Occupational Therapy

Department Information

Department of Occupational Therapy Staff

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>Chair</td>
<td>Donna A. Wooster, PhD.</td>
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<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Wooster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Professors</td>
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Department of Occupational Therapy web site
http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/alliedhealth/ot

Occupational Therapy is a health care profession devoted to providing skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all aspects of their lives. Occupational therapists work with persons with acute and chronic physical, psychosocial, mental and developmental disabilities. An occupational therapist may aid in the growth and development of premature babies; create a learning environment for physically and mentally challenged children; adapt home environments for persons with stroke, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury and other disabilities; or create activities that are designed to restore mental health for persons with emotional, mental, or substance abuse problems. Occupational therapy focuses on "skills for the job of living" which includes all of the necessary skills for individuals to "live life to its fullest" and lead independent and satisfying lives.

The Master of Science degree program in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) is an entry-level professional program designed to enable the student to develop advanced critical reasoning skills and to prepare the graduate for professional practice in a variety of settings. Graduates will also have the capability of assuming responsibilities in the areas of administration, program development, consultation and research in occupational therapy.

The program consists of 95 semester hours and is seven consecutive semesters in length. This includes 24 weeks of full-time Level II Fieldwork as required by accreditation standards. Level II Fieldwork is available in a variety of medical and community sites representing a diverse range of learning opportunities for students. All Level II Fieldwork must be completed within 12 months following completion of academic requirements.

The program is designed to accommodate applicants who have a baccalaureate degree in another field.

Criteria For Admission

A new class of MSOT students begins each year in the fall semester. All applicants must apply to OTCAS (Occupational Therapy Central Application Service) and submit a supplemental application to the OT program. Applications are available in July each year for fall of the following year. Supplemental applications with appropriate processing fees should be submitted directly to the Occupational Therapy Department. Selected applicants, who meet all academic admission requirements, may be invited for an interview. Students offered admission may choose to guarantee a seat by submitting a matriculation fee (applied toward tuition) or be placed on the alternate list. All students accepted to the program must complete a criminal background check. Admission is contingent on the background check being clear of criminal charges.

The candidate is expected to satisfy the following minimum criteria for admission:

• Completion of a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university by June 1 of the year of admittance.
• Completion of all prerequisite courses with a grade of “A” or “B” by application deadline.
• A minimum 3.0 (A=4.0) overall cumulative GPA; minimum 3.0 GPA in the prerequisite courses; minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of coursework taken.
• Minimum of 25 documented OT observation hours.
• Minimum GRE score of 290 on combined verbal and quantitative sections, and 3.0 writing score reported from same exam date.

Program Prerequisite Courses ALL applicants must complete:
Abnormal Psychology – 3 hrs
Life Span Development Psychology – 3 hrs
Anatomy & Physiology I – 4 hrs
Anatomy & Physiology II – 4 hrs  
Statistics – 3 hrs  
Kinesiology (biomechanics) or Physics – 3 or 4 hrs

Note: AP and CLEP credits are not accepted for any prerequisite courses.

Applications will be reviewed for academic qualifications on receipt of application, processing fee, transcripts and GRE results. Selected applicants who meet all academic admission requirements may be invited for personal interviews.

Admission is offered to the top students who apply after consideration of the admission score.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to observe occupational therapy practice in a variety of settings. A minimum of 25 documented OT observation hours are required. Documentation forms for observation are included in the application packet.

These forms may also be downloaded from the university web site at  
http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/colleges/alliedhealth/otobservationform.pdf or may be obtained from the occupational therapy department.

Core Performance Standards, which are fundamental tasks that must be performed to successfully complete the program, have been outlined and are available on the website or upon request from the program.

Applicants who are interested in whether courses from other universities will meet prerequisite requirements may contact the department by e-mail for an unofficial review of their course descriptions.

Areas Of Study

Occupational Therapy (MS)

Courses

**Occupational Therapy (OT)**

**OT 201  Intro to Occupational Therapy**  
3 cr  
An introduction to the occupational therapy profession and the scope of occupational therapy practice. Includes self assessment and development strategies to enhance students' readiness for the professional component of the occupational therapy curriculum. Familiarizes students with the functions, policies and services of the University, College and Department and includes an exploration of related allied health professions.

**OT 499  Senior Honors Project - H - W**  
3 TO 6 cr  
Under the advice and guidance of a faculty mentor, honors students will identify and carry out a research project relevant to the field of Occupational Therapy study that will lead to a formal presentation at the annual Honors Student Colloquium. The senior project will be judged and graded by three faculty members chaired by the honors mentor. This course is required for Honors recognition and may be repeated for up to 6 credit hours.

**OT 500  Occupation in Context**  
3 cr  
An in-depth, interdisciplinary study of the form, function and meaning of human occupation in a variety of environments including the therapeutic context. Includes an introduction to the occupational science literature and discussion of the impact of occupation on health and well-being. Special fee.

