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Katz School
of Science and Health

Occupational Therapy Doctorate

Occupational Therapy Doctorate Course Descriptions

OTH 5100 Occupational Therapy Profession & Practice

This course is an introduction to the field of occupational therapy, including the history, philosophical beliefs, areas of practice, and roles of practitioners. The focus of the course is on developing an awareness of professional organizations, ethics and values with an emphasis on the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF4). Concepts such as theory, science occupation, service delivery models, legislation, and liability will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5101 Introduction to Doctoral Fieldwork I

Introduction to Fieldwork I is designed to assist in professional role development and to prepare the student for their first fieldwork experience and to introduce the student to a variety of traditional and emerging practice areas. Concepts such as IPE, technology, collaboration, licensure reimbursement systems, and ethics will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5102 Assessment & Screening I

This course will provide an introduction to standardized and non-standardized assessment methods relevant to the practice of occupational therapy across the lifespan. Topics covered include assessment selection and implementation at various stages of intervention, statistical methods, and interpretation of data. This course will provide instruction in screening and assessment of visual, perceptual and cognitive skills as well as standard physical assessments for range of motion and strength. Concepts such as intervention, evidence-based practice, therapeutic use of self, quantitative and qualitative analysis will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5103 Introduction to Scholarship and Research

This course starts the development of the “practice scholar” and will focus on building skills by gaining an understanding of research in health care, utilizing logical and critical thinking skills to navigate research data, asking evidence-based questions, applying theory to research, and performing literature searches. Additionally, students will gain knowledge about research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, data collection and analysis, and professional scholarly writing. Students will ask a clinical research question, design quantitative and qualitative data collection tools, collect data, analyze with theory, and write up findings. Concepts such as grants, instructional design, standardized testing, and methodology will be included and integrated with the content of the course.



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OTH 5104 Clinical Skills & Procedures

This course is an introduction to basic patient care skills as required by rehabilitation workers. It will offer an understanding of various bodily systems, conditions and, typical medical management and how they impact occupational performance. Concepts such as communication, training techniques, therapeutic use of self, disease processes, and safety will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5105 Anatomy and Human Movement

This course provides an integrated, as well as theoretical and practical approach to studying anatomy and movement. As all functions are performed by specific structures, anatomical information provides clues about structure and explains function. Knowledge of the anatomy of the healthy human body will enable the student to understand important mechanisms of disease. This course applies information learned in gross anatomy to mechanical and physiological principles of movement. It includes analysis of body alignment, joint structure, and muscle action and their relationship to functional activities. Students will complete assessments of normal and abnormal alignment and movement and analyze their importance for life tasks. Concepts such as intervention plan, safety, human behavior, lifespan development, and psychology will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5200 Occupational Performance in the Older Adult Population

This course is an introduction to occupational therapy with older adults. It focuses on occupational behavior, explores developmental theories, occupational therapy frames of reference, and applies it to physical and psycho-social conditions typically seen in older adults. Psychosocial factors influencing engagement in occupation will be integrated for the development of client-centered, meaningful, occupation-based outcomes. Concepts such as theories, wellness, prevention, precautions and care coordination will be included and integrated with the content of the course. The course will incorporate evidence –based practice and apply knowledge to a variety of clinical and community settings.

OTH 5210 Skills Lab: Older Adult

In the skills lab students will gain hand-on experience working with older adult populations. Students will explore application of occupational therapy theory use in the process of evaluation and intervention, models of practice, and frames of references towards the conditions typically seen in the older adult. Concepts such as models of practice, interventions, strategies, driver rehabilitation, and dysphagia will be included and integrated with the content of the lab. The course will incorporate evidence–based practice and apply knowledge to a variety of clinical and community settings.

OTH 5201 Fieldwork I – Older Adult

This course provides opportunities for observation and participation in various aspects of the occupational therapy process during an older adult Level I fieldwork experience. Students will



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be able to observe evaluations and interventions performed on the older adult with a variety of diagnosis in medical or educational settings. The debriefing on the fieldwork will facilitate discussion around the potential for formulating specific research questions or proposals for program development that can be executed during the Doctoral Experiential Internship.

