

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ENTRY-LEVEL M.S. PROGRAM

The Entry-level Master's of Science (M.S.) Occupational Therapy (OTH) Program aims to give students a solid foundation for implementing the occupational therapy process so they are prepared to enter a variety of practice settings. The scope of the occupational therapy curriculum is intentionally broad in order to prepare students to work with diverse client populations across the lifespan in a wide range of environments. The courses offer depth of content that progresses from understanding of fundamental facts and concepts to application in dynamic clinic scenarios and fieldwork experiences. The curriculum is designed to prepare students by providing the depth of knowledge and skill to be competent entry-level practitioners. Upon completion of all the academic and fieldwork requirements of the Entry-level M.S. OTH Program, students are awarded a Master's of Science degree. All occupational therapy practitioners must graduate from an accredited occupational therapy program and pass the national certification examination in order to practice occupational therapy. In addition, all states require certified occupational therapy therapists to be licensed.

## Certification and Credentialing

Graduates of the M.S. OTH Program are eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination for Occupational Therapists administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Information about NBCOT and the certification examination can be found at [www.nbcot.org](http://www.nbcot.org). Note: A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

After successful completion of this examination, the individual will be a registered occupational therapist (OTR). State licensure is required in all 50 states; practitioners must work with licensing boards within states they plan to work in order to obtain initial licensure and maintain their license by acquiring continuing education credits and paying fees.

## Contact Information

[csssoth@css.edu](mailto:csssoth@css.edu)

The College of St. Scholastica Occupational Therapy graduates will:

1. Utilize occupation-based practice to enhance client performance and participation throughout the occupational therapy process
  - a. Design evaluation and intervention strategies for clients that are occupation-based to maximize meaningful occupational outcomes
  - b. Develop intentional relationships with clients
  - c. Appraise physical, personal, temporal, virtual, situational, cultural and social contexts and environments that affect occupational performance
  - d. Support and implement client-centered strategies that promote collaboration with clients, caregivers, and other professionals in the delivery of occupational therapy services
2. Value the contribution of scholarly inquiry to the profession of occupational therapy
  - a. Synthesize information from best research evidence, clinical experience, client choices, and expert consensus to make clinical decisions in collaboration with the client

- b. Interpret, synthesize and apply information from a wide range of sources to contribute to and inform professional practice
3. Demonstrate professionalism during interactions with clients, communities, and professionals
  - a. Advocate for the profession, community, and client by demonstrating inclusive excellence and leadership skills throughout clinical experiences and inter-professional interactions
  - b. Utilize ethical principles as a guide during clinical situations and inter-professional interactions
  - c. Develop and sustain professional and therapeutic relationships through effective verbal, non-verbal and written communication skills
  - d. Justify the concepts and opinions of the profession of occupational therapy while seeking to understand the perspectives of others
4. Use various forms of clinical reasoning (such as diagnostic, narrative, procedural, pragmatic, interactive and conditional, and ethical) throughout the occupational therapy process
  - a. Integrate learned knowledge with active problem solving to reflect subjective and contextualized knowledge when making decisions
  - b. Explain how a practitioner's skills and personal life situations can influence decision making
  - c. Apply an ethical decision making framework to practice situations
  - d. Understand the meaning of role interruption and change from a client's perspective

## Requirements

Students must achieve the following program requirements for all courses listed under "Program Required Courses" for the Masters in Occupational Therapy.

### Program Requirements

**Major Credits: 79**

**Minimum GPA: 3.0**

**Minimum Grade: C**

**Other Requirements:**

1. Take all courses in sequence; if a student fails a course, the student must retake that course when it is next available which may require the student to stop out of the OTH Program resulting in a delay of graduation;
2. Successfully complete Level I and Level II Fieldwork experiences. Complete all Level II Fieldwork requirements within 24 months of completion of didactic coursework;
3. Complete all OTH Program requirements within 7 years.

### Program Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
OTH 6101	Occupational Performance I: Movement Capacities and Abilities	4
OTH 6105	Anatomy for Occupational Performance	4
OTH 6210	Basic Tenets of Occupational Therapy	4
OTH 6220	Assessment of Occupational Performance I	4
OTH 6233	Evidence Based Occupational Therapy I	3

OTH 6240	Occupational Performance II: Integrated Capacities and Abilities	4
OTH 6250	Experiential I: Level I Fieldwork - Reflection and Integration	2
OTH 6310	Optimizing Occupational Performance	4
OTH 6334	Evidence-based Occupational Therapy II	3
OTH 6335	Occupational Performance III: Well Being and Care of Self	4
OTH 6340	Assessment of Occupational Performance II	4
OTH 6350	Experiential II: Level I Fieldwork - Basic Clinical Experiences	4
OTH 6410	Experiential III: Level I Fieldwork Integrating Clinical Experience	2
OTH 6510	Occupational Performance IV: Home and Environment Management	4
OTH 6533	Evidence-Based Occupational Therapy III	2
OTH 6534	Transformative Engagement in Occupational Therapy	4
OTH 6550	Experiential IV: Level I Fieldwork Intermediate Clinical Experiences	4
OTH 6633	Evidence-Based Occupational Therapy IV	2
OTH 6722	Level II Fieldwork A	6
OTH 6735	Occupational Performance V: Skill Advancement	4
OTH 6750	Advanced Clinical Reasoning	1
OTH 6822	Level II Fieldwork B	1-6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>74-79</b>

Students who apply to the M.S. OTH program will be expected to perform a minimum number of Technical Standards and Essential Requirements ([http://resources.css.edu/academics/ot/docs/technical\\_standards\\_essential\\_requirements\\_ot.pdf](http://resources.css.edu/academics/ot/docs/technical_standards_essential_requirements_ot.pdf)).

Students must submit the following documentation to the Department of Occupational Therapy once accepted into the Occupational Therapy Program:

- a copy of proof of current certification in CPR for professional providers "Health Care Provider BLS" through the American Heart Association;
- proof of immunizations (Hepatitis B series or verified immunity; 2 MMR immunizations or verified immunity; 2 varicella immunizations or verified immunity; and current Tdap);
- participate in annual vaccinations (e.g. flu, COVID-19) and screening for tuberculosis as required for healthcare worker safety;
- an annual Minnesota background study (regardless of state of residency). All students must complete a Minnesota background study, including fingerprinting. A background study in the student's home state, if other than Minnesota, is also required. The background studies must be completed and returned with a "clear" status before the student may participate in clinical fieldwork;
- a federal criminal background study. Students will be notified on how to submit the appropriate forms;
  - A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to take the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. An individual who has a felony background, and is considering entering an occupational therapy program, can have their background reviewed prior to actually applying for the exam by requesting an Early Determination Review (<https://>

[www.nbcot.org/en/Students/Services/](http://www.nbcot.org/en/Students/Services/)) with NBCOT. There is a fee for this service.

- fieldwork sites may require drug tests/screens, additional immunizations or titers, additional background checks, or other information;
- see the tuition and fees ([http://resources.css.edu/academics/ot/docs/ist\\_ot\\_tco.pdf](http://resources.css.edu/academics/ot/docs/ist_ot_tco.pdf)) by year and total program costs, for the estimated cost of attendance in the M.S. OTH Program.