

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL DEPARTMENT OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY www.med.unc.edu/healthsciences/ocsci

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INFORMATION SESSION HANDOUTS 2022

Accreditation

The Master of Science program in Occupational Therapy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). The program was initially accredited in 1978, and reaccredited in 1986, 1993, 2001, 2011, and 2021. We are scheduled for our next accreditation visit in the spring of 2031. More information about accreditation can be obtained at https://acoteonline.org or by contacting ACOTE at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929; phone (301) 652-6611; or email at accred@aota.org.

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FAST FACTS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:



MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE and OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

2050 BONDURANT HALL

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

OSInfo@med.unc.edu

Version: Fall 2022

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 in OTCAS

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022 by 11:59 p.m. EST for

UNC Graduate School component

Link to OTCAS at www.aota.org, Education, Find a School APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

OTCAS Fee: \$150 for first school, \$65 for each additional school

UNC Graduate School application fee: \$95.00

REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

All materials required by the UNC MSOT program are included in this OTCAS application. In addition to the information required for all schools in the OTCAS system, UNC MSOT admissions requirements include:

- 7 academic prerequisite courses (do not all have to be completed at the time of application.
- 1 prerequisite "Occupation" learning experience (does not have to be taken for a grade)
- Submission of a resume or CV
- Submission of a reflective essay (400 word limit) related to the Occupation learning experience
- Response to 3-4 (1 is optional) short answer questions.
- 3 letters of recommendation (1 must be from an OT or OTA practitioner)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 10 full-time faculty; currently 14 PhD students
- Program is 2 calendar years 95% of students complete in that time
- Clinical fieldwork is part of educational curriculum and occurs within the academic semesters (FW I) and during the second fall and second summer (FW 2)
- Fieldwork placements are determined by the FW coordinator in collaboration with the student.
- Students complete a master's research project as a requirement for the MS degree; completing a thesis is atypical and requires additional time & approval from a supervising faculty member
- Most students are able to manage part-time work if they desire
- National certification: 100% overall pass rate /95% first-time pass rate

LINK TO TUITION COSTS: https://cashier.unc.edu/tuition-fees/

LINK TO UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID: http://gradschool.unc.edu/funding/

LINK TO EXTERNAL FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES: https://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/students/financial-

assistance

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS: EVALUATING PREREQUISITES Master of Science Program in Occupational Therapy Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at UNC-Chapel Hill Revised December 2013

Please read this entire document for information related to prerequisites for the Master of Science program in Occupational Therapy at UNC-Chapel Hill.

We ask that you compare the courses you are submitting for prerequisites to the descriptions we have provided below and base the selection of courses you submit on these criteria. You <u>do not</u> need to submit a transcript for review prior to making application to the program.

There are **eight** total prerequisite courses. **Four** of these are fixed (core body of knowledge) and are outlined on this page. **Three** are in categories that allow flexibility in the specific coursework that satisfies the prerequisite (outlined on page 2). These 7 courses may be taken at accredited universities, colleges or community colleges. Online courses will be accepted from nationally accredited institutions if the course credit is equivalent to that of a typical on-site course. The **final** prerequisite is an occupation course, which does not have to be taken for credit, but must meet specific criteria (outlined beginning on page 2).

CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE: FIXED PREREQUISITES

The curriculum in occupational therapy builds directly on basic understanding in certain academic content areas. As a result, prospective applicants will be expected to complete the following four fixed prerequisite courses:

FIXED PREREQUISITE COURSES	COMMENTS
1 AND 2: ANATOMY and PHYSIOLOGY A total of two courses in anatomy and physiology are required.	Any of the following course combinations will suffice: OPTION 1: Anatomy course with human anatomy lab component + a physiology course OR OPTION 2: Anatomy & Physiology I + Anatomy & Physiology II. There must be an anatomy lab with human content somewhere in this sequence OR OPTION 3: Anatomy & Physiology I course with human anatomy lab + physiology course
3. ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY This course must cover a broad spectrum of intellectual/developmental disabilities, psychopathology/mental health and behavioral disorders.	The course may also be listed under titles such as Behavioral Disorders or Psychopathology but courses in Biopsychology or Neurobiology are NOT accepted substitutes in this category.
4. STATISTICS This course must cover both descriptive and inferential statistical methods.	Although often called "Statistics!" or "Introduction to Statistics," courses by other names may also fulfill this requirement, and may be in mathematics, social science, psychology or public health departments.

Timing: The 4 fixed prerequisites on this page and the 3 flexible prerequisites outlined on page 2 MUST have been taken within the 5 years prior to application to the program. The only potential exceptions are for those who work in fields focused on a specific area AND who have taken the coursework in the past (for example, mental health professionals may not have to retake abnormal psychology). Applicants requesting a waiver of the 5-year rule should document their justification and send it via email to OSInfo@med.unc.edu prior to the application deadline. The Admissions Committee will review and make decisions about waiver requests as quickly as possible.

FLEXIBLE PREREQUISITES

In addition to the fixed prerequisites, applicants must submit three additional prerequisite courses in the categories outlined below.

FLEXIBLE PREREQUISITE CATEGORY

COURSE EXAMPLES

(Please note that this list of examples is not all-inclusive.)

5. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT/BEHAVIOR

This course should cover aspects of typical individual human growth and development and/or behavior.

Developmental Psychology Lifespan Human Development

Child Development (early childhood / adolescence, etc)

Adulthood and Aging Cognitive Psychology Neuropsychology **Brain and Behavior** Personality

6. SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS

Courses in this category should address the study of social entities and constructs that influence human action. The study of cultural groups, social institutions and sociocultural practices are all acceptable.

Cultural anthropology

Minority Studies (focused on ethnicity, race, gender, etc)

Upper level sociology (beyond introductory)

Public Health **Public Policy**

Leisure / Recreation Studies

Political Science Social Work Education (systems-level, not pedagogy) Women's Studies

7. MODES OF REASONING

The intent of this category is to recognize coursework that has challenged the applicant to apply a strategic process of reasoning or problem solving.

Research Methods

Specific courses in quantitative or qualitative methods or analysis (ethnography, biostatistics, etc) Philosophy or Ethics (specific topics in ethics accepted) Literature taught in a foreign language Comparative religion (not a course based in a specific faith tradition, but a course that asks the learner to compare ways of thinking across systems of belief) Honors thesis work (must have course credit associated)

OCCUPATION PREREQUISITE

NOTE: The occupation prerequisite must have been taken in the past three (3) years and must be completed prior to application. One of the essays in the application is a reflection on this learning experience, and you must be able to complete that essay and submit it with your application.

The intent of the Occupation prerequisite is to expose you to a situation in which you attempt something that is a novel challenge and that has an outcome, either a product (something you've created) or performance. We ask you to participate in this prerequisite to reflect on the types of learning processes that may be experienced by our clients during occupational therapy. As OTs, we often ask our clients to try new ways of doing things, or things they haven't done before, in order to meet a goal. For example, we may ask someone who was an avid baker to try using some adapted cooking utensils in order to address concerns about arthritis in her hands. We might ask another baker to use his non-dominant hand to stir cake batter because his dominant hand has been affected by a stroke. In both these examples, the ultimate goal, or outcome, is the return to the valued occupation of baking, as well as the more immediate outcome of a delicious baked good! We feel it's important for students in our program to have some understanding of what's happening when a person learns an occupation that is meaningful or of interest, in an ongoing, structured process that involves learning not only from an "instructor" but also from others.

A wide range of learning options can satisfy this prerequisite, and some specific examples and ways to evaluate the prerequisite follow this paragraph. The Occupation prerequisite does NOT have to be taken for credit. It must, however, reflect a learning experience that is offered in a structured and social format. There must be other learners involved in the process, and the learning experience must occur at least once a week over a minimum of 6 weeks. The emphasis here is on *doing* and the learner must be an active participant in the process. Please note that this prerequisite does NOT include courses taken in order to benefit, teach or communicate with others (such as foreign languages, sign language, coaching, therapeutic recreation methods, etc).