OTH 5202 Assessment & Screening II

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the occupational therapy assessment process over the lifespan. It focuses on standardized and occupation-based methods of gathering information about these developmental groups. Students will have the opportunity to develop their observation and analysis skills. Concepts such as interprofessional team, standardized testing, psychometric properties of tests, cultural factors, and intervention plans will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5203 Brain, Behavior and Occupation

This foundational neuroscience course will present topics including histology of the ascending sensory pathways, descending motor pathways, cranial nerves: location, fibers course and function, vasculature of the brain, brainstem, and spinal cord, visual system, vestibular system, auditory system, cerebellum, basal ganglia, cerebral cortical structure and function, limbic system: learning and memory, and development and normal aging of the nervous system. In addition, each topic will have an applied component in which students will investigate the impact of these systems and structures on occupations. Concepts such as society, assessment tools, performance patterns, occupation-based interventions, and social determinants will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5204 Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice I

This course introduces students to evidence-based practice and knowledge development and how to create focused clinical questions, investigate and interpret research literature, and incorporate outcome-measures into practice. It is designed to foster professional writing skills as to become evidence –based practitioner in occupational therapy. Concepts such as theory development, evaluation, standardized testing, scholarly reports, and instructional design will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5205 Occupations in Practice Through the Lifespan

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the therapeutic benefits of occupations, in all areas of ADL, IADL, Health Management, Rest and Sleep Education, Work, Play, and Social Participation. Students will analyze and apply occupation – based media as they relate to client – centered intervention. Occupation-based activity analysis techniques are utilized to allow student to recognize the possible influences of activity demands, social, cultural, personal and temporal contexts on occupational performance. Students will learn how to implement the teaching-learning process as they train others to engage in occupations. Students will develop resources, teaching skills, observation techniques, and the therapeutic use of self. Emphasis will be placed on perceiving relationships between developmental stages and modifications in the individual's occupations, along with the impact of culture on development. Concepts such as



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diversity, occupation-based activities, clinical reasoning, teaching-learning process, and effective communication will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5206 Introduction to Doctoral Studies

This course will inspire the student's growth in doctoral level thinking and professional curiosity. Providing an overview of the culminating project, students are prepared to proactively explore areas of interest throughout the occupational therapy program as potential topics for the experiential internship and capstone. Additionally, students gain dialectical and critical analysis skills relating to occupational therapy history, literature, and theory in application to the profession today and in the future. Students will be in class 30 hours for didactic instruction and seminar-style discussion. The course culminates with a critical analysis paper exploring a potential capstone topic. Concepts such as quantitative and quantitative research, grants, instructional design, and synthesis of data will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5300 Occupational Performance in the Adult Population

This course is an introduction to occupational therapy with adults. It focuses on occupational behavior, explore developmental theories, occupational therapy frames of reference, and apply it to physical and psycho-social conditions typically seen in adults. Psychosocial factors influencing engagement in occupation will be integrated for the development of client-centered, meaningful, occupation-based outcomes. Concepts such as scientific evidence, clinical reasoning, reassessment, referring clients, community resources, discharge planning will be included and integrated with the content of the course. The course will incorporate evidence – based practice and apply knowledge to a variety of clinical and community settings.

OTH 5310 Skills Lab: Adult

In the skills lab, students gain hand-on experiences with occupational performance in adults. Students will explore application of occupational therapy theory use in the process of evaluation and intervention, models of practice, and frames of references towards the conditions typically seen in the older adult. Concepts such as intervention strategies, technique training, evaluation, interprofessional collaboration, care coordination will be included and integrated with the content of the lab. The course will incorporate evidence –based practice and apply knowledge to a variety of clinical and community settings.

OTH 5301 Fieldwork I - Adults

This course provides opportunities for observation and participation in various aspects of the occupational therapy process during an adult Level I fieldwork experience. Students will be able to observe evaluations and interventions performed on adults with a variety of diagnoses in a variety of settings. The debriefing on the fieldwork will facilitate discussion around the potential for formulating specific research questions or proposals for program development that can be executed during the Doctoral Experiential Internship.



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OTH 5302 Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice II

This course will focus building capabilities in assessing and systematically reviewing evidence, utilizing a critical appraisal process in investigating a clinical question, and developing a research proposal. Students will compare forms of evidence with specific reference to systematic reviews versus clinical practice guidelines. The doctoral student can use course assignments to explore potential topics for the culminating capstone project.

