REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEGREE

The vision of this post-professional OTD is to produce occupational therapists that are leaders, occupation-based practitioners, effective educators, and scholars in their field. Graduates will know how to interpret and design research, understand occupation-based practice in an ever changing healthcare society, learn how to be innovative and creative in the practice and advocacy of occupational therapy, and will articulate clearly through written and verbal communication the value of the profession. This program is designed for OT’s practicing in the field of occupational therapy, and is focused around Boyer’s four areas of scholarship: Scholarship of Discovery, Scholarship of Integration, Scholarship of Application, and Scholarship of Teaching. The development of professional scholarship is the primary goal of this degree, because it is through professional scholarship that individuals and professions grow, meeting the challenges in today’s ever changing world. It is the goal that all graduates will view scenarios through an innovative, critical thinking and problem solving perspective. Specifically, graduates will achieve the following curricular outcomes:

- Understand research methods and design a research study
- Demonstrate knowledge translation skill by applying evidence to practice
- Articulate their leadership strengths and challenges, and devise a leadership plan that can be sustained throughout one’s professional career
- Apply 1 leadership method to a clinical or educational setting and reflect on the process
- Apply an innovative, creative thinking concept to a real-world scenario, either in the clinical or educational setting, and report on the success, challenges, and lessons learned
- Implement 1 teaching strategy in a classroom or professional venue and report outcomes of the teaching experience
- Link common practice techniques and occupation-based practice to the occupational therapy practice framework in one practice area
- Work with a scholar in their area of practice to complete an individual capstone project that has practice, research, and/or education implications for our field. At least one of Boyer’s four areas of scholarship must be woven through the Capstone.

This post-professional OTD is designed with the recognition that life events happen, people have busy schedules, and sometimes unknown circumstances arise. Therefore, to account for these inevitable life events, embedded within the program are four unique characteristics: Rolling admissions; choice of live sessions; ability to earn digital badges; and didactic intense course modules. Students that choose to obtain the full degree must collect all of the digital badges, successfully complete all coursework, implement and complete a capstone project, and create a portfolio.