The occupation prerequisite must have the following characteristics:

- new learning/challenge (not something you already do or know how to do)
- 2. formal (structured) learning context, but does not have to be a "for credit" course
- 3. at least once a week for a minimum of 6 weeks
- 4. social context (other learners present in person, i.e., no online courses)
- 5. results in a product or performance
- 6. learners must be active (learning to DO something not just recipients of information)
- 7. course content is not designed to be used to benefit, teach or communicate with others

EXAMPLES	OUTCOME: PRODUCT OR PERFORMANCE (This list is not all-inclusive)							
Creative Writing	Poem, short story, article, etc							
Woodworking	Object, furniture or craft constructed of wood							
Dance	Dance performance (any genre)							
Theater	Theater production, stage play, public performance							
Music	Vocal or instrumental performance							
Studio Art	Painting, ceramics, sculpture, weaving, etc							
Digital Media / Photography	Documentary film, website, photographic images							
Sports and Recreation Please Note: Common physical education courses are not accepted but courses that represent a novel challenge for the learner and have an outcome other than a written course exam are OK Exercise classes to maintain personal fitness (while great!) are not applicable	 ✓ Scuba Diving with the outcome of a final test dive ✓ Tennis with the outcome of participation in a tournament ✓ Marathon (or similar) training with the outcome of a completed race 							

IF YOU HAVE READ THROUGH THIS DOCUMENT AND REVIEWED YOUR OWN COURSEWORK AND STILL HAVE QUESTIONS, please send your questions to osinfo@med.unc.edu. If your question is about whether or not a course you have taken (or are taking) would met a specific prerequisite requirement, please include the name of the course, where you took it, and a course description in your email, as that will assist the committee in determining whether or not that course is acceptable.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Application Requirements

Prospective students applying to the MSOT program must apply to and be accepted by both the UNC Graduate School and the MSOT program itself. Therefore, the UNC Graduate School will contact all applicants following the submission of the OTCAS Application in order to get some other BRIEF information. Applicants must pay the UNC Graduate School application fee (\$95) as well as the OTCAS fee.

Application Materials

All materials required by the UNC MSOT program are included in the OTCAS application. In addition to the information required for all schools in the OTCAS system, UNC MSOT admissions requirements include:

- 7 academic prerequisite courses (do not all have to be completed at the time of application)
- 1 prerequisite "Occupation" learning experience (does not have to be taken for a grade)
- Submission of a resume or CV (Uploaded in the "Documents" section of Program Materials in OTCAS)
- Submission of a reflective essay (400 word limit) related to the Occupation learning experience (The prompt for this is in the "Document" section of Program Materials in the OTCAS application.)
- Response to 3-4 (1 question is optional) short answer questions
- 3 letters of recommendation (1 must be from an OT or OTA practitioner)
- Record of Experience with OT* (This also is in the "Documents" section of Program Materials in OTCAS.)

*EXPERIENCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Each applicant is expected to have gained exposure to the profession of occupational therapy through clinical observations or shadowing (in person or by telehealth), site visits, attendance at OT conference sessions or workshops, or work/volunteer experiences specific to OT practice. The division does not require a specific number of observation hours; instead, the emphasis is on understanding the breadth of the profession and the different types of practice settings (medical, educational, community-based) and populations served (based on age, diagnosis, situation, etc.). Experiences in areas of human service that do not include occupational therapy are not to be included in this section but are welcomed on the resume. Applicants should upload a chart that includes the following headings:

Type of	Location	Date(s)	Practice Setting ² or	# Hours	OT Supervisor or	Supervisor Email ⁴
Experience ¹			Title ³		Presenter	

¹Such as observation, webinar, work, volunteer, etc.

² For observation, paid or vol. work

³ For webinars, workshops, etc.

⁴ Not required for presenters

ESTIMATED TUITION AND FEES FOR THE MSOT PROGRAM

Information in the tables below was retrieved from:

https://cashier.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/259/2021/08/graduate-and-professional-program-tuition-2021-2022.pdf (p. 2) https://cashier.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/259/2021/07/academic-year-2020-2021-includes-summer-2021.pdf (p. 2)

Tuition and Fees (2021-22 academic year, per semester)

Allied Health	IN S	TATE	OUT O		
Campus Based: Doctor of Audiology, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Masters Degrees in Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Clinical Rehabilitation & Mental	Per Credit Hour	Maximum*	Per Credit Hour	Maximum*	Fees
Health Counseling, Post-Prof	\$1022.34	\$9201.00	\$2038.57	\$18,347.00	\$1008.32

^{*}Maximum: full time enrollment of 9+ credit hours

Summer Tuition and Fees (2021, per credit hour)

Graduates	IN STATE	OUT OF STATE	
Includes Medicine Dental Oral Biology Nursing Allied	Per Credit Hour	Per Credit Hour	Fees
Includes Medicine, Dental Oral Biology, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, Pharmacy and Public Health	285.00	886.00	66.00

Currently the UNC MSOT program is 4 semesters and two summer sessions (for Level II Fieldwork), so:

	IN STATE			OUT OF STATE				
TIME PERIOD	Tuition	Fees	Total	Tuition	Fees	Total		
Semesters (4)	36,804.00	4033.28	40,837.28	73,388.00	4033.28	77,421.28		
Summer (6 credit hours)	1710.00	396.00	2106.00	5316.00	396.00	5712.00		
TOTALS	38,514.00	4429.28	\$42,943.28	78,704.00	4429.28	\$83,133.28		

Based on 2021-22 costs, the estimated total for the program for

- an in-state student who pays in-state tuition and fees for both years would be approximately \$42,944.00.
- an out-of-state student who pays out-of-state student tuition and fees for both years would be approximately \$83,150.00.



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Financial Aid Information for Applicants to the Occupational Therapy Program

Most of the OT students at UNC fund their studies through a combination of loans, small scholarships and/or income from part-time work. Below are both internal and external scholarship resources from which our students have had funding in the past.

PLACES YOU CAN START LOOKING:

- 1. www.alliedhealth.unc.edu Click on Students and then Financial Assistance
- 2. https://guides.lib.unc.edu/AHSFA/directories (UNC Health Sciences Library: Allied Health Sciences Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants, & Awards)
- 3. https://www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/info-schol.jsp (College Foundation of North Carolina)

Information regarding financial aid for graduate students is available through the graduate school at: http://gradschool.unc.edu/funding/

The Student Aid Office is also an essential source for loan and scholarship information: CB#2300, 300 Vance Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 27599-2300. (919) 962-8396. This information can also be accessed online at http://studentaid.unc.edu/

Please Note: The Office of Student Aid recommends the following regarding the FAFSA form: The federal processor should receive your completed FAFSA by the priority deadline of **March 1**. This will mean completing and sending your forms at least by February 15 to insure a timely arrival. You can file the FAFSA forms during the application period and activate the application once admitted.

Other types of financial assistance that are available to occupational therapy students but are **not** administered through the Student Aid Office include:

Programs administered by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority:

- Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS) Program
 Established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2011, the Forgivable Education Loans for Service provides financial assistance to qualified students enrolled in an approved education program and committed to working in critical employment shortage professions in North Carolina. More information is available at http://www.cfnc.org/FELS
- Student Loan Program for Health, Sciences and Mathematics
 Legal Residents of North Carolina enrolled in a full-time graduate occupational therapy
 program may apply for a maximum loan amount of \$6500 per year. The loan is repayable
 through one calendar year of full-time employment in a need area of the state for each school
 year a loan was received. For further information, go to http://www.ncseaa.edu/

American Occupational Therapy Foundation Scholarship Program

Various scholarships, some awarded on the basis of state of residence, are available through the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (<u>www.aotf.org</u>)

American Business Club Scholarships

AMBUCS offers scholarships to US citizen students in their junior/senior year in a bachelor's degree, or graduate program leading to a master's or doctoral degree. Awards range from \$500 to \$1500 annually. Students must be accepted in an accredited program by the appropriate health therapy profession authority in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, hearing audiology and recreational therapy. Awards are based on financial aid and scholarship amounts vary depending on need. For further information and applications, visit their website at: https://ambucs.org/therapists/scholarship-program/

Kappa Kappa Gamma Foundation Scholarships

Scholarships are available to Kappa members who are pursuing graduate education on a campus with a Kappa Gamma chapter. Applicants must be US or Canadian citizens. For further information, see https://www.kappakappagamma.org/Kappa/Foundation/Scholarships/.

Daughters of the American Revolution

Scholarships are offered for OT and PT students. For more information, see http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout-scholar.cfm and scroll down to "Nursing School Scholarships"

Sallie Mae Loans

- Searchable scholarship data base: https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/graduate-school-information/graduate-school-scholarships/
- Educational loan: If you are considering Federal loans, compare this loan with those (and private loans through other banks) to make sure you're getting the best option for your situation. https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/graduate-student-loans/health-professions-graduate-loan/

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation

The AAUW Educational Foundation supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented. Information and applications for fellowships and grants are available at: https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/

Other Possible Sources:

Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits

For students with a disability, low socioeconomic status, and demonstrated academic competency. Contact: the Vocational Rehabilitation Office in your area.

Civic Clubs

While these are often intended primarily for undergraduate training, some organizations do have available funds for specialized or undergraduate training.

- Elks Club: Specifically assists training in care of children with disabilities
- Business and Professional Women's Clubs: Loans and other types of assistance to female students. Limited funds available for B.P.W. members who are enrolled in graduate courses.

