Occupational Therapy

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Administration:
Head of the Department: Yolanda Suarez-Balcazar
Director of MS and Entry-level OTD: Elizabeth Peterson

Program Codes:
20FS1511MS (Professional/Entry-Level MS)
20GF5999EOTD (Entry-Level OTD)

The Department of Occupational Therapy offers a Master of Science (MS) degree for students who have a bachelor’s degree in another subject. This course-only program prepares students to be eligible for a national certification examination and for practice as an occupational therapist.

The MS program is accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education® (ACOTE®) located at:
6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
(301) 652-AOTA
http://www.acoteonline.org

The final MS class will enroll in Fall 2021. The MS degree will be replaced in Fall 2022 by the Doctor of Occupational Therapy: Entry-level. Applications for the entry-level OTD program are now being accepted. The entry-level OTD degree is for students who have a bachelor's degree in another subject. This program prepares students to be eligible for a national certification examination and for practice as an occupational therapist.

The entry-level OTD program has been granted Candidacy Status by the AOTA Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education® (ACOTE®). The pre-accreditation review process leading to accreditation of the entry-level OTD program is underway. Accreditation of the entry-level OTD program is anticipated in December of 2024, pending successful review by ACOTE®.

An occupational therapy program must be accredited by ACOTE® prior to students’ graduation for its students to be eligible to sit for the national certification examination offered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of the NBCOT certification exam, the graduate will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure to practice, however state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

The entry-level OTD program at UIC includes eight terms (33 months) of didactic and clinical education that includes lecture-discussion courses, laboratory-discussion classes, seminars, six fieldwork experiences, a capstone experience and a capstone project. All graduation requirements, including Level II fieldwork and the doctoral capstone must be completed within six years.

The entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy is a professional clinical doctorate degree program. Detailed information on the entry-level OTD program, including admissions requirements, is available on the Department of Occupational Therapy’s entry-level OTD website. Applications for this program must be submitted through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application System (OTCAS). The applications are then forwarded and processed through the Department of Occupational Therapy. Entry-level OTD applicants must also complete a UIC graduate student application to be considered for admission.

Two PhD programs are available to students who wish to complete advanced preparation for research. These programs are in the areas of Disability Studies and Kinesiology and Nutrition. Please refer to the Disability Studies section of the graduate catalog for a description of the PhD in Disability Studies and the Kinesiology and Nutrition section for that program.

The Department of Occupational Therapy also offers a postprofessional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree that prepares students to fulfill roles as advanced practitioners, educators, and leaders or managers. Postprofessional OTD students must already be certified occupational therapists. More information on the OTD program can be found on the Department of Occupational Therapy’s postprofessional OTD website.

Admission and Degree Requirements

• MS in Occupational Therapy (Entry-Level Degree)

OT 494. Special Topics in Occupational Therapy. 1-4 hours.
Selected occupational therapy-related seminar topics of interest or pilot version of new occupational therapy course. Designed for undergraduate and non-occupational therapy major graduate students. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above or graduate standing. Recommended background: Undergraduate students: Completion or concurrent registration in OT 350.

OT 496. Independent Study. 1-4 hours.
For undergraduate students who wish to pursue an independent study experience for credit. Course Information: May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing or above; and consent of the instructor.

OT 500. Theories of Occupational Therapy. 4 hours.
Explores theoretical basis of occupational therapy and the impact of theory on clinical practice. Covers the history of knowledge and practice development in occupational therapy. Focuses on specific practice models developed as guides to clinical reasoning. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; or consent of the instructor and admission to the M.S. or OTD Occupational Therapy program.
OT 501. Occupational Performance in Adults and Adolescents. 3 hours.
Reviews the primary developmental aspects and roles of adolescence and adulthood. Personal and environmental factors that influence occupational performance and prevention and wellness models to facilitate occupational functioning. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 401. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program.

OT 502. Medical Conditions. 1 hour.
This self-paced course reviews etiology, clinical manifestation, clinical course, and general medical and rehabilitative management of common medical conditions; emphasis on musculoskeletal, neurologic, cardiopulmonary, and psychiatric disorders. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Previously listed as OT 422. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

OT 506. Development of a Therapeutic Self. 3 hours.
Emphasizes understanding and developing foundational skills in therapeutic use of self and forms of therapeutic reasoning. Group theory and process is introduced and group leadership skills developed. Course Information: 3 hours. Previously listed as OT 406. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy Program. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture and one Laboratory-Discussion.

