SJSU Entry-Level Master of Science

Occupational Therapy Program
San Jose State University Tower Hall

Occupational Therapy Entry Level Master of Science Graduation ceremony is held here in May.
San Jose State University

- Oldest public university in California: established 1857
- One of 23 California State University campuses
- Current enrollment is about 32,500
- Approximately 20% of students are graduate students
- OT program established 1943; MS program established in 1960
- Thousands of alums throughout US and the world
Central Classroom Building

The Occupational Therapy Department
Martin Luther King Library
SJSU OT Faculty

- 8 tenured/tenure track faculty
- 9 part time faculty / practitioners
- 7 highly esteemed emeritus faculty
- 10 faculty have PhDs in clinical psychology, education, human science, occupational science, health science
- 8 Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association
- Specialized practice certifications
- One Fulbright scholar
- Numerous books, chapters, articles and presentations, editorial boards, research grants
2013-14 Outstanding Professor Award—Dr. Winifred Schultz-Krohn
SJSU Entry-Level Master’s Program

- 4 semester academic program
  - Includes an International Experience
- 2 fieldwork placements (12 weeks each-40 hours/wk)
- MS degree conferred after final fieldwork placement
- Eligible to sit for national registration examination (www.NBCOT.org)
- SJSU OT programs have a high pass rate on registration exam
The Curriculum

**Curriculum Core**

Participation in meaningful occupation to promote health, well-being, and social inclusion across the lifespan

**Mission**

The Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University is dedicated to preparing culturally diverse occupational therapy leaders who promote health and participation in life for individuals, organizations, and populations through engagement in occupation.
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.
Curriculum Clusters

- Occupation-The Core of the Profession
- Foundations for Occupational Therapy Practice
- Professional Development
- Practice in the Community
- Research and Knowledge Development
- Practice of Occupational Therapy.
Curriculum Design

- 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.

- International Experience
International Experience

- The overall goal for the international experience is to gain cross-cultural insight into the political, social cultural and economic factors that influence the provision of occupational therapy services outside of the US.
- Time abroad ranges from 1-3 weeks during the Winter or Summer session.
- Students register for 1-6 units of coursework.
- These courses fulfill requirements for the degree.
Degree Roadmap

◆ Semester 1
  ◆ OCTH 211: Historical and Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy
  ◆ OCTH 221: Occupational Analysis
  ◆ OCTH 212: Occupation Through the Lifespan
  ◆ OCTH 213: Professional Development I
  ◆ OCTH 222: Functional Kinesiology OR OCTH 276: Seminar and Practicum IA

◆ Semester 2
  ◆ OCTH 245: Introduction to Research Methodology
  ◆ OCTH 216: Evaluation in Occupational Therapy
  ◆ OCTH 224: Occupational Therapy Practice in the Community I
  ◆ OCTH 222: Functional Kinesiology OR OCTH 276: Seminar and Practicum IA
  ◆ OCTH 226: Occupational Therapy with Children or OCTH 266 OT with Older Adults
Degree Roadmap (cont.)

**Semester 3**
- OCTH 275: Evidence-Based Practice in OT
- OCTH 233: Professional Development II
- OCTH 236: OT with Youth or OCTH 246: OT with Young Adults
- OCTH 226: OT with Children or OCTH 266 OT with Older Adults
- OCTH 286: Seminar and Practicum IB (4 units) OR OCTH 234: OT Practice in the Community II

**Semester 4**
- OCTH 295: Master’s Project Capstone Course
- OCTH 236: OT with Youth or OCTH 246: OT with Young Adults
- OCTH 256: OT with Middle Aged Adults
- OCTH 286: Seminar and Practicum IB (4 units) OR OCTH 234: OT Practice in the Community II
- OCTH 210 Seminar for Occupational Therapists
The Curriculum

- Following completion of the academic curriculum, students complete two 12-week, 40 hour per week fieldwork placements (OCTH 201A and OCTH 201B).
Admission Criteria

- GPA of 3.0 or better in last 60 semester or last 90 quarter units of undergraduate work.
- Completion of prerequisite courses with a B or better prior to entry into the program.
- 80 hours volunteer experience verified by “Evaluation of Volunteer Experience” form. 60 hours under the direct supervision of an OT/L and 20 hours in a community agency.
Admission Criteria (continued)

- **Minimum** GRE Verbal score of 153 & a combined score of 297. An Analytic Writing score of 4.5 on the GRE is recommended (a minimum score of 4.0 is required)
- OTCAS application & personal statement
Criteria for Applying to the ELM Program

- Must complete 4/8 prerequisite courses
- Must complete at least 40 hours of the volunteer experience
- Must complete the GRE with minimum required scores
- Submission of three letters of recommendation attesting to academic ability, work performance record and personal attributes necessary for graduate study. 1 letter must be from an academic source
Prerequisite Courses

- Human Anatomy with lab*
- Physiology with lab
- Neuroanatomy—Bio 109 @ SJSU is offered on campus Spring semester and online during Summer (OCTH 190)
- General (Intro) Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Sociology OR Cultural Anthropology
- Statistics*
- Skills Course

* = Must have been taken in last 7 years
Prerequisite Courses

- Please contact the Graduate Assistant if you wish to find out if a particular course you took meets the criteria for our prerequisites.

- Include the course syllabus or description from the catalog.
Admission Information

- Applications are accepted once per year beginning October 1st through February 1st

- Students are conditionally accepted on a rolling admission basis
Application Process

- OTCAS
- OT Department
- CalState Apply/GAPE
  - https://www2.calstate.edu/apply
- You must complete the required paperwork for each of these
The following documents are submitted through OTCAS

- Application/Personal Statement
- Official Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
The following are submitted directly to the OT Department

• A copy of your application/personal statement from OTCAS
• Sealed Volunteer Evaluation forms with waivers
• Unofficial GRE scores
The following are submitted via Cal State Apply (https://www2.calstate.edu/apply)

- Application to the University
- Official Transcripts
- Official GRE (4687) Opens October 1st
- This is a separate process from your application to the program and to the university (GAPE)
Investigate prerequisite courses at local colleges

Begin the volunteer hours ASAP

Start the application process with OTCAS before Oct 1st as it takes at least two weeks for them to verify your application.

Applications are reviewed beginning October 1st and admissions are on a rolling basis. Timing is important!

Choose referees carefully for the LOR (1 academic source required)

Prepare a thoughtful personal statement describing goals and objectives for pursuing a Master’s degree in OT, include leadership experiences and future potential (on application form).
For More Information:

- Gigi Smith PhD, OTR/L
  E-mail: gigi.smith@sjsu.edu

- Graduate assistant
  - Tamara Turner
  - E-mail: ot-elm-group@sjsu.edu

Phone: 408 924-3094
Thank You!