

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Department of Occupational Therapy (OTH) at the College of St. Scholastica has provided occupational therapy entry-level education for more than 25 years. The Department offers two paths to entry-level education in occupational therapy: a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.) and a Master's of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS OTH). The Department is located at the Health Science Center with both Programs delivered from this location, providing students an education in a state-of-the-art learning environment. Located on site is the maurice's® Community Clinic which provides students hands-on learning opportunities with diverse client populations throughout the progression of the Program. Occupational therapy curriculum is focused on developing students' knowledge and understanding of occupational therapy process across the lifespan to prepare for entry-level practice in occupational therapy. Based on Experiential Learning Theory and occupation-based practice models, the curriculum integrates clinical experiences with academic learning and personal reflection to foster clinical reasoning and professionalism. Students learn fundamentals of science driven, evidence based occupational therapy practice for individuals across the lifespan through faculty facilitated experiences and community engagement. Occupational therapy faculty bring diverse experiences to the students including expertise in emotional and behavioral health, health and wellness, pediatrics, neurorehabilitation, assistive technology, physical and orthopedic conditions, older adult services, and emerging practice areas. Evidence-based practice projects, advised by faculty, provide students the opportunity to engage in critical appraisal of research and develop an evidence-based project that furthers their understanding of knowledge translation within the field of occupational therapy. The two degree paths vary in length of time to complete and total credits, as well as the individualized capstone experience for the doctoral program.

Contact Information

cssoth@css.edu

Programs

The Occupational Therapy Department offers these programs:

- Occupational Therapy Entry-Level, M.S. (<http://catalog.css.edu/programs-az/healthprofessions/occupational-therapy/occupational-therapy-entry-level-ms-program/>)
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy Entry-Level, O.T.D. (<http://catalog.css.edu/programs-az/healthprofessions/occupational-therapy/occupational-therapy-otd/>)

Accreditation

The College of St. Scholastica Entry-Level Master of Science Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at:

6116 Executive Boulevard
Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
(301) 652-AOTA (2682)
acoteonline.org (<https://acoteonline.org/>)

Pass and graduation rates

For National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam data by school and state, visit NBCOT (<https://www.nbcot.org/en/Educators/Home/#SchoolPerformance>).

Graduation rates for the O.T.D. Program will be posted in 2029.

Graduation rates for the MS OTH Program:

- 2022 graduates: 35 students entered and 34 graduated for a 97% graduation rate
- 2023 graduates: 33 students entered and 33 graduated for a 100% graduation rate
- 2024 graduates: 31 students entered and 29 graduated for a 94% graduation rate
- Three year total 99 students entered and 96 graduated for a 97% graduation rate average

*students entered does not include student withdrawals for non-academic reasons.

Occupational Therapy Courses

OTH 6001 - Occupational Performance I: Fundamentals of Occupation - 0,4 cr.

The specifics and dynamics of occupations are analyzed to support occupation as the center of occupational therapy practice. Activities of daily living (ADL), instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) and other occupations central to the care of self will be analyzed with strategies for addressing occupation with individuals, groups, and populations. The roles, habits, and routines of individuals and the contexts and environments in which they engage in occupations will be explored. Observation skills will be developed through the ability to describe and analyze optimal performance in occupations.

OTH 6010 - Occupational Performance II: Engagement in Occupation - 0,4 cr.

The components of occupation that contribute to a person's health and well-being are analyzed. The meanings and dynamics of occupation as intervention are evaluated with analysis of performance skills and patterns and client factors. Specifically the occupation of functional mobility for engaging in other occupations will be analyzed. Clinical reasoning is established to construct and demonstrate occupation-based, client-centered interventions in various contexts to enable individuals, groups, and populations across the lifespan. Practice skills to engage with clients, caregivers and interdisciplinary teams are developed focusing on sound judgment and safety for self and others through effective and responsible communication.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6210 and OTH 6001

OTH 6102 - Occupational Performance III: Dynamics of Occupation - 0,4 cr.

The dynamics of occupation are further explored through the evidence supporting occupation as a mechanism for participation, health and well-being. The complex mechanisms of occupation are identified through integration and transaction with person and context to meet a person's survival needs, psychological needs, and social connections. The inner dynamics of situated occupations will be examined from a macro to micro perspective for individuals, groups, and populations across the lifespan. Intervention types and approaches will be constructed to apply occupation as a mechanism for participation, health, and well-being.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6001 and OTH 6010

OTH 6110 - Optimizing Occupational Performance I: Occupation-Based Interventions - 0,4 cr.