OT 507. Introduction to Occupational Therapy Practice. 2 hours.
Overview of the role of the therapist and aspects of occupational therapy practice in multiple settings. The basics of assessment, treatment planning, intervention, and documentation; as well as service delivery systems and current issues. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 407. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program.

OT 510. Research in Occupational Therapy. 4 hours.
Introduction to basic elements of research design relevant to occupational therapy practice. Prepares student to become critical consumer of research in occupational therapy and related fields. Quantitative and qualitative approaches to research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; or consent of the instructor and admission to the M.S. or OTD Occupational Therapy program. Recommended background: Statistics and research methods.

OT 511. Occupational Performance in Children. 4 hours.
Covers developmental theories concerning factors influencing the development of occupational performance in infancy, childhood, and early adolescence. Includes developmental assessment methods and tools. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 411. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and grade of C or better in OT 501 and grade of C or better in OT 507 and grade of C or better in OT 510.

OT 512. Human Structure and Function. 5 hours.
Examines anatomical and physiological basis for occupational performance. Features structure and function of musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and nervous systems and application of biomechanical principles. Course Information: 5 hours. Previously listed as OT 412. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and grade of C or better in OT 510 and admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Laboratory.

OT 515. Synthesis I. 1 hour.
Provides a problem based learning context for the development of clinical reasoning skills in occupational therapy. Students analyze and synthesize five individual client cases which emphasize the occupational therapy assessment process. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and Grade of C or better in OT 501 and Grade of C or better in OT 506 and Grade of C or better in OT 507 and Grade of C or better in OT 510.

OT 516. Occupational Therapy Practice: Psychosocial Aspects of Occupational Performance. 3 hours.
Examines occupational therapy practices relevant to psychosocial intervention, related bodies of knowledge influencing practice, psychological process affecting occupational functioning and assessment and treatment related to psychosocial problems. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 416. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and grade of C or better in OT 501 and grade of C or better in OT 506 and grade of C or better in OT 507 and grade of C or better in OT 510.

OT 519. Fieldwork Level IA. 1 hour.
Emphasizes application of occupational therapy skills pertinent to use of psychosocial groups in communities. Students gain an enhanced appreciation of psychological and social factors that influence engagement in occupation. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and grade of C or better in OT 501 and grade of C or better in OT 506 and grade of C or better in OT 507 and grade of C or better in OT 510. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Clinical Practice, one Lecture-Discussion and one Laboratory-Discussion.

OT 520. Community Practicum. 1-3 hours.
Field experience in a community agency serving an urban population. Emphasis is on service learning in context and the development of professional behaviors. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Previously listed as OT 420. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing and admission to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

OT 522. Occupational Therapy Practice: Functional Movement and Mobility. 5 hours.
Application of occupational therapy evaluation and intervention skills to children and adults with occupational performance deficits resulting from mobility and movement dysfunction. Course Information: 5 hours. Previously listed as OT 436. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 502 and Grade of C or better in OT 511 and grade of C or better in OT 512 and grade of C or better in OT 516 and grade of C or better in OT 526. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Laboratory.

OT 523. Occupational Therapy Practice: Cognition and Perception in Action. 4 hours.
The impact of impaired cognitive and perceptual processes on occupational performance of children and adults with neurological conditions, cognitive and intellectual disabilities and psychiatric disabilities. Course Information: 4 hours. Previously listed as OT 437. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 502. Grade of C or better in OT 511 and grade of C or better in OT 512 and grade of C or better in OT 516 and grade of C or better in OT 526. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture and one Laboratory.
OT 524. Contexts of Occupational Therapy Practice. 2 hours.
Trends in health care, reimbursement, legislation, and disability policy and how they affect occupational therapy. The policy process and development of an advocacy role are explored. Exposure to community-based practice and consultation roles. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 424. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 507.

OT 526. Assistive Technology and the Environment. 3 hours.
Assessing the need for, delivering, and evaluating the outcomes of occupationally-based technology and environmental interventions with people with disabilities within the home, school, workplace and community. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and grade of C or better in OT 510 and grade of C or better in OT 511 and grade of C or better in OT 512. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Laboratory and one Lecture-Discussion.

