Occupational Therapy

Department Information

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Department of Occupational Therapy website
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. Applications are available in July each year for fall of the following year. 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 downloaded from the university website at http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/eforms/colleges/alliedhealth/otobservationform.pdf.

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.

The Master of Rehabilitation Sciences in Occupational Therapy is aimed at providing students with rich, robust, clinically relevant, and evidence-based learning experiences. Graduates will have a strong understanding of entry-level and advanced clinical services, will utilize evidence-based research relevant to the field, demonstrate leadership skills that impact delivery of high quality care for patients, and develop skills needed to serve as a patient educator, clinical educator, or faculty member. This program is intended to support international clinicians and academicians wishing to gain further experience with a variety of disorders and principles of rehabilitation. This program is not accredited by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education and does not lead to licensure or certification in the United States. Graduation from this program does not guarantee admission to a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy or Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. Students enrolled in this program are not eligible for federal financial aid. Admission to the RSOT program is on a competitive basis. For admissions information, visit the department’s website.

The RSOT program is an in-residence program requiring 30 credit hours. The program runs August to July and is divided into three semesters (Fall, Spring, and Summer).

Areas Of Study

Occupational Therapy (MS)
Rehabilitation Science in 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 study of human occupation in context with emphasis on analysis of the person, the environment, and the task utilizing official occupational therapy documents. Includes an introduction to the evidence-based occupational science literature and discussion of the impact of occupation on health and wellbeing.

OT 501 Occupational Development  4 cr
This course will include the study of typical human development throughout the life span with emphasis on best practice screening and assessment, theories of development, and normative and non-normative influences on development.

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 507 ADL/IADL Eval & Intervention  2 cr
Occupational therapy best practice assessment and evidence-based interventions to improve participation in ADL/IADL skills in children and adolescence.

OT 508 Experiential Learning-Peds  2 cr
This course will consist of experiential learning activities focused on occupational therapy evaluation and interventions for ADL and IADL participation in children and adolescence.

OT 509 OT Foundations  3 cr
This course will promote student knowledge of the theories, frames of reference, historical and sociopolitical influences, and professional documents guiding the profession of occupational therapy. Active participation in OT professional organizations will be encouraged.

OT 510 Theoretical Found of OT  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 511 Neuromusculoskeletal Assessmen  1 cr
This course is a study of the structure and function of human body in order to enhance foundational knowledge for evaluation of occupational performance. Instruction include an emphasis on biomechanical assessment of limb range of motion and manual muscle testing.

OT 512 Occupational Development II  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 513 Neuromusculoskeletal Experient  2 cr
This course will provide experiential learning of the structure and function of the human body and assessment of limb range of motion and muscle strength. Students will learn to administer assessments of client factors using appropriate and safe procedures and protocols.

OT 515 Psychosocial Eval & Intervent  3 cr
This course will promote OT best practice evaluation and evidence-based psychosocial interventions for individual and groups to promote occupational performance in various environments.
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 526  OT for Adults  2 cr
This course explores conditions and provides instruction on occupational therapy assessments and interventions for adults with disabilities affecting self-care and ADLs. The course will take a life span approach with emphasis on occupational performance components and context. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize current evidence and student problem-solving, critical reasoning, and performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.

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 528  Adult Experiential Learning  2 cr
This course will consist of hands on experiences with student reflection focusing on occupational therapy assessments and interventions for adults with disabilities affecting ADLs and IADLS. This course will require students to synthesize information and apply evidence-based interventions to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.

OT 529  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 535 Foundations Low Vision Rehab 2 cr
An in-depth examination of conditions causing low vision and the assessment and evidence-based intervention planning in low vision rehabilitation. Includes the conditions causing low vision, assessments used in the evaluation, interpretation of assessment results and documentation of evaluation findings in intervention planning of low vision rehabilitation.

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 552  OT School-Based Practice  3 cr
This course will focus on Occupational Therapy in School-Based Practice Settings. Emphasis will be on evidence-based practices to enhance occupational performance in the context of school. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, critical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation. This course will explore current legislation impacting the role of OT in the schools, the evaluation process and assessment tools for this environment and populations, working within various educational team models, transition planning, and promotion of life skill development.

OT 553  OT and the Older Adult  2 cr
This course focuses on the practice of occupational therapy with the older adult. Course content includes conceptual foundations in gerontology, age-related changes affecting occupational performance, evidence-based interventions, the gerontological continuum of care and the intradisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations that impact the delivery of services to this population.

OT 554  OT & the Older Adult Exp Learn  2 cr
This course focuses on the practice of occupational therapy with the older adult. Course content includes demonstration and analysis of assessments and evidence-based interventions used with the older adult population. This course also applies the OT process inside the gerontological continuum of care and emphasizes the intradisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations that impact the delivery of services to this population.

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.

Rehab Sci Occupational Therapy (RSO)
RSO 510  Occupational Therapy Foundation  3 cr
This course is an introduction to the profession of occupational therapy including documents, terminology, professional behaviors, and occupational therapy settings and common interventions.

RSO 511  Human Motion and Movement Lab  2 cr
This course is a study of structures and functions of the human body with emphasis on biomedical functions.

RSO 512  Environmental Adapt and Rehab  3 cr
This course is an introduction to rehabilitation technological and environmental adaptations to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

RSO 513  Neurological and Sensorimotor  4 cr
Occupational Therapy evaluation and intervention for person with selected developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities affecting self-care skills.

RSO 520  Rehabilitation  3 cr
Occupational Therapy evaluation and interventions for person with selected developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities.

RSO 521  Neurological and Sensorimotor  3 cr
This course will cover evidence-based OT evaluation and interventions for selected common pediatric conditions.

RSO 522  Biomedical Functions and Inter  3 cr
This course will provide instruction on common upper extremity conditions and interventions for persons with acquired impairments and disabilities that impact daily life skills, work, and IADLs. Emphasis will be placed on therapeutic interventions that emphasize problem-solving, critical reasoning, and occupational performance and include orthotic intervention strategies.

RSO 523  Rehabilitation and Aging Adult  3 cr
This course will explore the typical aging process, health promotion, and OT evaluation and evidence-based interventions for this population.

RSO 530  Evidence-Based Clinic Learning  3 cr
An introduction to critical analysis of scientific literature application of statistical methods and scholarly writing and presentation.

RSO 532  Psychosocial Occupational Ther  3 cr
This course will explore best practice evidence-based OT evaluation and interventions to address psychosocial needs of clients and populations. This course counts toward the Rehabilitation Sciences in Occupational Therapy Master’s Degree but does not count towards the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree.

Faculty