Intervention selection concepts of occupation-based practice are appraised through application of models and frames of reference while analyzing the occupation and activity, the client, and the environment. Emphasis is placed on creating group interventions through consideration of group dynamics and process. Focused topics include understanding occupational adaptation and gradation through the therapeutic process, teaching and learning, the intentional relationship, evidence based practice, and health literacy.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6102

OTH 6112 - Optimizing Occupational Performance II: Supporting Occupations - 0,4 cr.

Interventions that prepare the client for engagement in occupation are evaluated through theoretical knowledge and hands-on practice. Specific interventions include: mechanical modalities, physical agent modalities, orthotics and prosthetics, pain management and other adjunctive therapies. The focus is on integrating preparatory interventions with occupation-based concepts to deepen skill across client populations.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6110

OTH 6210 - Basic Tenets of Occupational Therapy - 0,4 cr.

Explores the three basic tenets of occupational therapy through the profession, the practice, and the practitioner. The profession and practice of occupational therapy is analyzed through the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework and theoretical models of occupation. The professional roles and ethical responsibilities of the practitioner are studied.

OTH 6220 - Assessment of Occupational Performance I - 0,4 cr.

Intended to ground students in the occupational therapy process of selecting and administering clinical measurement tools used to guide evaluation and assessment a client's occupational performance. Students will learn to use a client-centered approach to clinical assessment including the use of: formal and informal interviewing techniques and skilled observation of occupational performance skills and patterns.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6001 and OTH 6210

OTH 6233 - Evidence Based Occupational Therapy I - 3 cr.

Develops fundamental scientific inquiry skills related to evidence-based practice and knowledge translation: gathering, critically appraising, and applying the rehabilitation research literature. Evidence-based reasoning is taught within the context of doing synthesized literature reviews. Emphasizes appreciating the value of life-long learning as future evidence-based occupational therapists as well as developing the skills to carry this out in challenging and changing clinical environments.

OTH 6250 - Experiential I: Level I Fieldwork - Reflection and Integration - 3 cr.

Provides opportunities to build beginning-level professional skills through exposure to different clinical settings and client populations. Situations to practice careful observation, clear communication, therapeutic use of self, and task analysis through simulated client experiences and group learning. Professional development is initiated in the community through facilitated learning with clients. Expands upon current understanding of human occupational performance and gains insight to working with diverse client populations.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6001 and OTH 6210

OTH 6334 - Evidence-based Occupational Therapy II - 3 cr.

Apply knowledge about evidence-based practice to clinical experiences through critical appraisal and synthesis of literature to advance the body of knowledge in occupational therapy. Applies quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques for delivering evidence-based practice. Ethical issues when applying evidence in practice and when disseminating research are addressed.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6233

OTH 6340 - Assessment of Occupational Performance II - 0,4 cr.

Focus is on selection and administration of specific screening and assessment tools that include three main areas: abilities and capacities; roles and competence; and environmental factors affecting an individual's function and participation in a range of occupations and contexts. The use of evidence from the scientific literature, client values, and clinical reasoning will be emphasized in making decisions when selecting assessments for clients. The importance of developing and utilizing outcome measures that document the effectiveness of OT services is also emphasized.

OTH 6350 - Experiential II: Level I Fieldwork - Basic Clinical Experiences - 4 cr.

Integrates occupational therapy theory into practice through hands-on learning experiences. Occurs within the occupational therapy process, while providing client-centered care in a supervised and mentor-based setting. Provides opportunities to build skills needed to interact with clients and caregivers/family, and care team. Professional development skills are expanded upon with opportunities to be applied throughout the clinical experiences.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6250

OTH 6510 - Occupational Performance IV: Home and Environment Management - 0,4 cr.

Home and environment management includes focus on creating interventions to address life skills related to community mobility including driving rehabilitation, management of areas for medication, communication, finance, home, safety, and health, care of others, and shopping. Interventions to address social participation as a self-enhancement area of occupation with community, peer, and family will be developed. Designing group process for client learning to address social participation and areas of home and environment management will be included followed by implementation of those group processes. Opportunities to evaluate various practice settings to determine influences and considerations in occupational therapy process will occur.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6112

OTH 6534 - Transformative Engagement in Occupational Therapy - 0,4 cr.