OT 528. Race, Culture, and Health Disparities. 2-3 hours.
Focuses on developing students’ critical thinking skills as they relate to race, health disparities and engaging in culturally responsive care. Course Information: Same as DHD 528 and KN 538. Students registering for 3 hours of credit complete an immersion activity and a research paper. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing and consent of the instructor.

OT 529. Fieldwork Level IB. 1 hour.
A supervised, full time, 2-wk course. The second of third, Level 1 FW course of the program. The emphasis is on the development of: commitment to learning, interpersonal skills, communication, effective time/resource use and beginning evaluation skills. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 502, OT 515, and OT 519 and Grade of C or better in OT 511 and grade of C or better in OT 512 and grade of C or better in OT 516.

OT 530. Advanced Field Experience: Clinical Specialization in Occupational Therapy. 1-12 hours.
Provides opportunity for the student interested in advanced occupational therapy practice to observe a master clinician and participate in treatment and/or clinical research in a specialty area. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may register for more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the Department.

OT 531. Advanced Field Experience in Occupational Therapy Leadership. 1-12 hours.
Practicum experience working with an experienced professional to develop projects or programs in student’s area of interest such as administration, middle management, consultation, program evaluation, grantsmanship or others. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may register for more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the Department.

OT 532. Advanced Field Experience: Occupational Therapy Education. 1-12 hours.
Provides opportunity to observe, prepare, and present lectures/labs to occupational therapy students in technical or professional curricula or to develop skills as a clinical educator. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may register for more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the Department.

OT 533. Advanced Field Experience: Occupational Therapy Scholarship. 1-12 hours.
Practicum experience working with an experienced scholar to observe and participate in activities that generated evidence about practice, disseminate such evidence, and/or develop practice materials based on evidence. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated. Students may register for more than one section per term. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Approval of the Department.

OT 535. Synthesis II. 2 hours.
In this problem based learning course, students engage in small and large group learning to analyze cases. Emphasis is placed on occupation-based intervention planning with particular consideration of contextual factors. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 502; and grade of C or better in OT 524 and grade of C or better in OT 526 and grade of C or better in OT 529.

OT 538. Introduction to Advanced Practice in Occupational Therapy. 1 hour.
Provides exposure to practice in 3 areas of practice requiring advanced clinical reasoning and skills. Includes introductory cases, observation in clinical settings and lab experiences to develop related skills. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 519; grade of C or better in OT 516 and grade of C or better in OT 526 and grade of C or better in OT 529; or consent of the instructor.

OT 539. Fieldwork Level IIC. 1 hour.
A supervised, full-time, 2-week practicum. The third course of 3 Level I fieldwork experiences in the program. The emphasis is on the development of: critical thinking, stress management, beginning evaluation skills, and beginning intervention skills. Course Information: Field work required.

OT 540. Advanced Topics in Occupational Therapy Research and Evaluation. 4 hours.
In-depth presentation of selected research/measurement strategies. Specific topics vary and include single system design, survey research, ethnography, evaluation of clinical effectiveness. Course Information: May be repeated. Students may register in more than one section per term. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

OT 542. Client-Centered and Occupation-Focused Practice and Research. 3 hours.
Provides an advanced understanding and practical skill set for conducting research and engaging in advanced practice using concepts, assessments, and treatment approaches based on the Model of Human Occupation and the Intentional Relationship Model. Course Information: Recommended background: Exposure to coursework in psychopathology or in psychosocial aspects of occupational therapy.

OT 548. Fieldwork Level IIA. 8 hours.
First of two supervised full-time 12-week practica with emphasis on application of OT theory, development of psychomotor skills, reasoning client-related problems, and professional socialization as an entry-level occupational therapist. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Previously listed as OT 448. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 529 and Grade of C or better in OT 522 and Grade of C or better in OT 523 and Grade of C or better in OT 564; and graduate standing and satisfactory completion of OT 519, OT 535 and OT 538.
OT 549. Fieldwork Level IIIB. 4 hours.
Second of two supervised, full-time, 12-week practica with emphasis on application of OT theory, development of psychomotor skills, reasoning client-related problems, and professional socialization as an entry-level occupational therapist. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 8 hours. Students may register in more than one section per term. Previously listed as OT 449. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 522 and grade of C or better in OT 535 and grade of C or better in OT 564; and satisfactory completion of OT 519, OT 535 and OT 538.