12/7/2020

 American Association of University Women: Assistance available for AAUW members who are enrolled in graduate courses.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH DEPT. OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

The June C. Allcott Fellowship

June C. Allcott Fellowships in Allied Health are awarded to those students who apply and demonstrate exemplary, ongoing, or new community service. Financial need will be considered. The Fellowship is valued at \$3,500 for the school year. You must complete department of AHS student scholarship form (http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/student-services/financial-assistance). Submission date: May 31.

The Thorpe / Mitchell Diversity Leadership Development Award

The Thorpe/Mitchell Fund seeks to increase the diversity of underrepresented minority students into the diagnostic and therapeutic disciplines at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Department of Allied Health Sciences. The Fund provides scholarships and is important in the development of a flexible, coordinated, and collaborative pathway for recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented minority students from the Allied Health Sciences. You must complete department of AHS student scholarship form. *Open only to incoming students*. Submission date: May 31.

Allied Health Student Fellowship

The Allied Health Student Fellowships are supported through a generous gift from the UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association. The fellowships are awarded to deserving allied health students who, in addition to having financial need and scholastic ability, exhibit characteristics of emerging professional excellence. You must complete department of AHS student scholarship form. Submission date: May 31

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The **Diversity Awareness Scholarship** for students in the Master of Science program in Occupational Therapy was originated by alumnus Mr. Stacy Wilson, MSOT Class of 2010. Stacy and other alumni, including the MSOT Classes of 2018 and 2019, contribute to this fund. This \$2000 scholarship is awarded once per year to an incoming first year student in the MSOT program to promote diversity in the field, and to increase awareness of the profession of occupational therapy among under-represented minority groups. The recipient of the award is expected to carry out an event or presentation that serves to increase awareness of occupational therapy within one or more diverse populations. Application information is sent to all incoming 1st year OT students in late spring/early summer.

The Mitchell Scholarship is made possible through the generosity of Drs. Marlys and Earl Mitchell, professors emeriti of the University of North Carolina, who left in their estate provisions for an annual scholarship to be awarded to a student of occupational therapy at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Marlys Mitchell was the founder of the Master of Science program in occupational therapy. This scholarship is open to 2nd year students, and application information is sent to all 2nd year OT students early in the fall semester. Award amounts vary.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Application Process FAQs

What is the deadline for applications?

OTCAS Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Thursday, December 1, 2022, for entry into the program in the fall of 2023. Following submission of the OTCAS application, applicants will be contacted by the UNC Graduate School to complete BRIEF additional items they require. Deadline for submission of those items and payment of the application fee is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. No late applications will be accepted, and application fees are due when the application is submitted. Applications are only accepted once a year and there are no rolling admissions.

When will I be able to start my online application?

OTCAS typically becomes available on or around July 22nd of each year.

Where can I find the application?

You can find a link to OTCAS through the AOTA website (www.aota.org) under "Education" and then "Find a School."

If I'm currently enrolled or planning on taking prerequisite courses next semester, what should I put on my application? OTCAS allows information about in-progress courses to be submitted along with courses already completed. Also, if you are in the process of taking one or more prerequisite courses in the fall and will have an updated transcript at the end of the fall semester (after our application deadline) you will be able to upload one additional transcript after the application deadline. Please do this as soon as possible in order that those grades are considered with the rest of your application.

Where do I send my transcripts?

Transcripts are uploaded electronically. Please follow the instructions in OTCAS. DO NOT MAIL YOUR TRANSCRIPTS TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OR THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM.

Where do I send my letters of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation are uploaded electronically. In OTCAS, you will be asked to provide a current email address for each of your references. Once you provide a valid email address, the application system will generate an email to each of your references explaining the process and how to upload the letter they write on your behalf.

How can I strengthen my application?

Applications are reviewed based on a number of factors, including GPA, prerequisite grades, volunteer and work experiences, OT observations (variety and depth), recommendations, and the quality of both content and writing style in the essays and short answer question. Applicants can strengthen their applications by doing as well as possible in prerequisite courses, building on the work/volunteer and OT observations sections, and spending time reflecting on and answering the essay and short answer questions with high quality written communication skills. In particular, be familiar with the UNC program, the philosophy on which it is based, and the work of the faculty. This should allow you to construct essays that reflect an understanding of occupational therapy and occupational science at a level that is reasonable for people applying to an entry-level program.

Also, choose your recommenders carefully -we want to hear from people who know not only your general character, but also about specific skills or qualities that you have based on how they know you. Examples based on experiences the recommender has had with you are also helpful, as it gives us an idea of how you behave in those situations. Recommenders who only write a few general statements about how wonderful you are don't help us very much as we review your application. Lastly, examining the document "Profile of Accepted Students" available on the website may be helpful in terms of getting an idea of the qualities/experiences of students we have accepted in the past.

What happens after applications are submitted?

After the application deadline, all applications are reviewed by the faculty of the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Each application is reviewed for a variety of qualities, and receives an overall rating that reflects the

reviewers' recommendation for interview of the applicant. The Admissions Committee then considers those recommendations along with other application information and narrows the applicant pool down to approximately 40 people who will be invited to interview. Again, all faculty participate in interviewing applicants, and the Admissions Committee considers interview ratings and other information in order to narrow the applicant pool once again to 24 applicants who will be offered admission into the OT program.

What is the timeline for this process?

Although it varies somewhat, faculty review of applications is typically completed by the second week in January, and interview invitations are usually communicated by the 3rd week in January. Interviews take place in early to mid-February, and final admissions decisions are made prior to the beginning of March.

If I'm invited for an interview, what should I expect?

Those invited for interviews receive more detailed information close to interview day, but generally applicants are invited to a morning interview session or an afternoon session. Morning interviewees are divided into 3 groups, and rotate through 3 interview activities: 2 individual faculty interviews, each lasting about 20 minutes, a small group information session with the Admissions coordinator, and a session with current students with no faculty present. Around lunch time, afternoon interviewees arrive, and all interviewees and current students have lunch together. After lunch, all applicants attend a large group session in which the overall curriculum and information about fieldwork are reviewed and applicant questions are answered as needed. At that point, morning interviewees are finished and may leave, and afternoon interviewees begin the rotation process through the 3 interview activities. Interviewees should plan to spend about 5 hours in the interview process. Interviewees who cannot attend on-site can use the phone or Skype/Zoom for interview activities.

Updated 8/20/22

While every accredited occupational therapy program meets the same accreditation standards, each program is unique in its mission, vision and curriculum design. The UNC program emphasizes occupational science as the underlying academic discipline supporting occupational therapy practice. From that base, we educate students to ground their practice in a solid understanding of occupation, humans as occupational beings, and the use of occupation as a medium of change. We strive to prepare occupational therapists who will thrive in a rigorous academic environment, carry that scholarly approach into their clinical practice, and take on the challenge of helping to shape occupation-centered practice in traditional and emerging practice areas. We are looking for applicants who already demonstrate commitment to learning, scholarship, and human service and who are open to change within occupational therapy.

Generally, we look for applicants with a blend of academic ability, experience working with people, and an understanding of occupational therapy. As with any health care field, multi-cultural experience is a prerequisite to being an effective practitioner. The admissions committee reviews all of the completed applications and attempts to ensure class diversity in multiple ways.

Undergraduate Degrees & Academic Preparedness

Our successful applicants have undergraduate degrees in many different fields including psychology, sociology, anthropology, biology, exercise science, languages, art, music, architecture, and education, to name a few. Academically, the average undergraduate GPA is typically above 3.5 and GRE scores are typically around the 60th percentile for the quantitative section and the 70th percentile for the verbal section. GRE writing scores are generally 4 or higher. Some of our admitted applicants are still completing their undergraduate degrees during the application process and start their Graduate Studies shortly after their graduation. Other applicants have worked for two or more years and complete any prerequisites that were not part of their undergraduate degree before entering Graduate School in the fall. In each class, there usually are one or more students with partners and children who successfully balance academics with family obligations.

Experiences in Occupational Therapy

We do not require a specific quantity of volunteer experience in occupational therapy but do value applicants who have thoroughly investigated the profession and the variety of ways occupational therapists work with people.

In developing a solid understanding of practice, witnessing a variety of settings is perhaps more important than the number of hours. Most of our accepted applicants demonstrate this by observing occupational therapy as it is provided for people of a variety of ages and with a range of problems (developmental, psychosocial, and physical disabilities) and in a variety of practice settings including medical models of practice, educational models and community-based programs.

Our most successful applicants move beyond traditional hospital based settings to visit therapists who provide services in the schools, communities or the person's home. The typical accepted applicant over the years 2004-2009 had visited an average of 4-6 different types of sites, spending significant amounts of time in 1 or 2 and observing for multiple hours in the others.

