



**SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**Occupational Therapy
Pattern I – Baccalaureate
Master of Science Degree Program**

The Occupational Therapy Program at San José State University (SJSU) is one of the best established programs in the West. Founded in 1943, 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](#) (4720 Montgomery Lane, PO Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220).

The Pattern I curriculum is designed for undergraduate students to facilitate entrance into one-year Master of Science program. It enables the student to obtain the education and degrees necessary to be eligible to practice as an occupational therapist. Once the Bachelor of Science and 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 undergraduate and two semesters of graduate academic study and six months of internship (fieldwork). The program is based on the philosophy that an active learning environment will stimulate students to develop strong clinical reasoning and creative problem solving capabilities.

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 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, mental health, and adult community 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 clinic sites, each for three months during the summer. The SJSU Occupational Therapy Program has developed affiliations with over 250 clinical education programs. Although many students choose California, placements can be made throughout the United States.

Certification After successful completion of the BS/MS educational program, students are eligible to sit for the national certification examination. Successful completion of the examination admits the candidate to the [National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy](#) (NBCOT), (800 South Frederick Avenue, Suite 200, Taithersburg, MD 20877-4150) as an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR) and qualifies the individual for [CA licensing](#) (California Board of Occupational Therapy, 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 2050, Sacramento, CA 95815, 916-263-2294; fax 916-263-2479).

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, diverse backgrounds, specializations, interests and expertise 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, the uses of therapeutic humor, and health promotion. All of the faculty are authors and editors, and have contributed chapters to preeminent textbooks adopted in occupational therapy programs nationally and internationally; and have written numerous articles for professional journals in occupational therapy and health related fields. Several faculty members have been recognized for their contribution to the profession of occupational therapy as Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

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, the faculty devote the majority of their time to developing and teaching courses and in giving students feedback on their performance. They also work closely with students as advisors and mentors.

Occupational Therapy Students

Occupational Therapy students bring energy and excellence to the program. Many earn recognition as Dean's or President's Scholars. In addition, the Occupational Therapy Program has the distinction of having three of its students named Outstanding Graduating Senior within the past ten years. This award is given to one or two seniors in the entire university who best exemplify academic excellence and dedicated service to the community. These outstanding seniors epitomize the talents and commitment of all of our students. 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 27,000 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 is a health profession that helps individuals who have been affected by accident or injury, disease, aging, development delay, or psychological disability to make the necessary lifestyle changes to become more self-sufficient and independent. Occupational Therapy also has a unique focus on occupation and daily life activities and the application of an intervention process that facilitates engagement in occupations to support the individual's participation in life.

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

California Residents registration fees: (subject to change without advanced notice)

Refer to the [Bursar's Office](#) website for more details.

Approximately \$1,300 Semester charge for full-time attendance (6 units or more)

Approximately \$2,600 Academic year charge for full-time attendance

Non-resident tuition charges are in excess of this

Nearly 40% of SJSU students receive financial aid through federal, state, or local grants, loans or scholarships.

[Financial aid information](#) is available on the World Wide Web.

Required Courses for the Major

Student must earn a minimum of a C (2.0) in each of the required courses, and may repeat each course only once. The courses must be completed within 7 years of enrollment:

- Human Anatomy with a lab (BIOL 65)
- Human Physiology with a lab (BIOL 66)
- Elementary Physics (lab not required) (PHYS 001)
- Neuroanatomy (BIOL 109)
- General Psychology (PSYC 001)
- Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 110)
- Social Problems (SOC 80) or Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 011)
- Statistics (STAT 95)
- Studio Arts or Skills Course (such as ART 46) – a college-level course such as ceramics, painting, weaving, or woodworking which requires the use of tools and materials to create a product.

For questions related to the transfer of credits, please refer to the [SJSU Articulation](#) link. The [SJSU Catalog](#) is also available.

Requirement to enroll in the Occupational Therapy Bachelor of Science Courses

- Acceptance to the University as an Occupational Therapy Major
- Completion of all lower division general education requirements
- Documentation of the successful completion of 80 hours of volunteer work
 - 40 hours under the supervision of an occupational therapist
 - 40 hours under the supervision of a community agency supervisor
- Volunteer hours should be completed within 3 years of enrollment
- Completion of required prerequisite courses for the major
- Overall GPA of 2.8 and good standing in the University with a minimum SJSU G.P.A. of 2.8
- Completion of departmental application form
- Submission of official college transcripts to the Department of Occupational Therapy, in addition to the University
- Other documentation may be required. Check our website for additional information

Courses in Residence

Students will be required to take advanced general education courses at SJSU, known as San José Studies Courses, including Written Communication II (HP100W). Transfer students are advised to take the Writing Skills Test (WST) immediately upon acceptance to the University so that they may enroll in upper division courses. Please check the SJSU website for information about the WST.

To Apply

The Occupational Therapy Department enrolls 40 undergraduate students each fall (**subject to change**). The application filing period for fall admission to the University is October 1 – January 30.

Requirements in the Major (43 UNITS)

OCTH 108, OCTH 110, OCTH 113, OCTH 115, OCTH 120, OCTH 122, OCTH 126, OCTH 130, OCTH 131, OCTH 132, OCTH 133, OCTH 134, OCTH 136, OCTH 156. See catalog for course descriptions.

Requirements to Enroll in the Occupational Therapy Master of Science Courses

- Minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester units of course work including the first three semesters of the occupational therapy undergraduate courses will advance the student to “conditionally classified” graduate status.
- Successful completion of the undergraduate program with a minimum 3.0 GPA advances the student to full acceptance into the graduate program and “classified status”.
- **You must also have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) sometime during the first three semesters of your OT undergraduate classes and earned a combined score of 1,000 on quantitative and verbal (minimum GRE verbal score of 450 and a minimum writing score of 3.5).**

Requirements in Major

OCTH 201A, 201B, OCTH 202, OCTH 204, OCTH 208, OCTH 210, OCTH 220, OCTH 230, OCTH 235, OCTH 244, OCTH 295A, OCTH 295B. See catalog for course descriptions.

For more information on the application process, please call the department secretary at 408-924-3070 or visit our [SJSU OT website](#).



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