Occupational Therapy

Department of Occupational Therapy
School of Health Professions
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Occupational therapists are skilled health professionals who provide services to individuals across the lifespan to maximize their independence in meaningful everyday activities. Occupational therapists use research, scientific evidence, and a holistic perspective to incorporate an individual’s valued occupations into the intervention process.

The mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is to improve the health and well-being of society by assisting people to optimize their participation in everyday life occupations.

We achieve this mission through the integration of our:

- Professional education of clinically innovative occupational therapists prepared to meet the dynamic occupational needs of people and communities across the lifespan;
- Steadfast commitment to service to our community and our profession;
- Evidence-based practice; and
- Commitment to scholarship, discovery and clinical research to advance our profession.

To become a registered occupational therapist, either an entry-level master’s degree or an entry-level doctoral degree is required. The Department of Occupational Therapy is in the process of transitioning from the entry-level master’s degree to the entry-level doctoral degree.

Entry-Level Master’s Degree Program

The final cohort for the entry-level master’s degree will be selected during the 2019 application cycle, begin coursework in Summer 2020, and graduate in May 2022. The entry-level master’s degree program is currently accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD, 20814-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-2682 and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org (http://www.acoteonline.org)

All applicants must complete a bachelor’s degree (in any major), along with necessary program prerequisites, prior to beginning professional coursework in the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Students must complete Level II fieldwork and experiential requirements within 24 months following completion of the didactic portion of the program.

Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), Inc. located at One Bank Street, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. NBCOT’s telephone number is (301) 990-7979 and its Web address is www.nbcot.org (http://www.nbcot.org). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure.

The department accepts applications on a rolling basis July through January via the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) available at http://otcas.liaisoncas.org/. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree and must have successfully completed all program prerequisites by the start of the Summer semester in which they would begin coursework.

Professional courses are offered only to students enrolled in the program. Contact the Department of Occupational Therapy for more information regarding the degree.

Entry-Level Doctoral Degree Program

The Department of Occupational Therapy has applied for accreditation by ACOTE to transition to offering the entry-level occupational therapy doctoral (OTD) degree, with first cohort selected during the 2020 application cycle, beginning coursework in Summer 2021, and graduating in August 2024. The program must be granted Candidacy Status, have a pre-accreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by NBCOT.

After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure.

All applicants must complete a bachelor’s degree (in any major), along with necessary program prerequisites, prior to beginning professional coursework in the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Students must complete Level II fieldwork and experiential requirements within 24 months following completion of the didactic portion of the program.

The department accepts applications on a rolling basis July through January via the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) available at http://otcas.liaisoncas.org/. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree and must have successfully completed all program prerequisites by the start of the Summer semester in which they would begin coursework.

Professional courses are offered only to students enrolled in the program. Contact the Department of Occupational Therapy for more information regarding the degree.

Faculty

Assistant Clinical Professor  T. Bolton*,  W. Henderson*,  W. Janes**,  G. Pifer*
Assistant Professor  A. Boone, R. Proffitt**
Associate Clinical Professor  L. Lowery**
Associate Professor  T. Wolf**
Associate Teaching Professor  C. Gateley**
Distinguished Professor  W. Dunn**

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.

** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

OC_THR 1000: Introduction to Occupational Therapy
Introductory course to provide students information about the occupational therapy profession. Registered therapists lecture on clinical aspects. Students participate in discussions on program requirements, placement, and trends in the profession.

Credit Hour: 1

OC_THR 4085: Problems in Occupational Therapy
Independent investigation leading to the completion of a project or paper. Repeatable upon consent of department.

Credit Hour: 1-99
Prerequisites: Instructor’s consent
Recommended: Junior standing

OC_THR 5010: Professional Development
This course provides a foundation for understanding professional development as students evolve into occupational therapy practitioners. Students are provided an introduction to professional associations, legislative processes affecting occupational therapy practice, and requirements for initial and ongoing professional registration, certification, and licensure. Students examine how occupational therapists interface with other stakeholders within a complex healthcare environment to ensure that the occupational needs of individuals and communities are met. Advocacy and ethical decision making as a part of contemporary practice are also introduced. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

