DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE

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Programs of the Department

The Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/occutherapy) offers a Combined B.S./M.S. Program with a Bachelor's Degree in Occupation and Well-being combined with a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy. The Department is no longer admitting students to this program. Starting in the Fall of 2019, only those who have completed a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and all required prerequisites will be considered for graduate admission to the entry-level occupational therapy programs. Please refer to the Graduate Catalog for specific admission information.

The practice of occupational therapy is the therapeutic use of everyday life activities (occupations) with individuals or groups for the purpose of participation in roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community and other settings. Occupational therapy services are provided to those who have or are at risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disability or activity limitation. Occupational therapy addresses the physical, psychosocial, cognitive, sensory and other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to support engagement in everyday life activities that affect health, well-being and quality of life (American Occupational Therapy Association, 2014).

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, MD 20824-1220  
ACOTE’s phone number c/o AOTA is 301-652-AOTA.

Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. (Persons convicted of felonies may be unable to sit for the certification examination and should inquire in advance of program entry regarding eligibility.)

Occupational therapy is a profession that demands its practitioners have clinical competencies as well as academic knowledge. In addition to satisfactory completion of course work, students must demonstrate appropriate professional behaviors and skills prior to beginning clinical/fieldwork experiences. Students must possess a minimum of 3.00 GPA in order to enroll in the graduate portion of the Combined B.S./M.S. Program. In the event that students do not demonstrate appropriate professional behaviors and/or skills and/or do not have satisfactory academic performance in one or more required courses, recommendations for remedial courses of action will be made in accordance with department policy.

Students are expected to be aware of and adhere to the AOTA Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics, and Ethics Standards (2010). Violation of the standards is cause for disciplinary action which may include dismissal from the programs offered by the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science.

The department offers an entry-level Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy, a Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate and a Doctor of Occupational Science (Sc.D.). For further information, consult the Graduate Catalog.

Program and Fieldwork Requirements

Initial Health and Insurance Requirements

Contracts with fieldwork facilities require that students in placements show proof of current health insurance and documentation of current health status. The findings of the health examination will not necessarily exclude students from placement. Students must present evidence of current health insurance, a recent health examination (including documentation of results of titers for immunization of measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella), a speech and hearing screening, results of a PPD test, and results of a Hepatitis B titer or sign a declination form for the vaccine. Failure to comply will prevent registration.

Speech and Hearing Screening

Speech and hearing screening is offered free of charge through the Towson University Speech, Language and Hearing Center each term. Only one initial screening is required. Failure to comply will prevent registration.

Annual Health Requirements

Students must present evidence of current health insurance and results of PPD test annually.

CPR Courses and First Aid

Certification for adult, infant and child CPR is required prior to beginning the program. Proof of annual CPR certification is required during enrollment in the major. Online courses are not accepted. It is highly recommended that students complete a standard course in first aid.

Criminal Background Check

Students may be required to obtain a criminal background check and a drug screening if required by the fieldwork site. This can occur for any Level I or Level II fieldwork experience. The student is responsible for this expense.

Damaged or Missing Equipment, Assessments or Other Resources

Students are responsible for covering replacement costs for any items that are found to be damaged or missing due to their actions.

Entry-Level Professional Master's Degree Program

This Master of Science in Occupational Therapy is designed for individuals with bachelor's degrees in other fields who are interested
in becoming occupational therapists. For further information, consult the Graduate Catalog.

Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate

The Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) is designed for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree not in occupational therapy and are looking to enter the profession with a set of leadership skills and experiences that the clinical doctoral degree can provide. For further information, consult the Graduate Catalog.

The entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Candidacy Status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org (http://www.acoteonline.org).

The program must have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate

The Post-Professional Occupational Therapy doctorate (PPOT) is an advanced clinical degree for eligible occupational therapists with evidence of successful initial certification by the National Certification Board of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) as an OTR, and at least a Master’s degree. The PPOT is grounded in the science of occupation and evidence-based advanced practice. For further information, consult the Graduate Catalog.

