

Occupational Therapy

Chair: Dr. Donald E. Walkovich

The latest addition to the quality health science curriculum at Saint Francis University is a five-year entry-level master's degree program in Occupational Therapy (MOT). Occupational Therapy is a unique discipline among the health and human service specialties. It uses occupation as its primary mode of intervention with consumers of all ages who face challenges that might impair daily living and life satisfaction. Occupational therapists serve those whose daily routine might be challenged by physical injury or illness; developmental delay; or social, environmental, or emotional problems. Occupations are those meaningful and purposeful tasks that people do every day. Research has shown that when people engage in occupations they enjoy and which are appealing and motivating, return to normal patterns of daily life occur faster.

The Occupational Therapy Program at Saint Francis University is designed to provide three years of pre-professional study where students will complete their general education studies and collateral requirements, followed by two years of intense professional occupational therapy study which integrates practical fieldwork experiences in a variety of settings. Six months of full time fieldwork experience as well as submission and defense of a Scholarly Project will be required in the professional phase. Students will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science after successful completion of the fourth year, and a Master of Occupational Therapy degree after successful completion of the fifth year. Graduates of the program will be prepared to assume entry level positions in a variety of diverse health and human service settings.

Students enroll as freshmen with forty (40) spaces available each year in the Occupational Therapy major. In addition to general admission requirements, freshman OT candidates should have an SAT score of 980 (not including written portion) and a high school q.p.a. of 3.0 average (on a 4.0 scale). It is suggested that applicants have a strong science background and volunteer or paid experience in health or human services. A limited number of transfer students may be admitted into both the Pre-Professional and Professional Phases based on space availability and transfer criteria (2.75 Q.P.A.) Advancement to the Professional Phase is guaranteed provided the student meets the progression criteria:

- Demonstrate a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average in all major and core curriculum requirements by the end of the spring semester of Year Three of the pre-Professional Phase of study;
- Demonstrate completion of all general education core and collateral courses as prescribed;
- Demonstrate completion of OT 301 and OT 302 Seminars (with a grade of "C" or better) or their equivalent as determined by the Department Chairman;
- Demonstrate a "C" grade or better in each Collateral Course (Biology 111, 205, 206; Computer Science 101; Psychology 101, 201, 205, 209, 305, 314, and a Psychology elective; Speech Fundamentals 103; and Statistics 101).

Please consult the departmental handbook for detailed information about internal policies and standards. Note: Professional courses are open to Occupational Therapy majors only.

The Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for

Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination. It is the responsibility of the prospective student to determine eligibility.

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCE
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MAJOR
COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Biology 111, 205, 206; Computer Science 101; Psychology 101, 201, 205, 209, 305, 314, and a Psychology elective; Speech Fundamentals 103; Statistics 101, Occupational Therapy 301, 302

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR PRE-PROFESSIONAL PHASE
(YEARS ONE, TWO & THREE)**

**102. Introduction to Occupational Therapy I
(0 credit)**

This course will provide pre-professional phase occupational therapy majors, and other students who have an interest in the occupational therapy field with the opportunity to interface with the professional Occupational Therapy community in informal meeting environments. Occupational Therapy practice areas and special interests area will be presented with an emphasis on Occupational Therapy roles, as well as exploration of one's own feelings about disabilities. The course will meet a total of four times throughout the semester and each session will be 2 hours in length. *Spring Semester*

**201. Introduction to Occupational Therapy II
(0 credit)**

Introduction to Occupational Therapy II, similar to Introduction to Occupational Therapy I, will provide pre-professional phase occupational therapy majors, and other students who have an interest in the occupational therapy field with the opportunity to interface with the professional Occupational Therapy community in informal meeting environments. Occupational Therapy practice areas and special interests area will be presented with an emphasis on Occupational Therapy roles, as well as exploration of one's own feelings about disabilities. In addition, this course will prepare the student with an overview of the professional phase of the MOT program. This course will meet four times throughout the semester and each session will be two hours in length. *Fall Semester*

**301. Occupational Therapy Seminar I
(1 credit)**

This course will provide students with the opportunity to interface with the professional OT community in both classroom and informal meeting environments. Occupational Therapy practice areas and special interests areas will be presented with an emphasis on Occupational Therapy roles, functions, and relationships to the interdisciplinary team. A module of Medical Terminology is also incorporated in preparation for the Professional Phase of the Program. *Fall Semester. Prerequisite: Junior status & admission to the pre-professional phase.*

**302. Occupational Therapy Seminar II
(1 credit)**

This course will provide students with the opportunity to interface with the professional Occupational Therapy community in both classroom and informal meeting environments, Occupational Therapy practice areas and special interests area will be presented with an emphasis on Occupational Therapy roles, functions, and relationships to the interdisciplinary team. A module of Medical Terminology is also incorporated in preparation for the Professional Phase of the Program. *Spring Semester. Prerequisite: Junior status & admission to the pre-professional phase.*

Please see the Graduate Programs section of the catalog for a complete description of the Professional Phase.