Experiences with Diversity

The ability to enthusiastically work with people from a variety of different walks of life is essential for effective occupational therapy. Our admitted applicants' backgrounds have differed from the people with whom they have worked with in a variety of ways. These differences included working with people who had disabilities, individuals of different ages, or people of varied racial, ethnic, cultural, spiritual, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Among our admitted applicants, all have spent a significant amount of time working with people who were different from themselves. There are a number of ways admitted applicants acquired experiences with diversity. For example:

- Some were employed as life skills trainers, mental health aids or teacher's aids.
- Successful applicants who did not have experience with diversity in the workplace typically had volunteer
 experience such as working as camp counselors, attendants in shelters for the homeless, or assistants for
 special activities in nursing homes (these are just some examples).
- Other applicants had first-hand experience from living in a culture that was different from their own or are members of a minority group themselves.
- Some successful applicants also found these experiences closer to home as the primary caregiver for a family member with a disability.

Scholarly Writing

In addition to their experiences, all of our admitted students are able to communicate their knowledge of occupational therapy in a scholarly manner and demonstrate an appreciation for the philosophy behind the profession in their application essays. Successful applicants are also able to write reflectively and analytically about their experiences in learning an occupation and about their experiences with diversity.

Profile of Accepted Students 2015-2020

These data represent the averages for students accepted to the M.S. program in OT from 2015-2020 (Classes of 2017-2022).

AVERAGE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER YEAR: 230

NUMBER OF APPLICANTS ACCEPTED EACH YEAR: 24

NUMBER OF APPLICANTS WAITLISTED EACH YEAR: approximately 8

AVERAGE NUMBER OF WAITLISTED APPLICANTS

EVENTUALLY ADMITTED INTO THE PROGRAM: approximately 6

AVERAGE GPA OF ACCEPTED APPLICANTS: 3.6

DIVERSITY

Percentage of out of state students: 23%
Percent ethnically diverse (self-identified): 20%

Percent identifying as male: 10%

Over age 30: 8%

Student Outcomes

- The total number of graduates from our occupational therapy program during the three-year period from 2019-2022 (classes of 2019-2022) was 96, with an overall graduation rate of 100%.
- 95 % of students graduating from the program pass the national certification exam the first time they take it.
- Graduates report satisfactory job searches after graduation, indicating that when they were ready to begin working as an occupational therapist, they were able to find a suitable position.

- Observe in a variety of OT settings and with different populations
- Ask the OTs you know or meet to connect you with other OTs it's a very "networking" profession
- Ask OTs for things to read or websites to visit that they think would be helpful for someone interested in
 OT or interested in a particular practice setting
- Ask OTs how they got interested in OT and/or why they like working as an OT
- Begin thinking about yourself as an "occupational being" what occupations (or daily life activities),
 routines, habits are important to you and why? How would you feel if you were unable to do some of those things?
- Attend a regional, state or national conference (info usually on websites see below)
- Use Facebook, LinkedIn, or other social or professional networking sites to find OTs, OT programs, and OTrelated events
- Read all the information you can find on the websites of OT schools you think you may want to attend and note whether or not they use OTCAS (the common application system) or have their own application software...helps to know what you would need to do to apply!
- Consider how you present yourself when emailing, calling, or meeting with faculty and staff at these programs – being polite and patient goes a long way!
- If possible, visit those programs, sit in on a class, talk with current students
- Plan to apply to more than one program OT schools can be very competitive!
- Begin thinking early about how you will finance your education take into consideration the costs of living in the area around any of the programs you consider (you can often find information about this on the Chamber of Commerce websites for those places), in addition to tuition and fees, and when look at school websites or visit, ask about additional costs associated with fieldwork placements, etc.
- · Check out websites:

American Occupational Therapy Association www.aota.org
North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association www.ncota.org
World Federation of Occupational Therapists www.wfot.org

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is first, to produce outstanding occupational therapists and occupational scientists, and second, to develop and expand knowledge about occupation and translate that knowledge to various therapeutic arenas.

We accomplish this mission through enacting our core values:

- · the fundamental worth of occupation and its exploration,
- · critical engagement with ideas and the world, and
- embracing diversity and community.

These values inform the evolution of creative and committed pedagogy focused on occupation and based in partnerships with students. Our mission requires a faculty who excel in research, theory, and translation to practice. This community of faculty, students, and graduates collaborates with individuals, groups, institutions, and populations to enhance well-being through occupation.

This mission is consistent with the UNC School of Medicine's focus on excellence in education of health care professionals through an innovative and integrated curriculum. Our mission also echoes the School's promise to achieve excellence in research and its translation to applied settings. We align closely with the UNC mission and its fundamental goals to graduate leaders, to extend our expertise to the citizens of North Carolina, and to enhance the quality of life for the state's residents.

PHILOSOPHY

The Division of Occupational Science is rooted in a philosophy that upholds the complex and holistic nature of human experience as a fundamental way to understand occupation, occupational therapy, the science of occupation, and the education of therapists. This focus on complexity and holism means that occupations are viewed first and foremost as the ongoing activities through which relationships of people and their situations are coordinated. Such coordination requires negotiations among individuals and the social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of situations—the complex, whole environment through which people live.

Occupation, therefore, is the embodied enactment of socially constructed habits, formed over time, as well as the creative adjustments to each situation through learning and use of resources. Meanings, values, and emotional experience are part of occupation and come from the ways in which the activity creates new relationships or sustains existing ones. Although health and well-being may be seen as outcomes of such transactions, we view the enactment of occupations as indicators of (positive or negative) well-being and worthy of attention in and of themselves.

This orientation toward occupation and the situations in which it happens means that families, institutions, and communities cannot be ignored in the assessment of, and intervention into, occupation. *Occupational therapy*, therefore, is the process of evaluating the relationships of occupations and complex situations in order to enhance occupations and situations through interventions. *Occupational science* is the study of occupation and situation relationships, as well as interventions based on them, in order to generate knowledge and inform practice.

We view the educational process from the same transactional perspective. Our program continually refines a curriculum that is designed to engender active learning through engagement in collaborative processes of understanding occupations, situations, and their transactional relationships. Learning takes place through doing; therefore, coursework and fieldwork experiences are created so that students are forced to employ critical inquiry into these dynamics both for the development of practical and scholarship skills. While we must prepare occupational therapy students for entry-level practice, we believe we must challenge them to create habits of lifelong inquiry and learning as well as application of new knowledge to practice.

The mission of the UNC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy is to produce outstanding occupational therapists and occupational scientists, and to develop and expand knowledge about occupation as an enactment of our core values, including embracing diversity and community. Similarly, our philosophical perspective highlights human experience as complex and inseparable from participation in occupations in real-world contexts. With these core values and philosophies, we recognize that there exist significant inequities and injustices that characterize the life experiences and participation of many who identify as members of marginalized, stigmatized, and/or disenfranchised groups. Therefore, we must respond in both words and action.

As our country struggles with the tragedies and trauma that stem from centuries of racism and discrimination and continue into the present, we cannot and will not stay silent. The countless deaths, violence, and forms of oppression experienced by racially minoritized individuals and groups, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, disabled people, religious minorities, and others are unjust and unacceptable. We express our deepest sorrow and frustration with both recent and historical incidents of violence and stand firm in our belief that those responsible should be held accountable for their actions.

As occupational therapists and occupational scientists, we stand for justice, equity, and the right of all humans to participate in their choice of life and health affirming occupations. It is our ethical obligation to uphold and enact the seven Core Values of the OT profession: *Altruism, Equality, Freedom, Justice, Dignity, Truth,* and *Prudence* (AOTA, 1993). We believe a person's skin color, age, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, citizenship status, religious views, abilities, and other aspects of diversity should never limit their ability to engage in the everyday routines and occupations they find meaningful in the context of associated living, and which are enacted with respect for the rights and well-being of others. Rather, this diversity should be respected, valued, and celebrated to promote meaningful engagement in occupation.

We recognize that statements of solidarity are insufficient. We also must do the work. Therefore, we commit first and foremost to holding ourselves accountable by examining our own biases and contributions to systemic racism and inequities within our Division, our university, and our profession. We commit to ongoing anti-racist and anti-discrimination work among our faculty, in our classrooms, locally, nationally, and globally through the content and processes of our curricula, social and societal engagement, and provision of learning opportunities for faculty, students, and our professional colleagues. We also commit to ongoing action and reflection to prepare faculty, students, and our colleagues to catalyze change in response to injustice.