OC_THR 5020: Foundations and Theory in Occupational Therapy
Historical, philosophical, and conceptual foundations of occupational therapy practice will be analyzed for the purpose of understanding current standards and models of practice. As a core concept of occupational therapy practice, students will be expected to analyze therapeutic activities to assure the therapy process is client and occupation centered. Concepts of occupation, occupational balance, and occupational justice will be addressed as related to contemporary domestic and global issues. Students will discover the value of professional organizations and learn how to access and utilize official documents of the OT profession. Development of a professional occupational therapy identity and methods to further personal and professional growth will be explored. Students will develop a foundational knowledge of occupational therapy management and the role of the occupational therapist in the supervision of OT assistants and OT students. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students only

OC_THR 5030: Human Development and Occupation
Overview from an occupational perspective of typical development from infancy through adolescence and the biopsychosocial development and aging process from young adulthood through end of life. Emphasis on the impact of personal and contextual factors on occupational development throughout the lifespan. This course will contain a variety of instructional methods including online learning, lecture, lab, and active learning assignments. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

OC_THR 5110: Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice
This course will introduce you to the importance of research for the profession of occupational therapy and provide you with basic skills necessary to locate, evaluate, and incorporate evidence into clinical practice. All of the classwork, assignments, and journal clubs are designed to provide you with the opportunity to put into practice the ideas, language, and components of research that are presented in the readings, lectures, and discussions. Writing assignments, interactive journal clubs, blog posts, and critical appraisals will be the methods of assessing your understanding of the material and assist you in learning how to communicate your understanding of evidence to support occupational therapy practice. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

OC_THR 5120: Principles of Assessment
This course introduces foundational knowledge regarding assessment as part of the occupational therapy process. Students will develop an understanding of the complexity of assessment for individuals with a wide range of limitations in various areas of practice that reflects occupation and evidence and occupation based practice. Throughout the course, students will be provided with opportunities to develop self-reflection and critical thinking skills as they integrate knowledge of the human condition and the occupational needs of those served. Students will also develop an understanding of how assessment is guided by theoretical knowledge and clinical reasoning. An increased understanding of the role of the OT as a member of the healthcare assessment team within an ever evolving society is also addressed. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Restricted to occupational therapy students only

OC_THR 5130: Conditions in Occupational Therapy
This course introduces students to a variety of health conditions relevant to occupational therapy practice and each condition's potential impact on client factors and performance skills as they relate to occupational performance across the lifespan. Course content includes an overview of developmental, mental health, neurological, orthopedic, traumatic, and chronic health conditions commonly addressed in occupational practice settings. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hour: 1
Prerequisites: Restricted to occupational therapy students

OC_THR 5140: Human Motion and Occupation
Daily occupation will be explored through human movement within the context of the physical environment. Students will learn to analyze common activities while taking into account body structures and
functions, activity demands, environmental supports, and technology supports. Assessment of human movement and movement-related deficits will be addressed and methods for adapting the environment and selecting appropriate assistive technologies will be introduced. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 4  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to occupational therapy students

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**OC_THR 5150: Concepts of Neuroscience**  
This foundational course uses a systems-based approach to examine the major structures and functions of the human nervous system. The content will explore the effects of a normal and abnormal nervous system on occupational performance. Theories, evaluation, and treatment topics related to the neurological system will be introduced. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 2  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to occupational therapy students

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**OC_THR 5160: Psychosocial Aspects of Occupational Therapy**  
This course will engage students in the examination of the role of the occupational therapist in the promotion of mental health and wellness in a variety of clinical and community based contexts. Throughout this course students will demonstrate entry-level clinical competence in both the therapeutic use of self and in providing group interventions for clients represented by a wide range of developmental levels. Students will actively explore course content through self-guided learning, hands on and practical learning experiences including leadership of group interventions and development of service delivery plans. Upon completion of this course, students will synthesize knowledge of mental health conditions, sociocultural factors, occupational justice, and theory related to recovery and mental health interventions to develop roles for occupational therapists in addressing societies’ occupational and mental health needs. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to Occupational Therapy students only

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**OC_THR 5210: Adult Practice**  
This course utilizes active learning methodologies to engage students in learning about occupational therapy intervention with the adult population in various practice settings. Students will use assessment results and activity analysis in combination with evidence and clinical reasoning to guide intervention planning for enhancing occupational performance. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 4  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to Occupational Therapy Students only

