OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, OTD

The post-professional OTD program (https://merit-www.education.wisc.edu/otd) is a part-time, structured online curriculum serving occupational therapists’ need for distance access and flexibility to acquire advanced practice skills. The OTD program trains occupational therapists to become visionary leaders, engage in inter-professional education and practice, and facilitate research translation. Students enter as a cohort in the spring/fall semesters and complete the program over three years of part-time study.

The occupational therapy program resides in the Department of Kinesiology (https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu) and offers two graduate professional programs, an entry-level master of science (MS–OT (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/kinesiology/occupational-therapysms)) and a post-professional doctor of occupational therapy (OTD). Occupational therapists interested in pursuing advanced research training may also apply to the M.S. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/kinesiology/kinesiology-ms)/Ph.D. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/kinesiology/kinesiology-phd) in Kinesiology with a track in Occupational Science. The purpose of the graduate program is to prepare clinicians, researchers, and teachers who possess a solid foundation in both the theoretical and applied aspects of the disciplines of occupational therapy and science.

ADMISSIONS

Applicants for all graduate programs must complete a UW–Madison Graduate School application (http://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/process).

OTD (POST-PROFESSIONAL)

An official copy of a current state license to practice OT in the U.S. will be required for admission.

A minimum equivalency of 30 UW–Madison credit hours taken as a graduate student beyond the Bachelor’s degree is also required. It is expected that most applicants will meet this requirement through having obtained a master’s degree in occupational therapy or related field. Individuals with a bachelor’s degree in OT may apply but will be required to complete graduate credits to meet any deficiencies (as outlined on our website (https://merit-www.education.wisc.edu/otd/admissions)).

In addition, applicants must submit:

- Personal statement responding to prompts provided on the graduate application page;
- Current resume or CV;
- Official transcripts per the instructions on the application page; and
- Letters of recommendation (two required, one additional optional) from professors, co-workers, supervisors, and/or other professionals who can speak to the applicant’s capacity to be an adult learner, potential for leadership, and capabilities to succeed as a graduate student.

Further information about the admissions process can be found here (https://merit-www.education.wisc.edu/otd/admissions).

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Scholarships are sometimes available to graduate students in the OTD Program. Financial assistance is limited and opportunities vary from year to year. Students enrolled in the OTD program are not permitted to accept teaching assistantships, project assistantships, research assistantships, or other appointments that would result in a tuition waiver. Students who are considering applying for financial support should see the OTD Tuition, Scholarships and Financial Aid webpage (https://merit-www.education.wisc.edu/otd/admissions) for further information.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

- **Evening/Weekend**: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Online**: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Hybrid**: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely...
online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

**Accelerated:** These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Credit Requirement</th>
<th>64 credits (34 beyond the M.S.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>32 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
<td>Half of degree coursework (32 credits out of 64 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (<a href="http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle">http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Graduate GPA Requirement</td>
<td>3.00 GPA required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grade Requirements</td>
<td>The Graduate School requires students maintain a graduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for courses numbered 300 and above (excluding research) to receive a degree. Conditions for probationary status may require higher grades. Grades of Incomplete are considered to be unsatisfactory if they are not removed during the next enrolled semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments and Examinations</td>
<td>Curricular requirements (all didactic courses) must be passed, in conformity with GPA and grad requirements, above. Capstone project proposal and final product must be reviewed and approved by a committee of graduate faculty per Graduate School policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Requirements</td>
<td>No language requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements</td>
<td>Breadth is provided via interdisciplinary training (minor requirement waived).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED COURSES**

The OTD has a prescribed curriculum of 64 credits total, 34 beyond the masters’ degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCC THER 881</td>
<td>Doctor of Occupational Therapy: Capstone Project I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPD Professional Literacy Courses (minimum of 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 699</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or OCC THER 890</td>
<td>Inter-Professional Development for Leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCC THER 811</td>
<td>Applied Leadership and Management in OT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 785</td>
<td>Human Occupation and Health</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCC THER 812</td>
<td>Current Trends Shaping Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLICIES**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES**

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.
MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK


PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, students are allowed to count up to 30 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework should be less than five years old to be considered, additional justification and/or documentation are needed for work taken between five and ten years. Work more than ten years old will not be considered.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
No undergraduate coursework will be allowed to count toward OTD requirements.

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval and payment of the difference in tuition (between University Special and Graduate tuition), students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. These credits are considered part of the total allowable credits available for a student to transfer. Coursework should be less than five years old to be considered; additional justification and/or documentation is needed for work taken between five and ten years. Work more than ten years old will not be considered.

PROBATION
The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School. See Probation (http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#probation) on the Graduate School website.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
Every graduate student is required to have an advisor to meet UW information management needs, and accordingly, and of its own volition, the department assigns an advisor to each student. The advisor is a graduate or clinical faculty member.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis. The OTD Program Coordinator will advise students in the early stages of their studies until a permanent advisor is assigned. The advisor may also serve on the student’s capstone project committee.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Doctoral degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

OTHER
Prerequisites: State license to practice OT; master’s degree or equivalent.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. (Foundational Knowledge) Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the evolution of the profession, the social and global forces influencing practice, delivery models, policies, and systems, including interprofessional and emerging areas of practice.

2. (Foundational Knowledge) Articulate and apply underlying theories, concepts and techniques of occupational therapy intervention to health promotion and well-being for the prevention of disease and dysfunction.

3. (Scientific Inquiry and Theory Development) Articulate the knowledge, roles and practices of other professions with whom occupational therapists typically engage in practice.

4. (Scientific Inquiry and Theory Development) Formulate systems to gather, analyze and interpret data from a practice setting.

5. (Scientific Inquiry and Theory Development) Translate evidence into best practice for the continued development of the profession.

6. (Scientific Inquiry and Theory Development) Develop and implement an interprofessional, scholarly capstone project that addresses an identified service system, intervention or programmatic problem, relates theory to practice and demonstrates synthesis of advanced knowledge in a practice area.

7. (Scientific Inquiry and Theory Development) Demonstrate an understanding of the process for locating and securing grants and how grants can serve as a fiscal resource for scholarly and programmatic activities.

8. (Scientific Inquiry and Theory Development) Evaluate the outcomes of the capstone project and communicate findings to an interprofessional audience in a clear, understandable manner through a peer-reviewed report or presentation.


10. (Practice Reasoning and Decision Making) Identify and apply appropriate tools for measuring practice outcomes at the individual and systems level.
11. (Practice Reasoning and Decision Making) Synthesize current knowledge, available evidence and responses to interventions to inform new approaches to practice problems.

12. (Practice Reasoning and Decision Making) Demonstrate the skills necessary to lead and manage an interprofessional team.

13. (Professional Conduct) Demonstrate commitment to professional growth through the creation, implementation and monitoring of a career development plan.

14. (Professional Conduct) Demonstrate active involvement in professional development, leadership, and advocacy for the benefit of constituents and the profession.

**PEOPLE**

**Graduate Faculty:** Professors Benedict (OT Program Coordinator), Edwards; Associate Professor Larson; Assistant Professors Ausdera, Pickett, Travers. Links to faculty webpages, instructors and program staff are listed here (https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/ot/people).