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, an entry-level master’s degree is required.

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.

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) has mandated that the entry-level degree will move to the doctoral (OTD) level by 2027. The Department of Occupational Therapy is working with campus and state officials to plan for the transition to an OTD degree program. An exact date for the transition has not been approved.

Department accreditation is granted by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449, (301) 652-2682.

Faculty

Assistant Clinical Professor  T. Bolton*, W. Henderson*, W. Janes**, G. Pifer*
Assistant Professor  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 4750: Functional Cognition
(cross-leveled with OC_THR 7750). 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 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 only

**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 only

**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

**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

**OC_THR 5170: 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 give you 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 5180: 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

**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

**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
**OC_THR 7350: Adult Practice**
(cross-leveled with OC_THR 4350). Analysis of major disability areas from an occupational perspective. Administration and interpretation of assessments and application of treatment theories and approached for deficits in movement, sensation, cognition, and perception. Graded on A-F basis only.

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

**OC_THR 7450: Pediatric Practice**
Lecture and laboratory course designed which addresses Occupational Therapy pediatric frames of reference and theories. Common conditions seen in Occupational Therapy practice as well as interventions such as feeding, positioning, facilitation of movement and sensory strategies are also addressed. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 4  
**Prerequisites:** Admission to the Occupational Therapy professional program required

**OC_THR 7750: Functional Cognition**
(cross-leveled with OC_THR 4750). 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 7770: Community-Based Practice**
Focus on role of occupational therapy in prevention, health and wellness. Program development and evaluation completed through community needs assessment and completion of health promotion project. Graded on A-F only basis.

**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** Admission to the Occupational Therapy Professional Program

**OC_THR 7920: Fieldwork I Application of Clinical Skills**
Application of clinical reasoning. Integration of theory into clinical practice. Emphasis on treatment planning and implementation, outcome based intervention and professional communication. Includes lecture, seminar, and field experience. Graded on S/U basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 2

**OC_THR 7921: Clinical Reasoning and Documentation**
(cross-leveled with OC_THR 4920). Development of observation and assessment skills related to effective documentation of occupational therapy services. Emphasizes exposure to various clinical settings, third party payers, and legislative policies impacting documentation. Graded on A-F basis only.

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

**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

**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

**OC_THR 8002: Leadership, Management and Policy**
Management perspectives and organizational structure of occupational therapy services programs and the profession. Includes inter- and intra-departmental relationships, management and supervision, standards, regulations, and ethical guidelines are emphasized.

**Credit Hour:** 2-3

**OC_THR 8087: Problem-Based Cases**
Synthesizes occupational therapy approaches to clinical scenarios across the lifespan and practice domains. Integrates clinical reasoning, patient values and evidence-based decision making into the occupational therapy process. Problem-based methodology emphasizes small group learning, problem solving, self/peer evaluation, and self-directed learning.

**Credit Hours:** 4

**OC_THR 8090: Synthesis Project**
Write up scholarly manuscript for publication based on research conducted with research mentor. Emphasis on writing: introduction, literature review, analysis and interpretation of findings, and implication for field. Presentation and dissemination of acquired information through poster session and manuscript. Graded on A-F basis only.

**Credit Hours:** 2

**OC_THR 8095: Synthesis Project - Mentor Hours**
Hours spent working with research mentor. Emphasis on data collection and analysis to complete synthesis project. Must be taken in conjunction with Synthesis Project course.

**Credit Hour:** 1  
**Corequisites:** OC_THR 8090. Graded on S/U basis only

**OC_THR 8950: OT Clinical Practice I**
Clinical course providing students with the occupational therapy process from assessment through discharge in a supervised setting. Course may be repeated. Graded on S/U basis only.

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

**OC_THR 8999: OT Clinical Practice II**
This clinical course is designed to provide students an opportunity to advance skills in implementation of the occupational therapy process with
individuals experiencing limitations in occupational performance. Through this hands-on experience, students will gain additional opportunities for application of theory, a deepened understanding of occupational therapy practice, and increase independence 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.

**Credit Hour:** 1  
**Prerequisites:** Restricted to occupational therapy students only