Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Degree Program
The Occupational Therapy Program at San José State University (SJSU) was founded in 1943 as one of the first occupational therapy programs in the West. Our national reputation for excellence is based on a superior academic curriculum, distinguished faculty, and accomplished graduates. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The address is 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20824-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number, c/o AOTA, is 301-652-AOTA (2682) and its web address is http://www.acoteonline.org.

The Master of Science in OT curriculum is designed for students who have earned a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than occupational therapy. It enables the student to obtain the education and degrees necessary to be eligible to practice as an occupational therapist. Once the Master of Science degree in occupational therapy is completed, the student is eligible to sit for the national certification examination. Successful completion of the examination qualifies the candidate to apply for national certification and state licensure.

Occupational Therapy Curriculum
Curriculum Design
The curriculum is designed to enable students to acquire the knowledge and competencies necessary to become a qualified occupational therapist within four semesters of graduate academic study and six months of internship (fieldwork). The curriculum is centered on the principle that participation in meaningful occupation promotes health, well-being, and social inclusion across the lifespan. The curriculum is composed of six clusters: Occupation—the core of the profession, Foundations for occupational therapy practice, Professional development, Practice in the community, Research and knowledge development, and Practice of occupational therapy. Classes are small in order to foster an active learning environment that will encourage students to develop strong clinical reasoning and creative problem solving capabilities. Students refine skills in selecting, evaluating, and applying information in order to engage in evidence-based practice. Throughout the program, opportunities to interact with therapists and clients in clinical and community settings enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to practice.

SJSU Occupational Therapy Clinics
The program offers an outstanding opportunity for a hands-on learning experience under faculty supervision in the department-run outpatient clinics. These clinics have been a part of the SJSU curriculum since its inception, and have been recognized nationally for the opportunity they provide for students to apply theory to practice under the close supervision of experienced faculty. Students have their choice of pediatrics, physical disabilities, and mental health.

Fieldwork
Provides the opportunity for students to gradually become independent practitioners and to achieve entry-level competency. The six-month fieldwork experience places students at two sites, each for three months. The SJSU Occupational Therapy Program has developed affiliations with over 350 clinical education programs. Although many students choose California, placements can be made throughout the United States.

Certification
Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist, administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the graduate will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination.

*A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination and may preclude attainment of state licensure.
**Occupational Therapy Faculty**
The faculty of the Occupational Therapy Department are excellent teachers, experienced clinicians, and nationally recognized leaders and scholars in the profession. All of the faculty members are occupational therapists with advanced degrees and diverse backgrounds and specializations including: physical and mental health rehabilitation, pediatrics, community mental health, gerontology, independent living skills, measurement and research, international occupational therapy, multicultural issues, the history of occupational therapy, kinesiology, infant and family mental health, psychogeriatrics, family-centered intervention, neurological rehabilitation, the social inclusion of children, job analysis, and health promotion. The faculty are accomplished authors who have contributed to preeminent occupational therapy textbooks published nationally and internationally. They have also written numerous articles for professional journals in occupational therapy and related fields. Several faculty members have been recognized as Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association (FAOTA) for their contributions to the profession.

The faculty pride themselves in being able to create the kind of learning environment that stimulates dynamic exchange and promotes close interaction between student and teacher. Since the primary mission of SJSU is teaching, faculty devote much of their time to teaching, curriculum development, advising, and mentoring.

**Occupational Therapy Students**
Occupational therapy students bring energy and excellence to the program. Since the number of students admitted to the program is small (80), students are able to form a strong support group and make friendships that frequently extend far beyond the years at SJSU. The wealth of experience and diversity of backgrounds the occupational therapy students bring to the program creates a dynamic and enriching academic community. The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) further enriches the program by providing educational, professional and social opportunities for occupational therapy students and the chance to develop leadership skills. Not surprisingly, SJSU graduates have earned a reputation as highly accomplished clinicians and leaders in occupational therapy.

**San José State University and its Environment**
San José State University was founded in 1857 and is California’s oldest public institution of higher education. The University has an enrollment of over 30,000 students, and offers baccalaureate and master’s degrees in more than 150 disciplines. SJSU is located in San José, a city with an active cultural community and an international reputation as a center for innovation in high technology research and development.

San José’s mild climate promotes an active lifestyle. Its location, 50 miles south of San Francisco, makes it an ideal spot from which to travel to beaches in Carmel and Big Sur, to the wine region of Sonoma and Napa, to the Sierra Nevada for skiing, or to Yosemite National Park for hiking.

**Career Opportunities in Occupational Therapy**
The term “occupation” means engagement in those activities that are meaningful to day-to-day living, including work, play, leisure, social participation, education, self-care, home and communication skills. Occupational Therapy helps people of all ages whose daily lives are disrupted by illness, injury, or other conditions to “live life to the fullest” through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Occupational therapists’ holistic focus on physical, psychological and social needs helps people function at the highest possible level, concentrating on what’s important to them for their health, independence and self-esteem.