Doctor of Science in Occupational Science (Sc.D.)

The applied doctoral degree in Occupational Science prepares graduates to teach, influence policy, and engage in applied research. Occupational science is the scientific study of human occupation related to the purposeful and meaningful activities that comprise everyday life experiences. The main emphasis of this interdisciplinary doctoral program is to advance education, research and service that promote occupational engagement, social and occupational justice, and health and well-being of persons, organizations and populations by applying knowledge gained through the promoted study of occupational science.

The ScD degree requires the completion of at least 90 units beyond a bachelor's degree. For more information, consult the Graduate Catalog.

- Combined B.S./M.S. Program with a Bachelor’s Degree in Occupation and Well-being (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/health-professions/occupational-therapy-occupational-science/combined-bs-ms-occupationa-therapy)

Occupational Therapy Courses

OCTH 205 ALTERNATIVE AND COMPLIMENTARY HEALTH CARE (3)
Comparison of western and non-western health practice. Cultural and ethical issues impacting health care. Legislative and reimbursement influence. GenEd II.D or Core: Global Perspectives.

OCTH 211 PHILOSOPHY OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (3)
The relation of occupation to health, concentrating on a variety of types of occupation, and illustrating the effects of health and ill health on occupational behavior. GenEd I.B.

OCTH 213 SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS (3)
A study of small groups used in therapeutic or health education settings. Lectures will examine group members’ and leaders’ roles, stages of a group’s life, theory of developmental groups, and the structure and function of a variety of small groups used in therapy, education, and community settings. Participatory experiences will supplement lectures to promote personal communication and effectiveness in groups. Prerequisites: SOCI 101, PSYC 101.

OCTH 216 LIFE SPAN ADAPTATION AND OCCUPATIONS (3)
Interactions of biological, sensorimotor and psychosocial aspects of development with environmental and cultural factors; occupational roles and processes of change. Prerequisites: BIOL 191/ BIOL 191L (BIOL 190), PSYC 101, SOCI 101, ENGL 102.

OCTH 217 ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONAL PERFORMANCE (4)
Beginning development of occupational performance skills necessary for clinical practice. Prerequisites: PSYC 101 and SOCI 101. Lab/Class fee will be assessed.

OCTH 218 ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONAL PERFORMANCE II (3)
Laboratory experience to develop students’ knowledge of the skills necessary in therapeutic media, technology application, job analysis, and health maintenance. Prerequisites: OCTH 213, OCTH 216, OCTH 217. Lab/Class fee will be assessed.

OCTH 221 CLINICAL KINESIOLOGY (3)
Principles of biomechanics, muscle physiology, joint structure and muscle function, emphasizing palpation of anatomical structures and analysis of movement. Prerequisite: BIOL 221, BIOL 221L (BIOL 223); PHYS 202 or PHYS 211 (may be taken concurrently).

OCTH 301 GENETICS, HEALTH & SOCIETY (3)
Sociopolitical, economic, and ethical issues of the Human Genome Project and genetic research. Health effects of genetic disorders and impact on lifestyles and occupation. Prerequisite: BIOL 191/ BIOL 191L (BIOL 190). GenEd II.A.

OCTH 305 DISABILITY, THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY (3)
An overview of the nature, meaning, and consequences to the construct of disability on individuals and society. Prerequisite: SOCI 101.

OCTH 313 ADULT NEUROLOGICAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (3)
Examination of the etiology, clinical course, management, and prognosis of neurological conditions and other influences on people’s engagement in occupation. Fundamentals of occupational therapy theory and practice applied to people with neurological conditions. Prerequisites: OCTH 211, OCTH 218, OCTH 221; BIOL 222/BIOL 222L (BIOL 214), BIOL 427 or permission of department.
OCTH 314 PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOSOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE (5)
Psychosocial aspects of human functioning and occupational implications of clinical conditions. Occupational therapy theory and practice applied to mental health. Corequisite: OCTH 320. Prerequisites: OCTH 211 or OCTH 600, OCTH 213 or OCTH 601, OCTH 218 or OCTH 600, PSYC 361; BIOL 427 (may be taken concurrently).