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**OC_THR 5220: Pediatric Practice**  
This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of common frames of reference and theories utilized in pediatric practice, as well as increase student understanding of the interplay of common conditions and the influence of conditions on participation in the home and community and the role of the occupational therapist with children and as a member of the therapeutic team. Emphasis is also placed on development of clinical reasoning skills and implementation of evidence based practice. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 4

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**Prerequisites:** Restricted to occupational therapy students

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**OC_THR 5230: Application of Evidence Based Practice**  
This course will expose you to the process of writing a research proposal. Specific topics include writing an answerable research question, literature searching, research ethics and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), study designs, methods for recruitment, data collection, and data analysis, and funding for research. You will work with a group (or individually) to prepare a research proposal for a clinically-relevant question. Guest speakers from various healthcare fields (including physical therapy, communication sciences disorders, and medicine) will enhance learning. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to Occupational Therapy students only

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**OC_THR 5240: Clinical Reasoning and Documentation**  
This course focuses on developing the observation, clinical reasoning, and documentation skills necessary in effectively reporting occupational therapy services across practice settings. Students are also introduced to ethical, legal, and reimbursement policies impacting occupational therapy documentation. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 2  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to Occupational Therapy students only

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**OC_THR 5250: Emerging Trends in Occupational Therapy**  
Students explore contextual factors associated with individual and population access to quality rehabilitation, health, and wellness services in societies and communities. Using their knowledge of the changing landscape of occupational therapy service delivery, students will assess the potential roles of occupational therapists in strengthening the health and wellness of communities and populations. Additionally, students will explore ways in which occupational therapists can collaborate and partner with organizations and communities to promote the full inclusion and participation of individuals in all aspects of society. Students will explore and negotiate innovative ways to deliver occupational therapy services in non-traditional clinical practice settings. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 1

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**OC_THR 5260: Occupational Therapy Practicum I**  
This clinical course is designed to provide students an opportunity to implement the occupational therapy process with individuals experiencing limitations in occupational performance. Through this hands-on experience, students will gain opportunities for application of theory and a deepened understanding of occupational therapy practice by identifying strengths and limitations during the evaluation process, developing and measuring client-centered goals, planning and executing interventions, implementing home programs, and preparing and performing discharge procedures. Graded on S/U basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 1

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**Prerequisites:** Restricted to Occupational Therapy Students only

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**OC_THR 5310: Advanced Practice Strategies**  
Students will learn to synthesize knowledge regarding common conditions seen in children and adults and understand functional implications related to occupational performance. Students will also
gain a greater understanding of the role of the occupational therapist across settings when working with children and adults in contemporary society. Learning will culminate with students applying theory and an understanding of cognitive, mental, physical and sensory contributions to occupational performance when developing assessment and intervention plans. Exploration and application of evidence-based practice is an essential component of this course. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: Restricted to occupational therapy students

OC_THR 5320: Performance, Participation, and Well-Being
Students will explore occupational performance and participation in daily life through the lenses of health promotion and prevention. The factors that contribute to individuals' lifestyle and health choices including culture, diversity, and disability will be discussed. Topics such as health literacy and self-management will be covered in relation to participation. Contextual factors and the environment, from narrow to broad in scope, are also the focus of this course. Environmental modifications, assistive technologies, compensatory strategies, and advanced strategies for grading and adapting tasks to support occupational performance will be explored in depth beyond introductory coursework. Other non-traditional contexts for participation such as work integration, driving, community mobility and transportation will also be explored. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 2
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

OC_THR 5330: Functional Cognition
This course provides an overview of theoretical models of cognitive function, an overview of an occupational therapy cognitive assessment framework and assessment tools, and an introduction to models of intervention for working with individuals with cognitive disabilities across the lifespan. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 2
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy Majors

OC_THR 5340: Evidence Based Practice Seminar
Students who wish to pursue this one credit seminar option will implement the proposal that was designed during OC_THR 7830 - Application of Evidence-Based Practice. Working with a research mentor, the student will carry out the proposed research project including data collection, data analysis, and dissemination. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hour: 1
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

OC_THR 5410: Case Based Learning
Integrates clinical reasoning and critical thinking, client-centered practice, and evidence-based decision making into the occupational therapy process across the lifespan in various practice domains. Problem-based methodology emphasizes small group learning and problem solving, self/peer evaluation, and self-directed learning. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

