

OTD Curriculum: Course Descriptions

FALL YEAR 1 (18.5 credits)

OCTH 6100

Foundations of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science

3.0 credits

Foundations of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science provides an overview of relevant historical and philosophical roots of the profession, scope, and areas of practice. Concepts also include professional roles, modes of service delivery, and ethical decision-making. The course explores models of practice, frameworks, and occupational science sources to inform professional reasoning to meet the future occupational needs of society. It also addresses professional engagement, development, and growth.

OCTH 6110

Lifestyle, Health Equity, and Occupational Justice

2.0 credits

Lifestyle, Health Equity, and Occupational Justice addresses key sociocultural, socioeconomic, political, geographic, demographic, and diversity factors impacting service delivery and occupational health and well-being for persons, groups, and populations. With a focus across the lifespan, the course looks at social determinants of health and disparities and their influence on health behavior and lifestyle. Using an occupational justice and health equity lens, the course explores how policy, service delivery, and a lifestyle medicine approach can help meet real world occupational needs.

OCTH 6120

Anatomy, Physiology, and Movement for Occupational Participation

4.5 credits

Anatomy, Physiology, and Movement for Occupational Participation provides foundational knowledge about the structure, function, and movement of the human body as it relates to occupations in daily life. With a focus on pairing structures with the principles of kinesiology and biomechanics, the course creates a deep understanding of how movement enables engagement with the world.

OCTH 6130

Psychosocial OT: Frameworks and Evaluation

3.0 credits

Psychosocial Occupational Therapy: Framing and Evaluation explores psychosocial factors and mental health conditions impacting occupational performance across the lifespan. By introducing psychosocial theories, models of practice, and frames of reference, the course provides structure for guiding client-centered screening and evaluation methods in a variety of practice settings while considering cultural, lifestyle, and contextual factors. The course emphasizes the development of therapeutic use of self, communication skills, and observation techniques. With a focus on administration and interpretation of standardized and non-



standardized assessment tools relevant to psychosocial disorders and mental health conditions, the course bridges evaluation results to inform treatment planning.

OCTH 6140

Psychosocial OT: Intervention and Outcomes

3.0 credits

Psychosocial Occupational Therapy: Intervention and Outcomes aims to develop professional reasoning for using client-centered occupations as the primary modality for intervention to help clients achieve desired outcomes. The course emphasizes utilizing evidence to inform decision making and applying appropriate psychosocial theories, models of practice, and frames of reference to guide the occupational therapy process for clients experiencing psychosocial and mental health conditions, including dual diagnoses. Therapeutic use of self will serve as a foundation for learning group processes and dynamics. The course also considers the importance of self-care for the healthcare professional and lifestyle factors. This includes the promotion of stress resilience and well-being to support care provision of persons, communities, and populations.

OCTH 6150

Introduction to Fieldwork

1.0 credit

Introduction to Fieldwork aims to provide foundational learning to promote success in the experiential education courses throughout the curriculum. The course introduces experiential course series objectives, policies and procedures, professional expectations, communication skills, and self-reflective learning. Exploring various types of traditional, non-traditional, and role-emerging fieldwork creates a clear picture of potential professional trajectories.

OCTH 6160

Introduction to Capstone

1.0 credit

Introduction to Capstone aims to provide foundational learning to promote success in the experiential education courses throughout the curriculum. The course introduces experiential course series objectives, policies and procedures, professional expectations, communication skills, and self-reflective learning. Exploring various types of traditional, non-traditional, and role-emerging capstone settings creates a clear picture of potential professional trajectories.

OCTH 6180

Fieldwork Level I A

1.0 credit

Fieldwork Level I A enriches didactic coursework through various directed experiences and observations. The course provides experiential learning opportunities in a community-based setting working with persons, groups, or communities. With a focus on identifying the psychosocial aspects influencing engagement and participation, the course enables an understanding of the role of occupational therapy in community-based settings and identifies innovative and emerging roles for occupational therapy professionals outside of traditional contexts.



SPRING YEAR 1 (19 credits)

OCTH 6200

Neuroscience for Occupational Participation

4.0 credits

Neuroscience for Occupational Participation delves into the complex world of the human neurological system as central to understanding occupational performance and relating to the world. With a focus on the function of structures and systems, the course aims to provide a rich foundational understanding of neuroscience, human behavior, and relevant pathological conditions across the lifespan.

OCTH 6220

Therapeutic Use of Occupation

2.0 credits

Therapeutic Use of Occupation delves into the world of activity analysis as a central skill for occupational therapists to assess client occupational performance and formulate intervention plans. The course provides engaged opportunities for doing by actively exploring areas of occupation, performance skills, performance patterns, contexts, environments, and client factors. Through applying, analyzing, and evaluating the interaction of occupation and activity, the course builds skills in therapeutic use of self and facilitating engagement in daily life.

