REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEGREE

The Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science offers an entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree. The purpose of the entry-level OTD degree is to produce occupational therapists who are occupation-based and evidence-based practitioners. The program encourages scholarly, critical thinking along with innovation and creativity. It fosters professional growth, leadership, and interprofessional practice. Graduates will be able to provide entry-level occupational therapy services across a variety of practice settings. They 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 articulate clearly through written and verbal communication the value of the profession. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students enter the entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program with a bachelor’s degree. The program is an 8-semester, 98-credit program that consists of traditional, didactic teaching, experiential learning, fieldwork, and a scholarship capstone project and experience. Students must satisfactorily complete every aspect of the program. Students must also complete and maintain College of Nursing and Health Sciences mandatories including but not limited to: Immunizations, CPR, HIPPA/OSHA training, criminal background checks, etc.

FIELDWORK

Fieldwork in the OTD program is where students are given the opportunity to practice learned skills in real-world settings. In the OTD program, students participate in two Level II fieldwork experiences, 12-weeks each for a total of 24 weeks. During these Level II fieldwork experiences, students work under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. Students must successfully pass the two 12-week Level II fieldwork experiences as part of the entry-level OTD program.

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE AND PROJECT

Students are expected to complete a capstone project. The capstone project is an individual, scholarly project that enhances the student’s knowledge in an interest area. As part of the capstone project, the student designs and executes a 14-week capstone experience and identifies a capstone mentor to work with during this process. Students must successfully complete and disseminate the entire capstone experience and project as part of the entry-level OTD program.