OC_THR 5420: Populations and Communities
This course provides students with foundational knowledge and background of the broad concept of community and community based practice in occupational therapy. Students will explore community health, wellness, occupational and social justice, and health disparities. Discovering the role and emerging roles of OT in addressing social and community issues will occur through reading, reflection, discussion, and other assignment work. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: Restricted to occupational therapy students

OC_THR 5430: Leadership, Management, and Policy
This course will provide an overview of the leadership and management responsibilities of occupational therapy leaders in varying practice settings. The significance of public and organizational policy will be discussed as related to service delivery and advocacy of consumer access to occupational therapy services. Content includes the supervisory roles of occupational therapists, professional standards of practice, ethics in practice, quality improvement activities, and the importance of professional competencies. The course content also includes leadership and mentoring of individuals and teams to provide evidence-based, occupation-based, and client-centered practice across a wide range of socio-cultural contexts. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

OC_THR 5440: Contemporary Issues in Occupational Therapy
This course focuses on the integration of clinical skills, professionalism, and current trends and topics in occupational therapy. Students will engage in direct application of knowledge through a variety of experiences and guided assignments. Collaboration with other professionals will be explored in the context of client supports, referrals, and supervision of OTAs. Students will determine appropriate interventions for clients and populations considering reimbursement, in terms of group design, home programming, and appropriate discharge from services. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 2
Prerequisites: Restricted to Occupational Therapy students only

OC_THR 5450: Occupational Therapy Practicum II
This course is designed to further advance practice skills and an understanding of the occupational therapy process through diverse experiences. Opportunities will be provided to increase professional development through application of evidence based practice in action. An increased emphasis and understanding of the role of families and caregivers, other stakeholders such as providers and service agencies and the greater community as they relate to occupational therapy practice are also addressed. Graded on S/U basis only.

Credit Hours: 2
Prerequisites: Restricted to occupational therapy students only

OC_THR 5460: Professional Seminar
This course requires students to apply and integrate information that they have learned throughout their professional coursework about the various roles of occupational therapists as practitioners, scholars, educators, and advocates. Students will reflect upon personal and professional competencies as they relate to the stated ability-based outcomes of the
MU OT Department’s curriculum design and each student’s future career goals. They will design a plan for ongoing professional development as they prepare for transition to Level II Fieldwork and entry-level practice. To facilitate this process, this course requires students to review the AOTA Code of Ethics, AOTA Standards of Practice, AOTA Standards for Continuing Competence, and other AOTA Official Documents that guide occupational therapy practice. Students will also explore various resources for fieldwork, certification exam preparation, entry-level practice, professional development, involvement in professional associations, making ethical decisions, and resolving conflicts. Students will update their professional resume and develop a plan for employment search as they approach graduation. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 1  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

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**OC_THR 5999: Problems in Occupational Therapy**  
Independent investigation leading to the completion of a project or paper. Repeatable upon consent of department. May be offered on S/U or A-F basis.

**Credit Hour:** 1-99

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**OC_THR 7085: Problems in Occupational Therapy**  
Independent investigation leading to the completion of a project or paper. Repeatable upon consent of department. May be offered on S/U or A-F basis.

**Credit Hour:** 1-99

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**OC_THR 7850: Emerging Trends in Occupational Therapy**  
Students explore contextual factors associated with individual and population access to quality rehabilitation, health, and wellness services in societies and communities. Using their knowledge of the changing landscape of occupational therapy service delivery, students will assess the potential roles of occupational therapists in strengthening the health and wellness of communities and populations. Additionally, students will explore ways in which occupational therapists can collaborate and partner with organizations and communities to promote the full inclusion and participation of individuals in all aspects of society. Students will explore and negotiate innovative ways to deliver occupational therapy services in non-traditional clinical practice settings. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 1  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to Occupational Therapy students

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**OC_THR 7983: Fieldwork Level II-A**  
Advanced practicum in various community settings such as the school system, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and residential facilities. Emphasis on hands-on experiences and translation of theory into practice. Graded on S/U basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 3-9

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**OC_THR 7993: Fieldwork Level II-B**  
Advanced practicum in rehabilitation and various community settings for application of more specialized practice in community based settings. Emphasis on critical analysis of human occupation, clinical reasoning, synthesis, and evidence based practice. Graded on S/U basis only.

**Credit Hour:** 3-9