

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Introduction

Occupational Therapy (OT) is an allied health profession. Its primary aims are to provide intervention to individuals whose lives have been disrupted by adverse circumstance, assist them in gaining or improving their quality of life, and make them capable, using specific skills required of them, to function effectively within their own dynamic environments. To this end occupational therapist use meaningful / purposeful “occupations” (those tasks and functions of life that require time and energy and which otherwise able-bodied individuals take for granted) to develop or redevelop necessary and/or desired skills for life. These life tasks include, but are not limited to, self care skills such as bathing, dressing, and toileting; interpersonal communication skills such as carrying on a telephone conversation or speaking with family members or an employer about sensitive issues; everyday living tasks such as the roles of a homemaker, vocational interactions and the roles of employee; paying personal bills, balancing a checkbook, purchasing groceries, driving, planning for the future, enjoying leisure pursuits, etc.

Occupational therapists function in a variety of settings. Graduates may work in a hospital, rehabilitation center, extended care facility, nursing home, public schools, developmental daycare facility, adult day care program, mental health clinic, out-patient facilities, home health agencies, industrial rehabilitation programs, hospice programs, private practice and in various community agencies that aid individuals with specific disabilities.

Program Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, Maryland, 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-2682.

Program Outcomes

Graduates from the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program a graduate will be able to

1. apply occupational therapy theories with evidenced-based evaluations and interventions to achieve expected outcomes as related to their client's participation in their daily lives,
2. demonstrate life-long learning by applying the latest research and professional knowledge that supports the practice of occupational therapy,

3. contribute to the occupational therapy profession through the analysis and application of current occupational therapy theories and other related healthcare knowledge,
4. communicate effectively with other healthcare professionals, agencies, and other members of the healthcare team to foster interdisciplinary collaboration,
5. articulate and model the ethical standards, values, and attitudes of the occupational therapy profession,
6. advocate in various settings for both the services occupational therapy may provide and the recipients of those services, and
7. affectively manage the delivery of occupational therapy services through the coordination and supervision of staff and the prudent utilization of resources.

Minimum Performance Standards

In an average academic day a Student must be able to:

- Sit: 2 - 6 hours
- Attend to tasks: 1 – 2 hours (without a break)
- Walk on level surfaces and/or use stairs
- Provide one's own transportation to and from assigned fieldwork placements or clinical instruction sites within a 2 hour driving radius of the college. (100-150 miles)

Key: Rarely (R) = 1-10%
Occasionally (O) = 11 - 33%
Frequently (F) = 34 - 66%
Continuously (C) = 67 - 100%

The student is required throughout the 5-semester academic program to:

- Lift less than 10 pounds (F)
- Lift 25 - 50 pounds (R)
- Bend/Stoop (F)
- Climb stairs (R)
- Kneel (R)
- Use hand repetitively (C)
- Firm grasp (O)
- Finger dexterity (manipulation of objects less than 1in.) (F)
- Use auditory/tactile/visual senses to evaluate status of an individual (F)
- Lift 10 - 25 pounds (O)
- Twist (F)
- Squat (O)
- Reach above shoulder level (O)
- Push/Pull (O)
- Simple Grasping (C)
- Manual dexterity (O)

Physical Demands:

- Lift, boost, turn, or transfer patients weighing up to approximately 300 pounds in and out of bed, car, on and off of mats, wheelchairs, toilet or tub/shower, and average of 15 times per day.
- Frequent (>15 times daily) lifting and carrying of supplies and equipment up to approximately 20 pounds.
- Frequently (>25 times daily) twisting, bending, reaching, stooping, stooping, pushing, and pulling.
- Intermittent sitting, kneeling, half-kneeling, standing, and walking.
- Applying resistance/providing support during exercise and activities of daily living training and independent living skills training.
- Stair ascending and descending up to approximately 10 times daily.
- Visual ability to observe compensatory strategies, functional performance, read medical records, etc.
- Hand dexterity to palpate levels of muscle activity, manipulate treatment tools and supplies, and document fine-motor skills.

Working Conditions:

- Possible exposure to contagious diseases, body fluids, and cleaning materials.
- Patient care environment: hospital, clinic, outpatient setting.
- Office environment: indoors.
- Client's home.
- Out of doors in all weather conditions if performing home evaluations.

Academic Policies

In addition to those policies published in the JCHS Catalog and JCHS Student Handbook, students are expected to follow the program policies as published in the *Occupational Therapy Student Handbook*. These handbooks are available electronically on the program's blackboard site.

Licensing Information

Upon graduation from this program graduates must sit for a national registry exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Their offices are located at 12 S. Summit Avenue, Suite 100, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877-4150. NBCOT's phone number is (301) 990-7979.

All candidates must complete an application for this exam which includes information concerning any previous charges or convictions of a felony, revocation or suspension of a professional license by a regulatory board, or involvement in any disciplinary action due to malpractice, negligence or misconduct. An affirmative response to any of the above questions may prohibit the candidate's permission to sit for the exam. Upon entry to this program, if any of the above situations have occurred, the student may contact NBCOT and request an EARLY DETERMINATION where the facts may be presented and the Board will respond stating whether the student would be able to take the test or not.

All Occupational Therapists must be licensed by the Virginia Board of Medicine BEFORE practicing in the state of Virginia. Licensure requirements may be obtained by contacting: The Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Maryland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233.

**Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
Program of Study (83 Credits)**

PREFIX	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
Semester 1		
BIO 521	Clinical Gross Anatomy for Clinical Applications	4
OT 501	Fundamentals of Occupation	3
OT 510	Use of Occupations in Mental Health	3
OT 531	Occupational Response to Pathological Conditions	3
OT 554	Fieldwork I-A Mental Health	1
Total Credits:		14
Semester 2		
BIO 530	Functional Clinical Neuroanatomy and Neurophysiology	4
IPE 509	Research and Evidenced-Based Practice	3
OT 502	Research Methodologies	3
OT 520	Humans in Motion	3
OT 555	Fieldwork I-B	1
OT 670	Occupational Fitness for Life	2
Total Credits:		16
Semester 3		
OT 540	Occupation using Adaptations	3
OT 560	Client Advocacy/Public Policy	3
Total Credits:		6
Semester 4		
IPE 507	Ethical and Legal Decision Making	3
OT 556	Fieldwork I-C Pediatric	1
OT 602/602L	Occupations through the Lifespan I	4
OT 615/615L	Client Care Techniques	3
OT 630	Research Project Design	2
OT 635	Program Development	3
Total Credits:		16
Semester 5		
OT 557	Fieldwork I-D Geriatric	1
OT 603/603L	Occupations through the Lifespan II	4
OT 610	Clinical Reasoning	3
OT 640	Topics in Administration	3
OT 650	Research Project Implementation	3
Total Credits:		14

PREFIX	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
Semester 6		
OT 682	OT Fieldwork Level II –A	8
	Total Credits:	8
Semester 7		
OT 692	Fieldwork Level II – B	8
OT 695	Professional Seminar	1
	Total Credits:	9
	Total Credits	83
	Credits from Non-Major Courses	11
	Credits from Interprofessional Education Courses:	6
	Credits from Major Courses	66