**OT 502  Occupational Development I**  
3 cr  
Study of human occupational development, including developmentally appropriate roles, tasks and activities. Covers prenatal period through adolescence. Emphasis is on normal human development, with some consideration of abnormal development.

**OT 503  History and Philosophy of OT**  
3 cr  
Explores the history and development of occupational therapy within the context of national and international events. Philosophies inherent to the field will be explored with an overview of the life span approach to "occupation". Includes discussion of official documents guiding the profession and legislative changes affecting the current and future practice of the profession. Students will be required to learn terminology utilized by occupational therapists and demonstrate a beginning awareness of occupational performance analysis.
OT 504  Neurosci Basis of Occ Perform  3 cr  
Study of the neural development, chemistry, structure, function and pathology of the nervous system. Emphasizes the application of basic science knowledge as it relates to human occupational performance.

OT 505  Scientific Inquiry I  2 cr  
An introduction to qualitative and quantitative research concepts and statistical methods with emphasis on evidence-based practice and outcomes research. Includes library search strategies, critical analysis of scientific literature, application of statistical methods and research designs, and scientific writing skills.

OT 506  Research Design  1 cr  
An introduction to writing a research design proposal. Students will work in small groups and be mentored by faculty to complete a research proposal.

OT 510  Theoretical Found of OT-W  3 cr  
Introduction to the prevalent theories and fundamental concepts guiding occupational therapy. Includes similarities and differences among major theories. Emphasizes application of these theories to professional practice in occupational therapy.

OT 512  Occupational Development II-W  3 cr  
Study of human occupational development, including developmentally appropriate roles, tasks and activities of young adulthood through senescence and death. Emphasis is on normal human development, with some consideration of abnormal development.

OT 517  Occupational Evaluation I  3 cr  
An overview of the evaluation process in occupational therapy. Includes the theoretical basis of evaluation, selection of appropriate data gathering methods, use of standardized and non-standardized assessment tools, interpretation of results and documentation of evaluation findings.

OT 519  Prof Development Seminar  2 cr  
Introduction to professional behavior and interpersonal dynamics in a seminar format. Emphasizes self-awareness, self-assessment, communication issues and the value of life-long learning. Also includes medical terminology.

OT 520  OT Int I Lecture  3 cr  
Occupational therapy intervention for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting self care skills. A life span approach will be taken with emphasis on occupational performance components and context. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, clinical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.

OT 521  Practicum I  1 cr  

OT 522  OT Int I Lab  1 cr  
This course will consist of lab exercises and hands on practice focused on occupational therapy interventions for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting self-care. This course will require students to synthesize information and apply evidence-based interventions to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.

OT 523  OT Int I CBL  1 cr  
This course will consist of case-based learning exercises focused on occupational therapy interventions for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting self-care. This course will require students to synthesize information and apply evidence-based interventions to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.

OT 524  Biomed-Phenom Perspect Disab I  3 cr  
Biomedical etiology, diagnostic procedures, prognosis, and medical management including pharmacotherapies of selected disorders are presented and contrasted with phenomenological perspectives based on personal narratives. Includes the identification of the consequences of the disorders and their impact on occupational performance.

OT 525  Documentation  3 cr  
Overview of basic professional writing skills including: reporting evaluation data, intervention plans, progress notes, and discharge summaries. Includes understanding the varied purposes of documentation as well as legal and ethical issues in documentation.

OT 527  Occupational Evaluation II  3 cr  
Orientation to and practice in the use of both standardized and non-standardized assessment tools appropriate for evaluating persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting occupational performance. Special fee.

OT 530  OT Int II Lecture  3 cr  
Occupational therapy intervention for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting play, leisure, social skills, and school-based practice. A life span approach will be taken with emphasis on occupational performance components, client factors, and context. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, clinical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation. Special fee.
OT 531 Practicum II 1 cr

OT 532 OT Int II Lab 1 cr
This course will consist of lab-based practical occupational therapy interventions for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting play, leisure, social skills, and school-based practice. A life span approach will be taken with emphasis on occupational performance components, client factors, and context. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, critical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.

OT 533 OT Int II CBL 1 cr
This course will consist of case-based learning exercises focused on occupational therapy interventions for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting play, leisure, social skills, and school-based practice. This course will require students to synthesize information and apply evidence-based interventions to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.

OT 534 Biomed-Phenom Perspec Disab II 3 cr
Biomedical etiology, diagnostic procedures, prognosis, and medical management including pharmacotherapies of selected disorders are presented and contrasted with phenomenological perspectives based on personal narratives. Includes the identification of the consequences of the disorders and their impact on occupational performance.

OT 536 Management 3 cr
Explores the application of the principles of organizational management to the development and administration of occupational therapy programs in the emerging health care environment.