OCTH 317 ADULT MUSCULOSKELETAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (3)
Etiology, clinical course, management and prognosis of musculoskeletal conditions. Theory and practice applied to clients. Corequisites: OCTH 313 and OCTH 319. Prerequisites: OCTH 211, OCTH 218, OCTH 221; BIOL 222/BIOL 222L (BIOL 214), BIOL 427; PHYS 202. Lab/Class fee will be assessed.

OCTH 318 INDEPENDENT STUDY (1-6)
Directed independent study designed to provide students with an in-depth investigation of an area or problem specific to occupational therapy. Consultation and supervision with designated faculty members and/or clinical practitioners. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 units. Prerequisites: undergraduate major in Occupational Therapy, consent of instructor.

OCTH 319 PHYSICAL DYSFUNCTION LEVEL I FIELDWORK (3)
Classroom and fieldwork experiences in evaluation and intervention in physical disabilities. Corequisites: OCTH 313 and OCTH 317 or OCTH 413 and OCTH 417. Prerequisites: OCTH 211 or OCTH 600, OCTH 213 or OCTH 601, OCTH 218 or OCTH 600, OCTH 221, BIOL 222/BIOL 222L (BIOL 214), BIOL 427.

OCTH 320 PSYCHOSOCIAL LEVEL I FIELDWORK (3)
Classroom and fieldwork experiences in evaluation and intervention in psychosocial occupational therapy. Corequisite: OCTH 314. Prerequisites: OCTH 211 or OCTH 600, OCTH 218 or OCTH 600, OCTH 213 or OCTH 601, PSYC 361; BIOL 427 (may be taken concurrently).

OCTH 323 GERONTOLOGICAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (3)
Interventions addressing the aging process and pathology in older adults. Prerequisites: OCTH 211, OCTH 216, OCTH 218.

OCTH 325 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH (5)
Examination of functional implications of pediatric conditions. Fundamentals of occupational therapy theory and practice applied to children, adolescents, and their families. Corequisite: for students enrolled in BSMS OT program: OCTH 326. Prerequisites: for students enrolled in the BSMS OCTH program, OCTH 211, OCTH 213, OCTH 218 and OCTH 221.

OCTH 326 CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEVEL I FIELDWORK (3)
Classroom and fieldwork experiences in evaluation and intervention in occupational therapy with children and youth. Corequisite: OCTH 325.

OCTH 428 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ORGANIZATIONS IN MODERN SOCIETY (3)
Administration of programs within service delivery systems, considering technological, societal, and economic trends. Prerequisites: OCTH 319 or OCTH 320 or OCTH 326.

OCTH 430 RESEARCH METHODS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (3)
Guided independent research in topics related to occupational therapy theory and practice. Presentation of introductory materials on research methods. Requires grade of C or better to fulfill Core or GenEd requirement. Prerequisites: ENGL 102 or ENGL 190, OCTH 313, OCTH 319, OCTH 320, MATH 237 or MATH 231 or PSYC 212. Core: Advanced Writing Seminar or GenEd I.D.

OCTH 435 PHYSICAL REHAB LEVEL II FIELDWORK (9)
Supervised Level II Fieldwork (480 hours) in occupational therapy practice. Focus on professionalism and entry-level competency. Prerequisite: OCTH 313, 314, 317, 319, 320, 323, 325, 326 and consent of department.

OCTH 436 PSYCHOSOCIAL LEVEL II FIELDWORK (9)

OCTH 470 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 472 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 473 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 474 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 475 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 476 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 477 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 478 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

OCTH 479 SPECIAL TOPICS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (1-3)
Designed to explore topics of special interest in the theory and practice of occupational therapy. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 units provided a different topic is offered. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.