OCTH 6230

Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy I: Frameworks and Evaluation

3.0 credits

Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy I: Framing and Evaluation explores normative and diverse development influencing a wide range of occupational experiences within the adult and older adult populations. In the context of these age ranges, the course delves into common general medical and orthopedic conditions impacting occupational performance. Through analysis and application of theories, models of practice, and frames of reference, the course provides structure for guiding client-centered screening and evaluation methods while considering cultural, lifestyle, and contextual factors. The course emphasizes development of occupational performance analysis skills through an understanding of client factors, performance skills, activity demands, and the client's contexts. With a focus on administration and interpretation of standardized and non-standardized assessment tools relevant to adults and older adults, the course bridges evaluation results to inform treatment planning and develops skills necessary to report evaluation findings in a systematic manner.

OCTH 6240

Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy I: Intervention and Outcomes

3.0 credits

Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy I: Intervention and Outcomes aims to develop professional reasoning for using client-centered occupations as the primary modality for intervention to help clients achieve desired outcomes. The course emphasizes utilizing evidence to inform decision-making and applying appropriate theories, models of practice, and frames of reference to guide intervention and discharge planning for clients experiencing orthopedic and general medical conditions. Integrating the pillars of lifestyle medicine serves as a means for promoting health and well-being through occupational participation. Examining different service delivery models provides an understanding of reimbursement systems, funding mechanisms, and documentation practices necessary to communicate the rationale



for occupational therapy services in a wide variety of settings. The course also offers patient care skills to ensure safety of self and others.

OCTH 6250

Research and Evidence in Occupational Therapy Practice I

3.0 credits

Research and Evidence in Occupational Therapy Practice I serves as an introduction to understanding the value and importance of scholarship and evidence for supporting the profession. The course addresses research design and methods, the process of literature review, quantitative statistics, and qualitative analysis for the initial steps of designing and implementing a scholarly study. As relevant for human subject research, educational research, or research related to population health, the course considers the importance of ethical policies and procedures. Additionally, the course covers critique, analysis, and evaluation of scholarship for evidence-based decision-making.

OCTH 6260

OT Practitioner as Educator, Contemporary Leader and Manager

3.0 credits

This course covers different aspects of OT practitioners as Educators, Contemporary Leaders, and Managers. As a part of their educator role, students learn to develop teaching skills applicable to academic and clinical education through the examination of adult learning theory principles, health literacy, and the application of innovative instructional design. The course further introduces skills necessary to design and deliver educational materials and learning experiences for students, clients, caregivers, communities, colleagues, other health providers, and the public. Students will explore aspects of leadership and management for coordinating care, case management, and transitional services in traditional and emerging practice areas. This includes understanding the unique roles of occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and interprofessional team dynamics within a wide range of contexts. By introducing a variety of leadership theories, the course provides the structure for developing collaboration and supervision skills in various practice settings. The course further explores the roles of fieldwork educator, capstone mentor, and faculty member and also evaluates business aspects of practice including marketing services, analyzing programs for improvement and quality, and identifying strategies for effective and competent supervision of personnel.

OCTH 6280

Fieldwork Level IB

1.0 credits

Fieldwork Level I B enriches coursework through various directed experiences and observations by promoting application of knowledge in adult and older adult practice settings. The course serves as an opportunity to engage in the occupational therapy process, including client screening and evaluation, and demonstrating the use of occupation as both intervention and outcome.

SUMMER YEAR 1 (13 credits)

OCTH 6330**Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy II: Frameworks and Evaluation****3.0 credits**

Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy II: Framing and Evaluation explores normative and diverse development influencing a wide range of occupational experiences within the adult and older adult populations. In the context of these age ranges, the course delves into common neurological conditions impacting occupational performance. Through analysis and application of theories, models of practice, and frames of reference, the course provides structure for guiding client-centered screening and evaluation methods while considering cultural, lifestyle, and contextual factors. The course emphasizes development of occupational performance analysis skills through an understanding of client factors, performance skills, activity demands, and the client's contexts. With a focus on administration and interpretation of standardized and non-standardized assessment tools relevant to adults and older adults, the course bridges evaluation results to inform treatment planning and develops skills necessary to report evaluation findings in a systematic manner.