Concepts such as client evaluation, standardized test interpretation, data analysis, publication, and proposal design will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5303 Preparatory Methods I

This course focuses on methods and techniques used by the occupational therapist to prepare the client for function/occupational performance such as the use of physical agent modalities, wound care, managing edema, and tissue remodeling / scar management. Concepts such as interventions, safety, assistive technology, prosthetic devices, preparatory methods, and precautions will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5304 Assistive Technology

This course focuses on assistive technology, adaptive equipment and environmental modifications used by occupational therapist to achieve optimal occupational performance. It includes visits to vendors and community settings to explore how assistive technology is used for different populations, as well as to determine what is available to clients. Students will have the opportunity to design assistive equipment for a client. Concepts such as assistive technology, orthotic devices, program design, and technology in practice will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5400 Occupational Performance in the Child and Adolescent Populations

This course is an introduction to occupational therapy with children and adolescents. It focuses on occupational behavior, explores developmental theories, occupational therapy frames of reference, and applies it to physical and psycho-social conditions typically seen in children and adolescents. Psychosocial factors influencing engagement in occupation will be integrated for the development of client-centered, meaningful, occupation-based outcomes. The course will incorporate evidence-based practice and apply knowledge to a variety of clinical and community settings. Concepts such as scientific evidence, consultative process, collaboration, and feeding will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5410 Skills Lab: Children and Adolescents

In the skills lab, students gain hands-on experiences with occupational performance in children and adolescents. Students will explore application of occupational therapy theory use in the process of evaluation and intervention, models of practice, and frames of references towards the conditions typically seen in the children and adolescents. Clinical concepts such as case reasoning, intervention strategies, specialist referral, care coordination, technique training will be included in the course. The course will incorporate evidence-based practice and apply knowledge to a variety of clinical and community settings.



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OTH 5401 Fieldwork I – Children and Adolescents

This course provides opportunities for observation and participation in various aspects of the occupational therapy process during a children and adolescents Level I fieldwork experience. Students will be able to observe evaluations and interventions performed on adults with a variety of diagnosis in a variety of settings. The debriefing on the fieldwork will facilitate discussion around the potential for formulating specific research questions or proposals for program development that can be executed during the Doctoral Experiential Internship.

OTH5402 Doctoral Fieldwork II

This course will emphasize information that has been covered in the occupational therapy curriculum to prepare the student for Fieldwork Level II: Therapeutic use of self; applying theoretical knowledge and evidence-based principles to the clinical situation; time management; communication and interactions; supervisory relationships; teamwork; documentation; and meeting the Fieldwork II requirements. Concepts such as direct interventions, technology in practice, intra-professional collaboration, and reimbursement systems will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5403 Preparatory Methods II

This course focuses on methods and techniques used by the occupational therapist to prepare the client for function/occupational performance: Physical agent modalities and splinting. Concepts such as assistive technology, superficial thermal agents, and advocacy will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH5404 Occupational Wellness

This course examines the relationship of occupation to health, well-being, participation; critical thinking about lifestyle factors influencing occupational engagement and wellness in occupational therapy practice. Concepts such as public health, consultative process, teaching-learning process, and community resources will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5405 Leadership and Advancement in Practice

This course will cover information on how to provide effective occupational services: the role of the occupational therapy manager; running a business/department/program; leadership; maintain standards; use evidence; understand policy; and prepare next-generation leaders. It will foster professional development in leadership, management, and advocacy. The course prepares students for the lifelong task of professional growth as a leader. Students gain an understanding of how to carry out the role of an occupational therapy manager, start and run a private practice or business, follow professional regulations and policy, utilize evidence, acquire grant funding, and become future leaders. Concepts such as policy issues, service delivery models, regulations, leadership skills, and ethics will be included and integrated with the content of the course.



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OTH 5500 Preparation for Doctoral Professional Practice

This course will integrate knowledge from courses such as Leadership and Advancement in Practice, Introduction to Fieldwork, and Occupational Performances and apply it to the fieldwork experiences. Using a “mock” format and case studies, students will have the opportunity to interview, apply appropriate screening and evaluations, develop occupation-based intervention, and discharge plans. Students will also have to apply knowledge about payment systems in different settings; admission criteria; documentation requirements, and billing. The course will also revisit Models and Theoretical Frameworks that support fieldwork education. This process will be applied to all three lifespan categories as depicted by the Occupational Performance courses: The Older Adult, the Adult; and the Child and Adolescent. Concepts such as assessment tools, occupational profile, therapeutic use of self, occupation-based interventions, and discharge will be included and integrated with the content of the course.