OT 538 Group Dynamics 2 cr
An analysis of group intervention theories, techniques and strategies. Includes discussion of therapeutic use of self, group dynamics, leadership and stages of group development. Students will learn how to design group interventions for a variety of populations.

OT 539 Adv Prof Development Seminar 2 cr
Designed to facilitate students’ transition from didactic and part-time fieldwork components of the curriculum to the required full-time fieldwork experience. Emphasizes professional behavior, clinical reasoning and ethical issues.

OT 540 Occupational Intervention III 3 cr
Occupational therapy intervention for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting work skills. A life span approach will be taken with emphasis on occupational performance components and context. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, clinical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation. Special fee.

OT 541 Practicum III 1 cr
Observation and limited participation in clinical and community-based settings. Emphasis on assessment and intervention in performance of occupations related to work.

OT 542 OT Int III Lab 1 cr
This course is the lab companion to OT 540. Occupational therapy interventions for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities, with emphasis on UE impairments impacting daily life skills, work and I-adls. These labs will engage students in hands-on learning which emphasize selection and justification of evidence-based, occupation-based, client centered interventions.

OT 543 OT Int III Lab CBL 1 cr
This course is the lab companion to OT 540. Occupational therapy interventions for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities, with emphasis on UE impairments impacting daily life skills, work and I-adls. Students will be engaged in case-based discussions which emphasize selection, justification, and grading of evidence-based,occupation-based, client centered interventions.

OT 544 Musculoskeletal Assessment 2 cr
Study of structures and functions of the human body with an emphasis on the limbs and back. Instruction includes assessment of the biomechanical functions of the upper and lower extremities.

OT 545 Scientific Inquiry II 2 cr
The application of qualitative and quantitative research concepts and statistical methods in the development and implementation of a scholarly project. Includes data collection and preliminary analysis.

OT 546 Supervision 2 cr
Application of the principles of supervision with special emphasis on the appropriate roles and use of the certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA), aides and non-OT personnel.

OT 547 Research Implementation 1 cr
Students will work in small groups with faculty mentor to conduct research study and collect data. The focus will be seeking participants, obtaining informed consent, and conducting data collection. It will include creation of spreadsheets and conducting preliminary data analysis based on data collected to date.
OT 550  Level II Fieldwork - A  6 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.

OT 551  Pract. IV Psych/Soc  1 cr
Observation and limited participation in clinical and community-based settings serving clients with psychosocial and behavioral needs. Students will study evidence-based interventions that promote performance of various age appropriate and culturally relevant occupations. Emphasis will be placed on the behavioral, psychological and/or social factors promoting or hindering performance.

OT 555  Level II Fieldwork - B  6 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.

OT 558  Tech & Environ Interven in OT  3 cr
An introduction to technology and environmental intervention (TEI; including but not limited to assistive, electronic, information, and rehabilitative) strategies used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities and/or to design and implement accessible environments to support full participation in life activities. This course is designed to meet the basic level of competency in TEI for the entry level occupational therapist.

OT 559  Professional Leadership  3 cr
Explores concepts and theories of leadership and emphasizes the importance of leadership in context, interdisciplinary teaming and the nature of change processes and diffusion of innovations. Also includes a discussion of issues of professional concern including but not limited to: OT’s role in emerging practice areas, health disparities, occupational justice, health care reform and current controversies in the field.

OT 570  Community-Based Intervention  3 cr
Occupational therapy intervention for clients in community settings. A lifespan approach will be taken with emphasis on occupational performance areas and contexts. Community interventions will emphasize problem-solving, clinical reasoning and occupational analysis to enhance performance and adaptation. Includes health promotion and disease/disability prevention strategies, innovative program development, evaluation and funding strategies, and community health concepts. Special fee.

OT 575  Advanced Professional Writing  2 cr
Covers a variety of types of professional writing useful to occupational therapists including: grant proposals; journal articles; books; client education materials; and presentation proposals and papers. Includes both the form and content of a range of technical documents as well as the processes of writing, peer review and critique.

OT 576  Res Analysis and Presentation  1 cr
Students will work in small groups with faculty mentor to conduct research study and collect data. Students will complete the data analysis started in previous research classes and then complete a poster presentation of their research.

OT 580  Level II Fieldwork - C  4 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.

OT 585  Level II Fieldwork - D  4 TO 12 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.

OT 590  Special Topics -  1 TO 6 cr
A variable topics course covering areas not available in other occupational therapy courses. A subtitle identifying the topic will be entered on the student's record.

OT 598  Independent Study in OT  1 TO 6 cr
Special studies directly relevant to the practice of occupational therapy. The student will select an area of interest in which they wish to become more proficient. A faculty member will provide guided study, supervision and assistance in developing appropriate learning experiences.
DEACY, ROBIN M.
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