We invite other occupational scientists, practitioners, academic programs, and organizations to join us in this endeavor. We can ignite change by standing together in solidarity with those who experience racism, injustices, and inequities, and work collaboratively to move forward.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY M.S. PROGRAM IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CURRICULUM THEMES AND BROAD LEARNING OBJECTIVES

CONTEXT & COMMUNITY

This theme addresses core concepts of time, place, social relationships, political governance, and culture in their dynamic relationship with human action, participation in occupation, and the practice of occupational therapy. These concepts apply to situations in which individuals, groups, and populations live, work, and make use of occupational therapy services, as well as to situations in which occupational therapists and their colleagues learn and work. The concept of community includes local, state, regional, national, global and virtual groups through which both diversity and commonality among participants exists.

Learning outcomes:

- Critically evaluate the interplay of social, political, economic, cultural, physical, and temporal
 contexts on occupational engagement for individuals and groups.
- Analyze the concept of community as it influences and is influenced by participation in occupation for individuals and groups.

HUMAN CAPACITY FOR ACTION

Human beings function as actors through physical, social, and cultural worlds by integrating embodied capacities for action with interpretation of occupational situations. The extent to which a person lacks the capacity to act in accordance with the presses of a given situation is regarded as disability and the occupational situation becomes a focal point for occupational therapy. Although educational practices may foreground different aspects of human capacities (e.g. physiology, perceptual, structural), they are understood with an appreciation of interdependence in the functional system of action that includes the interpretation of the situation.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand how transaction of mental, physical, emotional and social structures and processes shape the capacity for human action.
- Analyze and interpret factors that enable or limit occupational performance from multiple perspectives including biological, observational and phenomenological
- Understand changes in body functions and structures over the lifespan, and as impacted by injury, illness, or disability, and their potential influence on human capacity for occupation

OCCUPATION

Occupations represent patterns of time use across the life course enacted by individuals, groups and communities situated through relevant life contexts. Occupations include the coordination of everyday routines as well as exceptional life events. People experience occupations from the framework of past experiences and in anticipation of the future. In addition, occupations are comprised of shared activities that are recognized in the immediate social and cultural contexts.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand occupations as complex transactions among individual, contextual, cultural and societal factors
- Understand how occupational performance, habits and occupational development emerge from dynamic transactions joining people and the environment through the stream of time and across the life span.
- Analyze occupation and habits as they relate to health, development, and well-being, and how
 contemporary models of ablement and disablement [ICF] discriminate factors that facilitate,
 enhance, or impede participation for individuals and groups.

ETHICS, JUSTICE AND CARE

This curriculum theme is comprised of three interwoven terms which together form the foundation as to how practice is enacted: Ethics, Justice and Care. Ethics refers to the values, motivation, and principles that shape behavior within the practices of individuals, professions, and across organizations s. Justice refers to ensuring the protection of human rights, and equal access to occupational participation regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances, demographic characteristics or other situational factors. Care refers to embodied motivation, values, practices, and relational capabilities informing response to the needs of others to promote human flourishing

Learning outcomes:

- Evaluate the protection of human rights and dignity, equitable distribution of resources and equal access to occupation.
- Apply ethical principles in practice through advocacy and client- centered approaches to promote
 justice. in occupational opportunities and access to care.
- Apply the AOTA professional Code of Ethics to guide conduct
- Evaluate ethical issues that arise in practice and research, integrating information from multiple sources, and collaborating with others to formulate and evaluate possible courses of action
- Understand human diversity and demonstrate respect and interest in in all its forms.

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

This theme addresses the importance of collaboration, vision, communication and lifelong professional development in carrying out effective professional relationships and enacting leadership roles. Leadership, in this view, focuses on habits of character, service, innovation, and wisdom, applied to informal, emergent and traditional leadership roles. Supervision and management of personnel and programs, stewardship of resources, professional development and innovation in practice are areas of emphasis within this theme.

Learning outcomes:

- Apply principles of professional conduct, communication and collaboration to optimally meet societal, community and individual needs.
- Apply principles of professional behavior, standards and roles in occupational therapy to represent the values of the profession to external audiences.
- Create, evaluate, and implement potential applications of occupational therapy to areas of human need through system consultation, policy development, program development, supervision, and/or education.
- Apply entry-level skills in personnel management, facilitation of others' professional development and organizational leadership.
- Understand professional responsibility in acquisition and stewardship of resources—including fiscal/capital assets, people, and the natural environment—to meet the occupational needs of present and future clients.

INQUIRY, SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION

This theme integrates concerns of occupational therapy and occupational science through the process of inquiry. Inquiry is fostered through the understanding of various research methodologies, the applications of those methodologies to practice and active engagement in scholarly endeavors. Inquiry is seen as an iterative process that is fostered first through purposeful exploration, assessment, and application, and then through critical self-evaluation of each of those process components. The skills of inquiry are applicable to issues of scholarship about occupation, evidence based practices and the ongoing systematic appraisal of the relevance of those practices to individual clients (broadly defined) as well as the communities and contexts in which they participate. A long-term goal is to develop habits of intellectual curiosity, scholarly rigor, lifelong learning, innovation and dissemination of knowledge.

Learning outcomes:

- Evaluate, analyze, and apply scientific research and clinical evidence to enact best practice and
 advance the science of occupation and its translation to therapeutic practice Apply critical thinking
 skills relevant for the consideration of arguments, evidence, research methods, inferences, and other
 matters for evidence-based practice.
- Understand the importance of developing scholarly habits of life-long learning and intellectual curiosity for evidence based practice and scholarship about occupation.
- Understand the value of and need for occupational therapy practitioners to create, apply and disseminate professional knowledge.

THERAPEUTIC PROCESSES

This theme addresses the methods of thought, action and interaction employed by occupational therapists while engaged with clients* in the process of assessment, intervention planning and implementation, and evaluation of therapeutic outcomes. It includes the use of theories and conceptual models, tools and materials, intervention techniques, collaborative relationships, therapeutic use of self, procedural knowledge, and creative reasoning to engage clients in successful and satisfying return to meaningful occupation and/or improved quality of life. Content addressed by this theme is built upon a core understanding of areas of occupation, human capacity for action, context and communities, and ethics, justice and care. It is supported by an attitude of inquiry and scholarship and a willingness to engage in roles of leadership and professional collaboration.

*Clients as defined in the OT Practice Framework (AOTA, 2008) p. 625.

- Persons including families, caregivers, teachers, employers and relevant others.
- Organizations, such as businesses, industries or agencies; and
- Populations within community, such as refugees, veterans who are homeless and people with chronic health disabling conditions (Moyers & Dale, 2007)

Learning outcomes

- Apply and evaluate theoretical frameworks to inform clinical and professional reasoning throughout the OT process.
- · Create therapeutic relationships to optimize client satisfaction, agency and outcomes.
- Evaluate clients' occupational profile, analysis of occupational performance and occupational environments, using best available evidence.
- Create, implement, monitor, evaluate and modify therapeutic interventions that are occupationcentered, evidence-based and formulated in collaboration with clients.
- Apply and critique occupational therapy services, including screening, therapeutic use of self, consultation, education, and advocacy.
- Collaborate effectively with team members, colleagues, and others in service to the interests and needs of clients.
- · Apply standards of safety, accountability, documentation, and professional judgment.
- Create and modify services to meet client needs and interests, using a systematic program development process.

Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Curriculum: Course Descriptions

YEAR 1

Fall Semester

OCCT 725: Human Capacities: Body Structures and Functions 1 takes place in the first half of the semester and provides an introduction to the structures, functions, and processes of the human body that support participation in occupation. The course will focus on mental processes, sensory processing, digestion, reproduction, endocrine, and immune responses that support human occupation are explored.

OCCT 726: Human Capacities: Body Structures and Functions 2 takes place in the second half of the semester and provides an introduction to the structures, functions, and processes of the human body that support participation in occupation. The course will focus on motor and somatosensory capacities and the structures related to those functions.

OCCT 770: Occupational Science provides an introduction to the philosophical tenets of Occupational Science and their application to Occupational Therapy. The course highlights the multiplicity of interconnected factors which generate participation in occupational situations.

OCCT 755: Foundations of Professional Practice introduces core foundations for occupation-centered occupational therapy practice. Students learn fundamentals of professional communication and behavior, therapeutic use of self, clinical reasoning, activity analysis, theory, and evidence-based practice. Includes Level 1 fieldwork experiences.

OCCT 765L: Foundations of Professional Practice Lab provides opportunities for students to practice and begin developing key clinical skills in observation, analysis, interpersonal interactions/communication, documentation, and applying concepts related to theory-based and evidence-based practice.

OCCT 736: Occupational Therapy Practice Environments covers the fiscal, regulatory, ethical, legal, interdisciplinary and cultural aspects that transact in practice systems, and addresses pragmatic reasoning as applied to varied settings where OT services are delivered.

Spring Semester

OCCT 771: Life Course: Early Years focuses on the changing capacities for engagement with occupations of children and young adults, examining how young people shape and join with families, educational programs, and communities. Development is viewed as involving a transactional relationship of the "person-in environment as a whole" thus the social, physical, cultural, and historical contexts and individual characteristics are considered.