OCTH 6340**Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy II: Intervention and Outcomes****3.0 credits**

Adult and Older Adult Occupational Therapy II: Intervention and Outcomes aims to develop professional reasoning for using client-centered occupations as the primary modality for intervention to help clients achieve desired outcomes. The course emphasizes utilizing evidence to inform decision-making and applying appropriate theories, models of practice, and frames of reference to guide intervention and discharge planning for clients experiencing neurological conditions. Integrating the pillars of lifestyle medicine serves as a means for promoting health and well-being through occupational participation. Examining different service delivery models provides an understanding of reimbursement systems, funding mechanisms, and documentation practices necessary to communicate the rationale for occupational therapy services in a wide variety of settings. The course will also offer an understanding of patient care skills to ensure the safety of self and others.

OCTH 6350**Research and Evidence in Occupational Therapy Practice II****3.0 credits**

Research and Evidence in Occupational Therapy Practice II delves into the process of data collection, application, and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data for a scholarly project to contribute to the body of knowledge. Building upon previous skills, interpretation of tests and measurements further develops evidence-based decision-making abilities.

OCTH 6380**Fieldwork Level I C****1.0 credit**

Fieldwork Level IC enriches coursework through experiential education by promoting the application of knowledge in adult and older adult practice settings with a focus on neurological conditions. The course serves as an opportunity to engage in the occupational therapy process, including client screening and evaluation, and demonstrating the use of occupation as



both intervention and outcome. Students will utilize case-based learning through virtual Simucase and other resources.

OCTH 6390

Capstone Exploration

3.0 credits

Capstone Exploration cultivates professional identity and initiates preparation for the doctoral capstone. In the course, strength-based self-assessment and reflection lead to a professional development plan that guides the capstone process. Through guided inquiry, the course explores potential capstone areas of interest by examining current philosophies, service delivery models, and sociopolitical factors influencing the profession to identify innovative opportunities to address society's current and future occupational needs.

FALL YEAR 2 (17.5 – 19 credits)

OCTH 7400

Advocacy, Policy, & Ethics

1.5 Credits

Advocacy, Policy, and Ethics explores the impact of policy, socioeconomic, political, and geographic factors, among others, in order to improve the accessibility and delivery of occupational therapy services to persons, groups, and populations. The course addresses ethical principles for guiding professional conduct in a variety of contexts. With a focus on advocacy and occupational justice, the course also explores legislation, regulations, and standards of practice that inform practice and policy in existing and emerging service delivery models

OCTH 7410

Pharmacotherapeutics for Occupational Participation

1.5 credits

Pharmacotherapeutics for Occupational Participation explores medications commonly used for conditions typically treated in occupational therapy contexts. The course provides a basic understanding of the relationship between medications and occupational performance, administration and usage, and common side effects.

OCTH 7430

Pediatric Occupational Therapy I: Frameworks and Evaluation

3.0 credits

Pediatric Occupational Therapy I: Frame and Evaluation explores early childhood development and a wide range of occupational experiences within this population, as well as common conditions impacting occupational performance. Through analysis and application of pediatric theories, models of practice, and frames of reference, the course provides structure for guiding client-centered screening and evaluation methods in a variety of practice settings while considering cultural, lifestyle, and contextual factors. The course emphasizes development of occupational performance analysis skills through an understanding of client factors, performance skills, activity demands, and the client's contexts. With a focus on administration and interpretation of standardized and non-standardized assessment tools relevant to a family-centered, whole-child approach, the course bridges evaluation results to inform treatment planning and develops skills necessary to report evaluation findings in a systematic manner

**OCTH 7440****Pediatric Occupational Therapy I: Intervention and Outcomes****3.0 credits**

Pediatric Occupational Therapy I: Intervention and Outcomes aims to develop professional reasoning for using client-centered occupations as the primary modality for intervention to help pediatric clients achieve desired outcomes. The course emphasizes utilizing evidence to inform decision making and applying appropriate pediatric theories, models of practice, and frames of reference to guide intervention and discharge planning in early childhood settings. Applicable pillars of lifestyle medicine are explored to promote a family-centered, holistic approach to occupational participation. Examining different service delivery models provides an understanding of reimbursement systems, funding mechanisms, and documentation practices necessary to communicate the rationale for occupational therapy services in a variety of pediatric settings.

OCTH 7450**Research and Evidence in Occupational Therapy Practice III****3.0 credits**

Research and Evidence in Occupational Therapy Practice III continues to build upon knowledge and skills from the first two courses in the series and culminates with analyzing and interpreting data, discussing implications for practice, and preparing and presenting a scholarly report for dissemination to relevant audiences. The course also focuses on the further development and bridging of evidence-based decision-making skills to areas of professional interest.