OTH 5501 Fieldwork II-A

This course provides fieldwork experience under the supervision of a license occupational therapist. Students’ participation includes in-depth experience in delivering occupational therapy services to clients including evaluation and intervention. Students will have the opportunity to practice in a variety of clinical or community-based settings. During this period, the students are expected to assume increasing responsibilities related to client care. The fieldwork experience is designed to develop clinical reasoning, professionalism and clinical competency. It is also intended to develop professional skills consistent with the profession’s ethics and standards. It involves applying previously learned knowledge to providing occupational therapy to children or adults in the community. Students will gain experience in OT evaluation and treatment with individuals with various disorders and performance deficits.

OTH 5600 Capstone Project

The Doctoral Capstone, consisting of the Capstone Project and Experience, is individually tailored by the student and capstone coordinator to synthesize advanced occupational therapy knowledge and grow professional skills in a focused area of interest. In this course, the student will both choose a topic area and determine the mode of implementation from one of the following areas: specialized practice, program development, education, leadership, administration, or advocacy. Each student will prepare a brief description of the proposed project addressing purpose and feasibility which will then be reviewed by the faculty for approval. Upon faculty approval, the student will complete an extensive literature review which will serve as the first part of the culminating project proposal.

OTH5601 Fieldwork II-B

This course provides fieldwork experience under the supervision of a license occupational therapist. Students’ participation includes in-depth experience in delivering occupational therapy services to clients including evaluation and intervention. Students will have the opportunity to practice in a variety of clinical or community-based settings. During this period, the students are expected to assume increasing responsibilities related to client care. The fieldwork experience



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is designed to develop clinical reasoning, professionalism and clinical competency. It is also intended to develop professional skills consistent with the profession's ethics and standards. It involves applying previously learned knowledge to providing occupational therapy to children or adults in the community. Students will gain experience in OT evaluation and treatment with individuals with various disorders and performance deficits

OTH 5700 Capstone Project II

This course will build upon work from the first capstone course OTH 5600 Capstone Project I. The student will continue work on the project proposal utilizing one of the following modes for implementation: specialized practice, program development, education, leadership, administration, and advocacy.

OTH 5701 Capstone Experience I

The Capstone Experience internship provides students with the opportunity to synthesize advanced occupational therapy knowledge, utilize evidence-based knowledge, and grow professionally in a focused area of interest. The approved proposal from the Capstone Project II course serves as the blueprint for learning experiences in the internship. Students will be focused on one of the following areas: specialized practice, program development, education, leadership, administration, or advocacy. Students will be in a variety of settings depending on their capstone topic which may include: clinical or community-based occupational therapy settings, educational institutions, state or national occupational therapy organizations, or administrative settings. The Capstone Experience internship will be mentored by a full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty/consultant, or a qualified person at the site where the internship will be completed.

OTH 5800 Capstone Experience II

The Capstone Experience internship provides students with the opportunity to synthesize advanced occupational therapy knowledge, utilize evidence-based knowledge, and grow professionally in a focused area of interest. The approved proposal from the Capstone Project II course serves as the blueprint for learning experiences in the internship. Students will be focused on one of the following areas: specialized practice, program development, education, leadership, administration, or advocacy. Students will be in a variety of settings depending on their capstone topic which may include: clinical or community-based occupational therapy settings, educational institutions, state or national occupational therapy organizations, or administrative settings. The Capstone Experience internship will be mentored by a full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty/consultant, or a qualified person at the site where the internship will be completed.

OTH 5801 Capstone Experience III

The course involves the student preparing a scholarly write up of the capstone implementation and outcomes from the Doctoral Experiential Internship OTH 5701 and 5800. The manuscript will demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to contribute to occupational therapy's knowledge base and demonstrate skills as a scholar and leader. The manuscript will build upon materials



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from the Preparation for Capstone I and II courses. The manuscript will include a critical analysis of the literature, clearly identified outcomes of capstone implementation, professional reflections on learning, and recommendations for future development. In addition to the manuscript, students will create either a publishable manuscript or poster or presentation suitable for submission to a professional conference.



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