Through the transformative engagement process, students will integrate prior learning with personal reflection and current theories related to concepts of supervision, management and leadership. Application of leadership and management theory, professional ethics and behaviors and the importance of professional relationships is facilitated through clinically-based scenarios. Students evaluate administrative structure and service delivery within health facilities, organizations and agencies with respect to occupational therapy's role. Students will create and evaluate a set of outcomes related to evidence-based practice, documentation, peer review, reimbursement, service provision and organizational change.

OTH 6540 - Elective Level I Fieldwork Integrating Clinical Experience - 0-2 cr.

An elective experiential OT fieldwork experience that allows for exploration of various practice settings. Opportunity to work with individuals, groups or populations from birth to older adults depending on the assigned fieldwork placement. Designed to reinforce clinical skills, professional behaviors and relationships, clinical reasoning, ethical reasoning, and evidence-based practice.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6001 and OTH 6010 and OTH 6102 and OTH 6210 and OTH 6220 and OTH 6250 and OTH 6340

OTH 6550 - Occupational Therapy Experiential IV: Intermediate Clinical Experiences - 3 cr.

Integrates occupational therapy into practice through a mentored clinical setting. Designed to provide application of clinical knowledge and skills, professional behaviors and relationships, clinical reasoning, and ethical decision making. Hands-on learning experiences of the occupational therapy process and provides client-centered care in a supervised settings including consultative process for occupational therapy.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6350

OTH 6722 - Level II Fieldwork A - 6 cr.

The fieldwork experience reflects current practice in a selected setting that provides diverse learning opportunities to work with individuals, groups and populations across the lifespan. This is the first of two Level II fieldwork experiences, which is a minimum of 12 weeks full-time equivalency under the supervision of a registered and licensed occupational therapist. Each Level II rotation must be reflective of different setting types.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6550 and OTH 6334 and OTH 6510 and OTH 6534

OTH 6735 - Occupational Performance V: Skill Advancement - 0,4 cr.

Self-advancement occupations of education and work are fully explored along with advanced practice settings including hand therapy, work/industry, neonatal intensive care unit, education, emerging practice, and non-traditional areas of practice. Alternative healing practices and advanced skill areas will be the focus of interventions.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6722

OTH 6750 - Advanced Clinical Reasoning - 1 cr.

Capstone course designed to integrate theory, knowledge of pathologies and intervention strategies with an understanding of human performance and adaptation. The course focuses on students' abilities to integrate and articulate the role of the occupational therapist in a variety of complex situations and practice settings involving individuals and populations. Specific issues in global health care including public policy, access to service, at-risk populations and advocacy are addressed. Personal reflection of transformative engagement through leadership, management and professional development are emphasized.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6722

OTH 6777 - Topics in Occupational Therapy - 0-7 cr.

Topics in Occupational Therapy.

OTH 6822 - Level II Fieldwork B - 1-6 cr.

The fieldwork experience reflects current practice in a selected setting that provides diverse learning opportunities to work with individuals, groups and populations across the lifespan. This is the second of two Level II fieldwork experiences, which is a minimum of 12 weeks full-time equivalency under the supervision of a registered and licensed occupational therapist. Each Level II rotation must be reflective of different setting types.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6722 and OTH 6735 and OTH 6750

OTH 6832 - Elective Level II Fieldwork – Advanced Practice - 2-4 cr.

A Level II Fieldwork experience in a specialty area of occupational therapy practice occurring when all required academic and fieldwork experiences are completed. This elective experience typically ranges from 4 to 8 weeks in length depending on the requirements of the setting. Designed for the student seeking additional learning opportunities in specialty areas of occupational therapy practice.

Prerequisite Courses: OTH 6822

OTH 6900 - Cont Enrollment Final Research - 0 cr.

Students are required to be enrolled continuously until the final research project and fieldwork are completed. A fee equal to one master's credit will be assessed each fall and spring semester until Occupational Therapy Program requirements are completed, if not registered for another OTH professional program course.

OTH 6999 - Independent Study - 0-7 cr.

Independent study in Occupational Therapy.

OTH 8777 - Topics in Occupational Therapy - 0-10 cr.

Topics in Occupational Therapy