OCTH 7470**Learning, Building, & Developing Skills for Pediatric Feeding Therapy (Elective 1)****1.5 credits**

The occupational therapy practice is a continuous learning and development journey in service of others. This elective course is intended to build the knowledge needed in pediatric feeding therapy, learn about the intersections of the occupation of feeding, and develop foundational skills as a feeding and swallowing occupational therapy practitioner. Participants in this course will expand their potential to serve people who have feeding and swallowing needs.

OCTH 7471**Prototyping Methods (Elective 2)****1.5 credits**

Gain practical knowledge about commonly used prototyping methods used in medical device design from the conception to product development stages through a combination of instruction and applied mini-projects. Topics are in the categories of (a) identifying goals in prototyping, (b) method selection, (c) material forming methods, (d) material joining methods, and (e) planning for scalable design

OCTH 7480**Fieldwork Level I D****1.0 credit**

Fieldwork Level ID promotes integrating knowledge about the occupational needs of children into practice and further develops skills learned in the curriculum through the use of simulated environments, standardized patients, and virtual learning opportunities. The course provides an



opportunity to further discover professional reasoning and self-reflective skills required to treat pediatric clients from a family-centered, whole-child approach. Students will utilize case-based learning through virtual Simucase and other resources.

OCTH 7490

Innovative Program Development and Entrepreneurship

3.0 credits

Innovative Program Development and Entrepreneurship develops skills to expand the profession of occupational therapy. Exploring the innovative processes involved in pioneering a program or business, the course identifies sources of funding, examines sustainability, and deepens understanding of the skills required to deliver services in a wide range of settings. The course teaches the needs assessment process which allows for designing programs with evaluation methods that support occupational participation for respective persons, groups, or populations.

SPRING YEAR 2 (16.5-18 credits)

OCTH 7500

Lifestyle Medicine, Health, and Occupational Therapy

3.0 credits

Lifestyle Medicine in Occupational Therapy utilizes lifestyle medicine as a framework to inform the occupational therapy process and program development as it relates to health management and promotion. Utilizing the pillars of lifestyle medicine, the course explores the impact of social determinants of health and epidemiological factors on health, well-being, disability, and chronic physical and mental health conditions. The course addresses critical analysis of the lifestyle medicine literature to inform evidence-based decision making for the promotion of health and wellbeing for professionals themselves, clients, groups, and populations.

OCTH 7510

Assistive Technology and Innovation for Everyday Life

3.0 credits

Assistive Technology and Innovation for Everyday Life provides foundational knowledge about the use of technology, equipment, and devices to enhance occupational participation and quality of life. Using an occupational justice lens, the course explores how legislation and policy influence inclusion with and accessibility to assistive technology. With a focus on innovation, the course examines processes involved in designing, developing, and utilizing assistive technologies in ways that meet the unique occupational needs of persons, groups, or populations in a variety of contexts. The course fosters skill development in the assessment process as it relates to determining needs, adjusting fit, and ensuring functional use. In addition, the course emphasizes the practical value of interprofessional collaboration to enhance the design process.

OCTH 7530

Pediatric Occupational Therapy II: Frameworks and Evaluation

3.0 credits

Pediatric Occupational Therapy II: Framing and Evaluation explores childhood and adolescent development and a wide range of occupational experiences within this population, as well as



common conditions impacting occupational performance. Through analysis and application of pediatric theories, models of practice, and frames of reference, the course provides structure for guiding client-centered screening and evaluation methods in a variety of practice settings while considering cultural, lifestyle, and contextual factors. The course emphasizes development of occupational performance analysis skills through an understanding of client factors, performance skills, activity demands, and the client's contexts. With a focus on administration and interpretation of standardized and non-standardized assessment tools relevant to a family-centered, whole-child approach, the course bridges evaluation results to inform treatment planning and develops skills necessary to report evaluation findings in a systematic manner.

OCTH 7540

Pediatric Occupational Therapy II: Intervention and Outcomes

3.0 credits

Pediatric Occupational Therapy II: Intervention and Outcomes aims to develop professional reasoning for using client-centered occupations as the primary modality for intervention to help pediatric children and adolescents achieve desired outcomes. The course emphasizes utilizing evidence to inform decision-making and applying appropriate pediatric theories, models of practice, and frames of reference to guide intervention and discharge planning in early childhood settings. Applicable pillars of lifestyle medicine are explored to promote a family-centered, holistic approach to occupational engagement. Examining different service delivery models provides an understanding of reimbursement systems, funding mechanisms, and documentation practices necessary to communicate the rationale for occupational therapy services in a variety of pediatric settings. The course also explores the role of occupational therapy in transition services.