A career in Occupational Therapy offers the opportunity to work in an exciting and growing health care field. In addition to working in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes, therapists work in public and private schools, day care facilities, patient homes, community agencies, corporations, and private practice.
Cost

Registration fees and tuition are subject to change without advance notice. Refer to the Bursar’s Office website for more details.

Nearly 40% of SJSU students receive financial aid through federal, state, or local grants, loans or scholarships. Financial aid information is available on the Financial Aid & Scholarship website.

Criteria for Acceptance

All of the following criteria are equally important in the selection process. **If any one area is below the minimum requirement**, your application will not be considered for selection. Please do not apply unless your materials meet the program's minimum requirements. Please do not apply until you have all of the required application materials. Exceptional performance in the following areas will improve chances of selection.

1. GPA - minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester or 90 quarter units is **required**. A 3.2 or higher is recommended.
2. GRE/MAT – A minimum GRE verbal score of 153 is **required** and a minimum Analytical Writing score of 4.5 is desired. A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) combined minimum Quantitative and Verbal score of 297 is required. As an alternative to the GRE exam, a minimum score of 400 or above on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is required.
   
   **NOTE**: Have an official copy of the GRE or MAT sent to Graduate Studies Admissions & Program Evaluations (GAPE) department (SJSU code 4687; MAT code 1949) and mail an unofficial copy to the Department of Occupational Therapy.
3. Application and Personal Statement (submitted through OTCAS).
4. 3 Letters of Recommendation submitted through OTCAS attesting to academic ability, work performance record and personal attributes necessary for graduate study. Please refer to OTCAS website.
   
   **Note**: Letter of Recommendation Forms **cannot** be completed by the same individual who completes the “Evaluation Form for Volunteer Experience”.
5. Volunteer Experience - Minimum of 80 hours volunteer experience or paid work experience in at least 2 different types of healthcare, education, or social service settings; 60 of the hours must be completed under the supervision of a community agency supervisor (i.e., teacher, administrator, nurse, social worker, etc.) occupational therapist. Applicants are also required to complete a minimum of 20 hours at a community agency under the supervision of a community agency supervisor (i.e., teacher, administrator, nurse, social worker, etc.) in addition to completing the 60 hours under the supervision of an OTR/L. Examples of community agencies include schools, churches, health care agencies, social-service groups, adult day centers, advocacy groups, community mental health agencies, services for the developmentally disabled, and homeless shelters just to name a few. If the student prefers, all 80 hours can be completed under the supervision of an OTR/L. Hours must be verified by the supervisor on the Evaluation Form for Volunteer Experience [pdf] and submitted at the time of application (available on the Department of Occupational Therapy website). At least 40 of the 80 hours must be completed by the time you apply. We require at least 20 hours to be completed under each OTR/L so that we know the OTR/L and/or supervisor knows you well enough to fill the form out for you. Do not ask an OTR/L to fill out a volunteer form for anything under 20 hours.
   
   • **Please note**: Applicants must also download the Right of Access to Letter of Recommendation form [pdf], one copy per referee (person completing the Volunteer Experience Form), fill it out and sign it, deliver it to each referee, and instruct him or her that it must accompany the Evaluation for Volunteer Experience form.
   
   **Note**: Please provide information regarding your observation hours with an OTR/L on OTCAS AND please submit the completed, signed, and sealed Volunteer Evaluation Form, along with the Right of Access to the Letter of Recommendation Form, directly to the Occupational Therapy Department at SJSU. If you complete community service hours in addition to your occupational therapy observation hours, please do NOT enter this information into OTCAS.

6. Prerequisite Courses - **All of the required prerequisite courses must be completed with a "B" or better.** Ideally, all prerequisite courses should be completed before enrolling in the program. At least 4 of the 8 courses should be completed by the time the application is submitted.
Prerequisite Courses

The following courses may be completed at any community college, four-year college or university at either the graduate or undergraduate level.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Units</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy with a lab*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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*Human Anatomy Lab needs to have either a virtual or human cadaver lab experience displaying human surface anatomy.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Units</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Physiology with a lab</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroanatomy/Neuroscience</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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*May be taken on-line at SJSU during summer session.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Units</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology or Cultural Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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*Course must cover correlations and analysis of variance*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Quarter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Skills Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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*May be taken through adult education. The purpose of the course is to have students work with an artistic medium. Acceptable courses include: ceramics, painting, weaving, and woodworking. Previous work may be accepted as fulfilling this requirement, at the discretion of the Admissions Committee. The course must be at least 40 hours or 3 semester units.*

NOTE: The courses with this symbol (*) next to the title must be completed within 7 years prior to enrollment. All other courses do not have a time requirement.

For more information on the application process, please email or call the Graduate Assistant at (408) 924-3094, or visit the Department of Occupational Therapy website.

NOTE on application submission:

The Department of Occupational Therapy will be using the OTCAS (The Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy) application process for the 2014/15-application period. Instructions for applying to our program can be found here on our department website as well as at OTCAS.