OCCT 727: Perspectives on Disability & Health 1 addresses the biological and phenomenological aspects of specific mental and physical health conditions that may be experienced by children, adolescents and young adults.

OCCT 756: Therapeutic Processes I focuses on OT practice with children, adolescents and young adults that have disabilities or health problems that inhibit occupational performance and/or social participation, across a variety of situations. Includes Level 1 fieldwork experiences.

OCCT 766L: Therapeutic Processes Lab provides opportunities for students to practice and begin developing key clinical skills in assessment, intervention planning, intervention strategies, and documentation in practice with children, adolescents, and young adults.

OCCT 781: Environments & Technologies highlights the environmental dimensions of occupational performance and environmental, assistive and rehabilitation technologies used in occupational therapy practice. Students will learn to assess various environmental characteristics and their impact on occupational performance, modify the environment for therapeutic effect, and utilize technology as a means to access, engage in and control the environment.

OCCT 704: Research Methods focuses on understanding the scientific process, and the application of different methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative methods, to address clinical concerns

YEAR 2

Fall Semester: August/September (7.5 weeks)

OCCT 772: Life Course II: Adulthood focuses on human life in the decades between childhood and old age, and considers changing perspectives on this part of the life course, which has recently been characterized as more varied than previously thought. Concepts of establishment, commitment and bridging to both past and future life periods will be highlighted as students consider issues of identity, role fulfillment and individual and group relationships in context.

OCCT 728: Perspectives on Disability & Health II addresses the biological and phenomenological aspects of specific mental and physical health conditions that may be experienced by adults.

OCCT 757: Therapeutic Processes II focuses on OT practice with adults who have disabilities or health problems that inhibit occupational performance and/or social participation, across a variety of situations.

OCCT 767L: Therapeutic Processes Lab provides opportunities for students to practice and begin developing key clinical skills in assessment, intervention planning, intervention strategies, and documentation in practice with adults and older adults.

OCCT 990: Applied Research continues the work started in the Research Methods course on understanding the process of scientific inquiry and the application of different methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative methods. Each student will refine the research proposal developed in Research Methods and submit an IRB for University approval of his/her study.

Fall Semester: October - December

Level 2 Fieldwork (12 weeks, full-time)

Spring Semester

OCCT 773: Life Course III & Practice in Aging explores transitions older adults' engagement in occupation as a result of changing capacities and environments, highlighting the impact of major life transitions on occupational participation including retirement from paid employment, caregiving for parents and life partners, and changes in community mobility. Lab content provides students with experiential learning activities that supplement course content.

OCCT 729: Perspectives on Disability & Health III addresses the biological and phenomenological aspects of specific mental and physical health conditions that may be experienced by older adults.

OCCT 836: Community-Level OT Practice focuses on the principles for population and system level practice in occupational therapy. And includes content related to social systems, needs assessment, program development and evaluation processes, policy, and community health.

OCCT 992: Applied Research supports each student to continue the learning and research processes of the two previous research courses by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data, preparing a poster to disseminate findings, and completing a final research poster and paper.

OCCT 837: Professional Development & Transition to Practice addresses professional development from perspectives that include the history of the profession itself, engaging as a professional in local, state, national and international OT organizations, maintaining professional competence, and the practical aspects of becoming a beginning practitioner.

Summer

Level 2 Fieldwork (12 weeks, full-time)

SAMPLE CLASS SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE: FALL

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

TIME	MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDA
	1st Yr.	2 nd Yr.	PhD	1st Yr.	2 nd Yr.	PhD	1st Yr.	2 nd Yr.	PhD	1st Yr.	2 nd Yr.	PhD	
8:30				OCCT 725		OCSC							l
9:00	725/726			Bagatell/	Applied	855	OCCT						l
9:30	(Virtual) (8:00 –	OCCT		Sorensen 726	Research 9:00 - 10:50	8:30 - 11:50	736 + FW	ОССТ		OCCT	OCCT 757		ĺ
10:00	11:50)	728 9:30 –		Tschoepe	Wakeford,	Bailliard	Seminar 9:00 -	728 9:30 -		755	9:00 -		l
10:30	Bagatell/ Tschoepe	11:20 Sorensen BOND 2030		8:30 - 11:20 BOND 2030	LaValley, Womack BOND 3076/G074/ 4086	BOND 4086	12:00 Coppola BOND	11:20 Sorensen		9:00 – 11:50 Wakeford	11:50 Tschoepe BOND		
11:00	l						2030	18/G100		18	G010		l
11:30				CC	OMMON TIME	1			Research				l
12:00	COMMON	TIME FOR ME	ETINGS ETC.	COMMUNITY MEETINGS				Forum 4th Wed	COMMON TIME FOR			1	
12:30				(Bondurant Hall G100)					MEETINGS ETC			ļ	
1:00	OCCT 770	OCCT 757		OCCT 725	OCCT 767			OCCT 722					
1:30	1: 00-3:50	1:00 -		Bagatell/	1:00 -3:50			Womack			OCCT		l
2:00	Daliman MACNIDER 18	3:50 Tschoepe BOND 2030	2:00 - 4:50 (9/25 - 12/4) Faidowski	Sorensen 726 Tschoepe 1:00 – 4:50 MACNIDER 21	BOND 2035 + OT APT/LAB		Orientation, etc.	1:00-2:50 (Virtual except for first class)	AHSC 902 2:00 – 4:50 Womack (1 st 5 wks) BONO 1976	OCCT 765L 1:00 –3:50 DePrimo MACNIDER	767L 1:00 – 3:50 Bolin/ Carroll		
2:30							0		AHSC 903 1:00 3:50	18	BOND 2035 + OT		l
3:00			BOND 2030						(Zhang)		APT/LAB		l
3:30									BOND 2035				
4:00													
4:30													l

Community Meetings: 1^{rt} Tuesday of the month (all students) (Bond G100) Brown Bag Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month (PhD students) (OT Apt) Faculty Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month (faculty and student reps) (OT Lab) Faculty OTD/OS: 4th Tuesday of the month (faculty) (OT Lab)

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: SPRING

Time	Monday			Tuesday			Wednesd	Wednesday			Thursday															
	1 st <u>yr</u>	2nd XX	PhD	1 st yr	2nd yr	PhD	1st yr	2 nd yr	PhD	1st All	2 nd yr	PhD														
8:30						OCSC 890					OCCT 836															
9:00	OCCT 704					Bagatell		Research		OCCT 756	Bailliard															
9:30	Wakeford 9:00	OCCT 773 (PBL)		OCCT 781 Tschoepe	OCCT 837	8:30 - 11:20	FW	on own		Bagatell 9:00 –	(TA: Lee) 8: 30	SPHS 802: EBP														
10:00	11:50	Carroll		9:30 -	Bolin	11.20				11:50	11:20	9:30 -														
10:30		Coppola DePrimo 9:30 – 11:20			9:30 – 11:20										12:30 (required grant course)											
11:00																										
11:30				Common T			1		Research																	
12:00	Common Ti			Community Meeting Faculty Meeting					. 33	Common Time MSOT1 & MSOT 2																
12:30	MSOT 1 & 2	2																								
1:00	OCCT 766	OCCT 992		OCCT 727				OCCT 727										2000 COLUMN SATURATION OF THE RESERVE OF THE RESERV				AHSC	OCCT 766	OCCT 729	1	
1:30	(PBL) Bristol	Lavalley Wakeford Womack	Research Modules	Sorensen 1:00 -2:50	773 Womack				Research Modules	1:00 - 3:50	Coppola 1:00 – 2:50	AHSC														
2:00	Sorensen Williams	1:00 -			Benthall 1:00-					Bagatell, Fannon	2.50	914														
2:30	1:00-3:50	3:50			3:50							Academic Writing														
3:00	1			OCCT								Erikson (1" 5 y/ks)														
3:30		771 Dallman							2:00 -																	
4:00				3:00-4:50								2.00														
4:30																										
5:00																										



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Fieldwork Overview

The Master's Program curriculum design includes developmentally sequenced clinical experiences throughout the course of study.

Clinical experiences are considered part of the curriculum, and are designed to support learning relative to the curriculum themes. Class discussions and assignments draw upon clinical experiences to build an understanding of the relationship between academic coursework and occupational therapy practice. These experiences are in a variety of settings, from community based to institutions, with individuals of varying ages, ability levels, and health conditions. Over the course of the academic program, students are exposed to all curriculum objectives in fieldwork experiences. Many courses have additional community based projects, service learning and assignments that are not formal fieldwork experiences.

