

A View of Humanity

Occupational therapists view human beings as complex, multidimensional individuals who develop across the lifespan through dynamic transactions with their physical, social, and cultural environments. These dynamic transactions result in the performance of meaningful occupations. "Occupations are everything that people do to occupy themselves, including looking after themselves (self-care), enjoying life (leisure), and contributing to the social and economic fabric of their communities (productivity)." (p. 30, Canadian Occupational Therapist's Association, 1997). Through participation in occupations, individuals are able to influence their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well being, and have an impact on their environments. Meaningful participation in occupations also meets human beings' intrinsic drive toward exploration, competence, and achievement.

The Role of Occupational Therapy

The primary role of occupational therapy is to facilitate individuals' participation in the community. Occupational therapists believe that the skillful use of occupations can enhance participation. Through engagement of individuals in relevant and meaningful occupations, occupational therapy services facilitate development, prevent disability, restore health, or promote wellness in individuals. Occupational therapy builds on the individual's motivations, abilities, strengths, values, and goals. Active collaboration between the person receiving services and therapist is a hallmark of the therapeutic process. Integration of the client's family, support systems, community, and interdisciplinary team members also facilitates successful outcomes. Occupational therapists perform roles including consultants, managers, educators, researchers, policy-makers, and entrepreneurs.

Health Sciences Center
Occupational Therapy Graduate Program
MSC09 5240
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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO • HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Occupational Therapy Graduate Program

What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational Therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession that helps people regain, develop, and build skills that are important for independent functioning, well-being, and quality of life. Occupational therapy can prevent injury or worsening of existing conditions or disabilities and promotes independent functioning in individuals of all ages.

Is Occupational Therapy for you?

The answer is yes if you enjoy:

- Working with people of all ages
- Creative problem solving
- Impacting the quality of people's lives
- Taking a leadership role to increase the health of communities
- The opportunity to work in both traditional medical and in non-traditional work environments
- Psychology, Sociology and Health Sciences
- Faster than average employment growth
- Mean Salary 2004 \$53,810
(N.M. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Next Masters of Occupational Therapy class
begins in May 31, 2006

For more information call (505) 272-1753 ASAP
Email: hsanders@salud.unm.edu
Web Page: <http://hsc.unm.edu/som/ot>

Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)

The mission of the UNM Occupational Therapy Program is to produce well-educated, competent, culturally sensitive and compassionate occupational therapists capable of meeting the occupational therapy needs of citizens in New Mexico.

The graduate degree program emphasizes broad-based rural, multicultural, community-based and interdisciplinary service delivery with an emphasis on developing leadership, advocacy and scholarship skills.

Graduates are prepared to think critically and creatively in a variety of settings, to adapt to changing societal and individual needs, and to assume responsibilities for their own professional growth.

The Occupational Therapy Graduate Program offers the master degree under both Plan I (Thesis) and Plan II (Project). Research is to be conducted in collaboration with occupational therapy faculty members.

Most faculty members are doctorally prepared and are leaders in the profession of occupational therapy. They are active researchers and provide service locally, nationally and internationally.

Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Graduate Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), www.aota.org. ACOTE is located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, PO Box 31220 Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is 301-652-AOTA. ACOTE accreditation is recognized by the (WFOT) World Federation for Occupational Therapists www.wfot.org.au.

100% of our graduates across 11 years have passed the National Board Certification for Occupational Therapy NBCOT.

Pre-Professional Phase: Pre-requisites

(Courses must be within last 5 years)

Psych 220 Developmental Psychology*
Psych 332 Abnormal Behavior*

Math 145 Statistics**

Bio 237+247L Anatomy & Physiology I** ***

Bio 238+248L Anatomy & Physiology II

* General Psychology prerequisite for Psych 220 & 332

** College Algebra prerequisite for Stats, A & P I

*** Chemistry and Biology prerequisite for A & P I

Professional Phase

The professional curriculum, consists of 82 semester hours of courses taken over 2.25 years which includes: 4 semesters and two summer sessions. The problem-based learning philosophy is used extensively in the curriculum. Most students take course work in a full-time load taken in a designated sequence. However, part-time study is available.

Summer Year 1(7 credits)

Introduction to Occupation and Health – 4 cr

Kinesiology of Occupation – 3 cr

Fall Year 1(17 credits)

Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice– 3 cr

Occupation Across the Life Span – 5 cr

Person-Centered Care – 2 cr

Applied Occupations I– 6 cr

Graduate Seminar– 1 cr

Spring Year 1(15 credits)

Applied Occupations II – 5 cr

Applied Occupations III– 5 cr

Neuroscience of Occupation – 4 cr

Graduate Seminar – 1 cr

Summer Year 2 (12 credits)

Fieldwork Level II– 12 cr

Plan I Masters Thesis 1 cr

(Can be taken in any semester)

Fall Year 2 (16 credits)

Advocacy, Comm. & Leadership – 3 cr

Organization & Administration– 2 cr

Applied Occupations IV – 6 cr

Community Health– 4 cr

Graduate Seminar – 1 cr

OTSPA: Occupational Therapy Student

Performance Assessment

Spring Year 2 (12 credits)

January, February, March

Fieldwork Level II 12 cr

Plan I Masters Thesis 2 cr

Masters Examination:

Plan I Masters Thesis Defense or

Plan II Masters Project Defense

Application Packet

1. Occupational Therapy Application
2. UNM Office of Graduate Study Application
3. Baccalaureate degree completed or to be completed by May
4. Prerequisites completed by May
5. Transcripts (2 copies)
6. Three letters of reference

Selection Criteria:

1. Grade point average (GPA) on last 50 credits and prerequisites grades
2. References and application review
3. Interview and writing sample

Admission into the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program is competitive. Up to 24 students are admitted each year. The top candidates will be invited to the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program for an interview and an extemporaneous writing sample.