits 1

Prerequisites

OTH 606, OTH 608, and OTH 622

OTH 626 : Fieldwork I: Pediatric Setting

The overall purpose of the student fieldwork experience is to provide students with exposure to clinical practice through observation and participation in the treatment process. The opportunity to work with clients

and therapists helps students to examine their reactions to clients, themselves and other personnel while integrating academic learning with clinical practice. The focus of the learning experience will be the application of skills learned through coursework to include observation, written and verbal communication, professional behavior, individual and group participation with patients and clients, and beginning level evaluation and treatment planning.

Credits 1

Prerequisites

OTH 501 and OTH 514

OTH 627 : Fieldwork IIa

This full time, 12-week affiliation is one of two fieldwork Level II experiences that follow successful completion of evaluation and intervention coursework. This clinical education component gives the student an opportunity to apply didactic material and to interact with clients/patients in a therapeutic setting. Practice of evaluation, goal setting, note writing, and application of therapeutic techniques appropriate to the student's skill level are carried out under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist or other qualified personnel. Students are expected to be functioning as entry-level therapists at the end of each fieldwork experience. Successful completion of this fieldwork education component is a requirement for graduation from the Occupational Therapy Program.

Credits 5

Prerequisites

Take 55 credits from the department of OTH

OTH 628 : Fieldwork IIb

This full time, 12-week affiliation is one of two Fieldwork Level II experiences that follow successful completion evaluation and intervention coursework. This clinical education component gives the student an opportunity to apply didactic material and to interact with clients/patients in a therapeutic setting. Practice of evaluation, goal setting, note writing and application of therapeutic techniques appropriate to the student's skill level are carried out under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist or other qualified personnel. Students are expected to be functioning as entry-level therapists at the end of each fieldwork experience. Successful completion of this fieldwork education component is a requirement for graduation from the Occupational Therapy Program.

Credits 5

Prerequisites

Take 55 credits from the department of OTH

OTH 636 : Clinical & Professional Reasoning Seminar

Professional issues related to supervisory and clinical issues are examined in relation to legal, ethical and professional responsibilities and behaviors. Topics include credentialing, ethics, fieldwork education, career management and professional development. Client cases with complex and chronic conditions are examined using evidence based practice and modeling professional clinical reasoning.

Credits 2

Prerequisites

Take 55 OT credits in professional program

OTH 669 : Research Seminar I

This seminar is a continuation of a curricular sequence designed to provide students with an opportunity to conduct research. Prerequisites for this seminar include successful completion of OTH 567 and the on-line

research certification course. Throughout the seminar students will perform critical reading exercises and facilitate in-class discussions intended to develop new understandings about research. Students will work in research teams and participate in a variety of tasks including: obtaining study approval with the Institutional Review Board, collecting quantitative and qualitative data to address the research questions proposed in their studies, and exploring preliminary interpretations with their research sites. This course will further prepare students to complete their final research project.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

OTH 567

OTH 670 : Research Seminar II

The Research Seminar is designed to be the culminating experience of the research series in the occupational therapy program. This course will continue to provide students with a working knowledge of research methodology focusing on data analysis, writing, and reporting skills. Data collected in the previous semester will be analyzed, interpreted and reported back to research participants. The class meetings will involve data entry using computer software programs, peer debriefings, and other analytic discussions related to formulating the research findings. Each student will be required to write a final manuscript following the format outlined by a peer reviewed journal. As a final requirement, students are required to present their research experiences at the Graduate School Research Symposium.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

OTH 567