OCTH 7570

Introduction to Stroke: Evaluation, Assessment, and Intervention (Elective 1)

1.5 credits

This course will provide background knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of stroke, as well as evaluation, assessment, and intervention that facilitate restoration, modification, and/or adaptation to the loss of functional performance following stroke. Students will gain a basic understanding of evidenced-based therapeutic assessment and intervention for stroke survivors and their caregivers.

OCTH 7571

Occupational Therapy in Higher Education (Elective 2)

1.5 credits

This course examines the emerging role of occupational therapy in higher education. The course will include the needs in higher education that OT can address, how to establish OT in higher education, student accessibility/disability services, the therapeutic process, program design, and marketing

OCTH 7585

Fieldwork Seminar

0.5 credits

Fieldwork Seminar serves to reinforce and grow previous learning in preparation for successful completion of level II fieldwork with an emphasis on professionalism, therapeutic use of self, documentation, quality management, and ethical standards.

**OCTH 7590****Capstone Development****2.5 credits**

Capstone Development guides further planning of the doctoral capstone project and doctoral capstone experience. Through reflection on professional goals, the course directs collaborative development of a capstone plan and individualized memorandum of understanding based on a needs assessment and literature review. Individualized learning objectives will reflect opportunities for advanced skill development within one or more of the following areas: clinical practice skills, research, program or policy development, leadership and advocacy, administration, and/or education.

SUMMER YEAR 2 -12 credits)**OCTH 7680****Fieldwork Level IIA****12.0 credits**

Fieldwork Level IIA is the first in a series of two full-time experiential learning courses that provide the opportunity to apply all theory and skills learned throughout didactic coursework to deliver skilled occupational therapy services under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. Level II fieldwork requires 12 weeks at an approved traditional, non-traditional, or role-emerging occupational therapy setting. Through active collaboration with the fieldwork educator and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, the course provides an in-depth experience for students to engage in the occupational therapy process with a gradual reduction in supervision until the student competently performs as an entry-level therapist within the practice setting. In addition, the course promotes the development of professional skills in line with the profession's ethics and standards.

FALL YEAR 3 (14 credits)**OCTH 8700****Occupational Therapy Professional Transitions****2.0 credits**

Occupational Therapy Professional Transitions focuses on preparation for the transition to professional practice by introducing requirements for licensure and strategies to prepare for the National Board Certification in Occupational Therapy. Through support from Career Services, the course also teaches skills to secure employment post-graduation, including interviewing and resume writing, with an emphasis on marketing skills for non-traditional jobs. In addition, the course emphasizes the importance of professional membership, continuation of ongoing professional development, and planning for mentorship. The course also reinforces how one can enhance the role of a professional by engaging in different leadership positions at local national and international levels within organizations and agencies. Case management, care coordination, and transition services are emphasized. Students who would like to work in academic settings after graduation are provided with the necessary strategies to develop themselves as educators. Finally, the supervision strategies of both OT and non-OT personnel are focused and how one can become effective in analyzing staff development and the professional abilities and competencies of supervised staff as they relate to job responsibilities after working as OT practitioners.

**OCTH 8780****Level IIB Fieldwork****12.0 credits**

Fieldwork Level IIB is the second in a series of two full-time experiential learning courses that provides the opportunity to apply all theory and skills learned throughout didactic coursework to deliver skilled occupational therapy services under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. The Level II fieldwork requires 12-weeks at an approved traditional, non-traditional, or role-emerging occupational therapy setting. Through active collaboration with the fieldwork educator and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, the course provides an in-depth experience for students to engage in the occupational therapy process with a gradual reduction in supervision until the student competently performs as an entry-level therapist within the practice setting. In addition, the course promotes development of professional skills in line with the profession's ethics and standards.

SPRING YEAR 3 (16 credits)**OCTH 8890****Doctoral Capstone Experience****14.0 credits**

Doctoral Capstone Experience (DCE) serves as the context for implementing the doctoral capstone project. Through collaboration with a site in the community, the capstone plan, memorandum of understanding, and evaluation are enacted over the course of 14 weeks to foster advanced skill development in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice skills, research, program or policy development, leadership and advocacy, administration, and/or education. Guided reflection throughout the DCE provides an opportunity for further development of professional identity and transformation into a scholar of practice.

OCTH 8895**Capstone Project****2.0 credits**

Capstone Project promotes synthesis and application of knowledge through the completion of an individualized, increasingly self-directed doctoral capstone project during the doctoral capstone experience that demonstrates advanced skill development in an identified area of focus. The course emphasizes the dissemination of capstone outcomes to relevant stakeholders and professional communities.