Becoming an occupational therapist encompasses development of clinical as well as professional skills. Communication, receptiveness to feedback, taking initiative, dependability and other interpersonal behaviors are essential learning outcomes of fieldwork and coursework.

Two levels of fieldwork experiences, Fieldwork I and II, are offered in accordance with the "Standards of an Accredited Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist." These experiences are supervised by occupational therapists, as well as other professionals depending on the setting and the purpose of the fieldwork.

Fieldwork I

Fieldwork I experiences are incorporated in academic courses. Fieldwork I (FW I) is an integral component of learning the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the occupational therapist. From the beginning of the program, structured opportunities for conducting observation, interview, assessment, evaluation and treatment in clinical settings enable the student to apply course work and theoretical information to practice settings. Course instructors plan Fieldwork I assignments in a developmental progression for gradual building of clinical skills. In early courses, FW I expectations focus on developing observation and interviewing skills. Subsequent fieldwork experiences are designed to advance students' evaluation and intervention skills. Most FW I experiences are local (within 50 miles of Chapel Hill). Students are frequently assigned to FW sites outside of the Triangle for the week-long experiences.

Fieldwork II

Fieldwork II is a separate course for which students will register as OCCT720A and OCCT 720B. Except in rare circumstances FW II is a full time experience, in which the OT student follows the schedule of the site. In many hospitals and rehabilitation centers occupational therapists may work weekends or four 10 hour days, so students should not assume M-F, 8:00-5:00 schedules. All occupational therapy students must complete Level II Fieldwork within 24 months following completion of academic preparation.

Fieldwork Site selection

The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator (AFWC) schedules and assigns all FW placements. Input from the student is considered, with the AFWC having final authority to make assignments. Student input is discussed in FW Seminars, and students are given opportunities to indicate preferences about upcoming FW. The exception to this is the first semester placements that are made prior to the student beginning the program.

In addition to student preferences, the considerations for site assignment include the quality and appropriateness of the learning experience, variety of experiences available in a site, and the contract status. A further consideration is to ensure continuity of students each year at sites that have a history of collaboration and support for UNC students.

For FW II, priority for local sites is given when the student is a primary caregiver for a child, older adult or disabled person. Many sites are outside the Triangle Area. Students arrange and pay for travel, transportation and housing. We have a small number of out-of-state sites and at some times fieldwork sites in other countries are an option.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

FAQs about the M.S. Program

***** CORE INFORMATION

How many people apply to your program and how many do you accept?

The Division is committed to ensuring a high quality professional education with small classes, group work, and close faculty supervision for special projects. The resources for teaching and classroom space provided by the University determine the size of our program. Each year we process many more applications than we are able to accept; over the last 4 years we have averaged approximately 240 applications. The Division admits a cohort of 24 students in each class, and unfortunately we are not able to admit all qualified applicants due to lack of space. You should review the description of the accepted UNC student ("Profile of Accepted Students" on our website) to better understand the characteristics of the successful applicant. Applying to more than one entry-level program is recommended to improve your chances of reaching your career goals.

Will my application be reviewed if my GPA is below the program average of 3.6?

Yes, the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy reviews all completed applications. We recognize individual differences and consider a range of factors including grades, work or volunteer and personal experiences, recommendations from supervisors, and knowledge about occupational therapy. Competitive applicants must demonstrate academic potential to integrate the curriculum information at a graduate level as well as the potential to successfully practice as an OT. Successful OT practice requires many types of knowledge and ability, so we examine each application carefully and individually in order to make our admission decisions.

If I am not a North Carolina resident should I even submit an application?

We encourage applications from all qualified individuals. Review the characteristics of students who were admitted last year and reflect on your experience and academic history. Strong out-of-state students, especially those who can contribute to class diversity, will be considered equally for admission.

How would you define occupation and occupational therapy in your program?

Occupation has been defined in a number of different ways. At UNC we discuss and study the activities of everyday life that are valued by and given meaning by sociocultural groups of people. These activities can include what people do to look after themselves and others, pursue because doing the activity is interesting or enjoyable, or find meaningful as the activity contributes to their families and communities. Our students learn to focus on the "occupation within occupational therapy," that is, the *therapeutic use* of everyday activities, habits, and routines for the purpose of enhancing people's functional capacities, health, development, and felt experiences of well-being and participation in life.

How can I learn more about the curriculum and the philosophy of UNC's program?

Read about both occupational therapy and Occupational Science. The American Journal of Occupational Therapy and the Journal of Occupational Science is available through direct access or inter-library loan at most academic libraries. We also recommend reading articles written by our faculty (see Faculty pages for names). We think that finding a graduate program that suits your needs is a very important decision and welcome visits from interested applicants at our periodic information sessions. You can also arrange to visit a class (during the academic year); more information on class visits is available on the "Prospective Students" page of our website.

Can I choose a specialization area while I am a student at UNC?

UNC's program in occupational therapy is designed to prepare graduates for Occupational Therapy practice as a "generalist." That is, our graduates are prepared to work in a variety of settings such as day care centers, schools, hospitals, rehabilitation clinics, home health agencies, mental health practice, community settings, and nursing homes, to name a few. We expect our graduates will be called on to work with people of different ages and with varied social and cultural backgrounds. It is also important that graduates leave with clinical and analytical reasoning skills that an OT generalist can use to address new conditions and develop original programs for people who can benefit from occupational therapy. Part of this preparation for both current and future practice can include some greater depth of knowledge one can acquire through focused study and practice. Therefore, opportunities are present for students to develop some additional knowledge and skills in area of interest while in the program, but these are not considered "specializations." Curriculum opportunities to create a special focus include:

- Class projects and papers
- Final research paper
- The second Level II (12 week) Fieldwork
- Training grants when available

DEGREE LEVELS

What is the difference between your professional master's program and an entry level clinical doctorate degree (an OTD)?

All professional programs that offer entry into the practice of occupational therapy are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Our current program emphasizes a 2-year preparation to practice innovative occupational therapy in both traditional and emerging settings. A professional doctorate is a relatively new degree in occupational therapy and, like a doctorate in clinical psychology, dentistry, physical therapy, or pharmacy, should take 3 to 4 years after the bachelor's degree to complete. Entry-level OTD programs are designed to include additional (beyond 2 years) academic preparation for practice, including an extended clinical internship and focused individual capstone project. There currently is no outcome data that indicates that those with an entry-level OTD have greater job or salary opportunities than do those with an entry-level master's degree. Also see our question and answer regarding the difference between an OTD and a Ph.D.

Is there a clinical doctorate beyond the entry level?

Yes, the post-professional OTD is designed for individuals who already have an OT degree and have passed the registration exam. These individuals typically are practicing in an area in which they would like to develop additional expertise and leadership skills. Post-professional programs are usually part-time to allow the OT to continue working in that setting and to use that clinical work in their academic experiences in the program.

Will the UNC MSOT program convert to an OTD program?

In September of 2017, ACOTE issued a mandate that all entry-level programs for occupational therapists be offered at the clinical doctorate level (OTD) by the year 2027. That mandate was rescinded in 2019, although some Master's programs who had started to convert to OTD continued that process. Acknowledging the potential effects of converting to an OTD program on student financial resources and the diversity of our program, the faculty at UNC made an intentional and unanimous decision to remain at the Master's level. There currently are no plans to develop an entry-level OTD program.

What will happen to people who get a Master's degree now, if the profession decides later to move to the clinical doctorate for entry-level?

Occupational therapists who receive an MSOT or MOT degree and who pass the National Certification exam will be able to practice as OT even if the profession changes the entry-level degree. There is historical precedent in this, as practitioners with a Bachelor's degree in OT who passed the certification exam continued to be allowed to practice when the profession moved from Bachelor's entry level to Master's entry level in 2007.

What is the difference between a clinical doctorate in OT (an OTD) and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree?

As the title suggests, an OTD offers preparation for clinical practice with additional emphasis on becoming a consumer of research evidence and program development. Like becoming a medical doctor or dentist, an OTD is a clinical degree. A person who wishes to have an academic or research career in occupational therapy or occupational science should pursue a Ph.D. Research degrees that prepare an individual for academic and research leadership positions take 6 to 7 years to complete after a baccalaureate degree (approximately 5 years post master's degree).

* FIELDWORK

What types of fieldwork experiences will I have and when will they occur?

Fieldwork (FW) experiences are developmentally sequenced and integrated throughout the program. There are 2 levels of experience. FW I is for direct observation and participation in occupational therapy services with occupational therapists as well as participation in community service projects without occupational therapists on site. These range from half day to weeklong experiences. FW II offers an in-depth experience over 12 consecutive weeks. FW II experiences are designed to promote competence and independence in clinical reasoning, therapeutic practices, and professionalism at the level of a therapist entering the profession. Students complete all FWI and FWII requirements within the timeframe established by the program. For more information, see "MS Curriculum" under the "MS Program" links on the Division website.