OT 551. Computers, Communication and Controls in Rehabilitation Technology, 3 hours.
Provides information on operation and use of alternative controls for computers, augmentative communication devices and powered mobility. Emphasis on matching consumer’s need and assistive technology. Course Information: Same as DHD 551. Prerequisite(s): DHD 440. Recommended background: Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Special Education.

OT 553. Program Evaluation: Documenting the Impact of Human Services. 3 hours.
Examines methods in program evaluation with emphasis on empowerment and participatory evaluation. Students will study quantitative and qualitative strategies, how to communicate information to stakeholders, and how to design evaluations. Course Information: Same as DHD 543. Recommended background: Interest in research, health or behavioral sciences, and implementation and evaluation of community initiatives and community-based organizations.

OT 555. Synthesis Ill. 2 hours.
A problem based learning course in which students engage in self-directed analysis of cases. Emphasizes identification and mitigation of situations creating ethical tension or moral distress, legal concerns and/or complex practice problems. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 535 and OT 548 and OT 549.

OT 558. Writing for Professional Publications in Occupational Therapy. 1-3 hours.
Addresses processes and issues related to writing for publication in occupational therapy and related journals and magazines, including preparation and submission processes, IRB, receiving critiques, and communicating with reviewers and editors. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 3 hours. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and grade of C or better in OT 510.

OT 561. Disability and Community Participation: Policy, Systems Change, and Action Research. 4 hours.
Focuses on the critical examination of disability policy, activism, and research. Emphasis on conducting participatory action research in collaboration with constituents with disabilities, community organizations, and policy makers. Course Information: Same as DHD 561. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Previous coursework in disability policy, disability empowerment research and qualitative research.

OT 563. Disability and Global Health. 2 or 3 hours.

OT 564. Leadership and Management in Occupational Therapy. 3 hours.
Overview of issues related to management and leadership in varied settings in which occupational therapists practice. Topics include, but are not limited to, management functions, service planning, quality improvement, and financial management. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 524 and Grade of C or better in OT 529.

OT 565. Research Methodology and Outcomes Measures in Rehabilitation Technology. 3 hours.
Analyzes the research process in rehabilitation technology and assistive technology and how such analysis leads to the development of a research proposal. Outcome measures related to assistive technology will be evaluated for their applicability. Course Information: Same as DHD 565. Recommended background: Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Special Education, and Speech and Language Pathology.

OT 568. Learning, Teaching, Curriculum Design, Delivery and Evaluation. 0-4 hours.
Using didactic material and experiential learning, students learn about teaching philosophy and strategies, learning theories, and curriculum design. Students design, deliver and evaluate effective teaching and learning in a variety of contexts. Course Information: Same as DHD 578. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 hours. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Practice.

OT 569. Developing and Evaluating Self-Management Programs. 2-4 hours.
This blended, elective course will examine the theories and processes supporting the development and evaluation of self-management programs for people living with chronic illness, disability or other long-term life challenge. Course Information: Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor.

OT 570. Health Outcomes Assessments. 3 hours.
Applies current concepts and models used to critically evaluate outcomes assessments used in health care and research. Focus is on how reliability and validity evidence relate to fairness and consequences of assessment in varied populations and settings. Course Information: Extensive computer use required. Prerequisite(s): OT 510 or equivalent and consent of the instructor.

OT 571. Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation. 3 hours.
Using an equity focused model, students will form knowledge translation collaboratives to both learn and apply knowledge translation principles for advocacy, education, and clinical practice. Course Information: Same as DHD 574. Prerequisite(s): OT 510; or DHD 510; and consent of the instructor.

OT 590. Proseminar in Occupational Therapy. 1 hour.
Topics related to leadership/management, education and advanced practice in occupational therapy. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 hours.

OT 592. Doctoral Project Research. 0-20 hours.
Applied scholarship involving planning and implementation of one or more action projects based on theory and evidence, evaluation, writing a comprehensive report, dissemination, and oral presentation. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. May be repeated to a maximum of 20 hours. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.
OT 594. Special Topics in Occupational Therapy. 1-4 hours.
New course under development and selected seminar topics of current interests to faculty and students. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

OT 595. Seminar in Occupational Therapy. 1 hour.
Students participate in faculty-student discussion and activities related to individual areas of research/thesis. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing or consent of the instructor and admission to the M.S. or OTD Occupational Therapy program.

OT 596. Independent Study. 1-4 hours.
This course is for graduate students who wish to pursue independent study not related to their project/thesis research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.