How are students assigned to FW experiences?

The FW coordinator screens and selects fieldwork sites to ensure students have opportunities for experiences that develop clinical skills consistent with the philosophy of the program. Currently, the Occupational Therapy program has affiliations with over 150 sites across the country. The FW coordinator is responsible for securing reservations at these sites and for assigning students to the sites. When possible, the FW coordinator considers the student's input on assignments, but the primary consideration is given to the quality of the educational experience during FW. The FW coordinator has the final authority to assign a student to a FW placement.

Can I stay in the Triangle area during my fieldwork experiences?

There is no guarantee that any student will be assigned to a local site for FW. Students may have to relocate for some FW I and FW II experiences. Priority for local sites is given to students who are primary caregivers for others.

Are there opportunities to do fieldwork outside of the U.S.?

There are opportunities to do all or a part of Level II Fieldwork in international settings, but these are limited, and change somewhat from year to year, depending on a variety of factors. Once in the OT program, students can explore the possibility of international fieldwork with the Fieldwork Coordinator, but students should not assume such opportunities will be available every year.

Is there financial assistance for FW experiences if I have to relocate?

Students should budget for the extra cost of travel and living arrangements for fieldwork. Historically, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) have provided some housing and transportation financial assistance for FW students at North Carolina clinical sites. The support includes partial reimbursement for mileage and a housing stipend for students who relocate within the state for their FW experiences.

FINANCIAL

Where can I find information about how much your program will cost?

On the program's website, there is a page titled "Costs & Aid." On this page there is a linked document that estimates the cost (tuition and fees) for both in-state and out-of-state students. Keep in mind that this is just an estimate, as increases in tuition and/or fees are possible each year. Also, these estimates assume that the student goes through the program in 2 years. On the Costs & Aid page there also is a link to information about potential additional costs, and links to resources related to scholarships.

Is it possible to work while I am in graduate school?

We anticipate that students are making a full-time commitment to their graduate work. At the same time, many of our students have been able to find the right job and balance their studies with part- time employment. During the academic year, you will take up to 15 credits a semester and will meet at various times during the day, five days a week. Some of the courses will require extra hours for lab work, group meetings, and community activities. In addition, some courses have full day clinical and community assignments (See our question and answer about fieldwork experiences). Thus if you have to work a few hours a week, you will want to look for a job with flexible hours. During the summer, when you are doing FW II, you will be "on the job" 40 hours a week. In addition, because everything is so new, many people find that they have to prepare the night before for the next day of FW II, or work some on weekends to keep their progress notes and clinical reports up to date. As a result, you should not plan on working during the summer.

What is the Professional School Tuition?

The Professional School Tuition is a supplemental tuition that has been instituted for the graduate professional degree programs in the Department of Allied Health Sciences, including the MS program in Occupational Therapy. The supplemental tuition is in addition to the UNC tuition and fees. Over the past several years, our costs for delivering the occupational therapy program have increased significantly, as a factor of both general cost-of-living increases and specific costs associated with new requirements for graduate level professional education. 25% of these tuition revenues will be used to fund Division administered financial aid for North Carolina residents and students from under-represented minority groups, who are qualified for admission, but who are unable to afford the costs of the program. In addition, the revenues will allow us to enhance instructional resources including state of the art equipment in our teaching labs and funding teaching assistants. The supplemental tuition will be included as part of the coat of attendance for calculating financial aid packages by the UNC Office of Student Aid.

* REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION AND CERTIFICATION

What are your requirements for a research/special project as a part of my graduate studies at UNC?

We believe that graduates who possess the attitudes and abilities for inquiry will adopt clinical methods that are based on evidence (i.e., engage in evidence-based practices) and be positioned to develop innovations in practice. Activities that support learning to read and synthesize the occupational therapy literature are embedded in all courses. In addition to a course on research methods, all students complete a research project under the guidance of a faculty member, in a group-based mentoring context. A master thesis is not required but remains an option for strong students who wish to further their skills in research.

What else is required in order to graduate?

Successful completion of all coursework and fieldwork are required for graduation. Courses must be taken in the sequence in which they are offered in the curriculum, and students must pass all courses in each semester in order to move on to the next semester. Students who are unable to participate in or complete the first Level II fieldwork may be allowed to proceed to the next semester,

but will be required to complete all FW requirements successfully before being cleared for graduation. Students also must complete a Master's Comprehensive Self-Assessment (MCSA) after all coursework is finished. The MCSA takes the form of a portfolio of student work during the span of the entire program and includes work that represents student learning in each of the curriculum themes. It also includes an essay in which the student reflects on their learning over the course of the program.

Are there any restrictions on who will qualify to take the certification exam?

The student is eligible to apply to take the National Certification Examination once all program requirements have been met. Students will have to prove eligibility for graduation (all curriculum requirements including FW are completed) before sitting for the certification exam. When you apply to take the certification examination with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), you will be asked to answer questions related to the topic of felony convictions. Applicants should be aware that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's eligibility to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or to attain state licensure. We suggest that applicants contact the NBCOT with any questions about their background that could impact eligibility for professional credentialing. For a fee the Qualification Review Committee can be asked to review the background of a potential program applicant or student prior to their eligibility to apply for the certification examination. For further information on potential limitations, or early determination, you can contact the NBCOT at:

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy 800 S. Frederick Avenue, Suite 200 Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-4150 Telephone: (301) 990-7979

http://www.nbcot.org/

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty

<u>Nancy Bagatell, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA</u>. Program Director, Associate Professor; *Research/clinical interests*: Occupations and routines in families with adolescent-aged children and the experiences of adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their caregivers. Teaches in both the MS and PhD programs.

<u>Sue Coppola, OTD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA</u>. Professor; *Research/clinical interests*: meaningful occupations of older adults; interdisciplinary teamwork; international practice; and humanities in health care education. Teaches in the MS program.

Raheleh Ghasseminia, MS, OTR/L, ATP. Assistant Professor; Research/clinical interests: Experiences of adults with spinal cord injury and other neurological disorders; assistive technology; rural health, interprofessional education and practice. Teaches in the MS program.

<u>Vanessa Jewell, PhD, OTR/L</u>. Associate Professor; *Research interests*: diabetes management and quality of life for children living in rural areas.

Khalilah R. Johnson, PhD, OTR/L. Research Assistant Professor; Research interests: experiences of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and race, culture, and diversity. Teaches in both the PhD and MS programs.

Ryan Lavalley, PhD, OTR/L. Assistant Professor; Research/clinical interests: community-based practice, occupational science, and aging/older adults. Teaches in the MS program.

<u>Bridgette LeCompte, MS, OTR/L.</u> Assistant Professor & Occupational Therapy Consultant to North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. *Research/clinical interests*: school-based practice, addressing mental health concerns in the school context.

Micheal Sandbank, PhD. Associate Professor. Research interests: Early childhood interventions for young children on the autism spectrum.

<u>Katie Sorensen, OTD, OTR/L.</u> Assistant Professor and Fieldwork Coordinator; *Research/clinical interests:* Physical disabilities, Global health, Universal design and accessibility, and adaptive sports. Teaches in the MS program.

<u>Linn Wakeford, PhD, OT/L, FAOTA</u>. Associate Professor; Admissions and MS Program Coordinator; *Clinical/research interests*: children with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families; diversity, equity, and inclusion; Teaches in the MS program.

Adjunct Faculty

Shelley Ashcroft, OTD, OTR/L Heather McKay, OTD, OTR/L Hilary Till, MS, OTR/L Courtney Graham, MS, OTR/L Darren Peters, OTD, OTR/L

Doctoral Students

Susie Agostine, MS, OTR/L Stephanie Bristol, MS, OTR/L Allison Calhoun, MS, OTR/L Lily Guillion, MS, OTR/L Christine Gunnigle, MS, OTR/L Sayoko Kawabata, MS, OTR Ben Lee, MA Zhaoying Li, MS, OTR Kendra Oliver-Derry, MS, OTR Rebecca Parkin, MA, OTR Kierra Peak, MS, OTR/L Susan Szendrey, MOT, OTR/L Ya-Cing Syu, MS, OT Rachel Vaughan, MS, OTR

Faculty Emeriti

Marlys Mitchell PhD OTR/L FAOTA (deceased) Professor Emerita, Founder of the Division Cathy Nielson MHA, OT, FAOTA, Professor Emerita Virginia Dickie Ph.D., OT, FAOTA Professor Emerita Ruth Humphry, PhD, OT/L, FAOTA, Professor Emerita Jane D. Rourk OT, FAOTA, Associate Professor Emerita

Staff

Tamara Mesko, Admissions Administrative Support Tin Lay Nwe, Business Support Kayla Gardner, Fieldwork Support