

San José State University

Occupational Therapy

Pattern II – 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) www.aota.org/nonmembers/area13/links/LINK13.asp, 301-652-2682.

The Pattern II 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 program is based on the philosophy that an active learning environment will stimulate students to develop strong clinical reasoning and creative problem solving capabilities. Graduate classes are small in order to foster more effective learning. During the first year of study students acquire the knowledge of occupational therapy and the skills that will prepare them for their first summer internship. The second year provides graduate-level knowledge in occupational therapy theory and practice, management, history, education, and research. The graduate project is completed during the second year of study.

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, 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. 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 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 Therapists, Registered (OTR). It also qualifies the individuals for CA licensing (California Board of Occupational Therapy, 444 North 3rd Street, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-322-3394; fax 916-445-6167). **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, the uses of therapeutic humor, and health promotion. 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 (20-40) 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 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 has a unique focus on engagement in occupations that support the individual's full 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 advance notice)

Approximately \$2,000. Semester charge for full-time attendance (6 units or more)

Approximately \$4,000. 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 at

www.sjsu.edu/depts/finaid/programs.html.

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 may not be considered for selection. Exceptional performance in the following areas will improve chances of selection.

- A minimum GPA of 2.8 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester or 90 quarter units.
- Submission of the Occupational Therapy Department's Application for Enrollment form.
- A GRE (Graduate Record Examination) combined score of 1000 on quantitative and verbal, or a minimum score of 400 on the MAT (Miller Analogies Test; SJSU code: 1949) is desirable. **Note:** Have an **official** copy of the GRE or MAT sent to Graduate Studies Admission department (GRE; SJSU code: 4687). Have an **unofficial** copy of the GRE or MAT sent to the Department of Occupational Therapy as part of your Application Packet.
- Submission of 3 recommendations attesting to academic ability, work performance record, and personal attributes necessary for graduate study. "Letter of Recommendation" forms are available from the Department of Occupational Therapy or the World Wide Web at <http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/OT/ms.html#forms>. Note: Forms should NOT be filled out by a person completing the "Evaluation Form for Volunteer Experience."
- A minimum of 100 hours of volunteer experience (or equivalent paid work experience) with an occupational therapist that includes direct involvement with clients. The supervisor should verify and evaluate the experience by completing the "Evaluation Form for Volunteer Experience" available from the Department of Occupational Therapy or the World Wide Web at <http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/OT/ms.html#forms>.
- Ideally, all prerequisite courses should be completed before enrolling in the program. However, courses may be in progress when the application is submitted. All transcripts must be sent to the Department of Occupational Therapy, in addition to Graduate Admissions. All prerequisites must have been completed with a "B" or better.

Prerequisite Courses

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

| | <u>Semester Units</u> | <u>Quarter</u> |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Human Anatomy with a lab* | 3 | 4 |
| Physiology with a lab | 3 | 4 |
| Neuroanatomy | 3-4 | 4 |
| May be taken on-line at SJSU if you are NOT a current SJSU student. Please contact Professor Michael Sneary at (408)924-4854 or Michael.Sneary@sjsu.edu | | |
| General Psychology | 3 | 4 |
| Abnormal Psychology | 3 | 4 |
| Sociology or Cultural Anthropology | 3 | 4 |

Statistics* 3 4
Or a statistics course that covers correlations and analysis of variance

A Skills Course 3 4
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, woodworking, photography, and graphic arts. 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.

* These courses 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 call the Graduate Assistant at (408) 924-3094, email otgrad@casa.sjsu.edu, or visit our website at www.sjsu.edu/ot/.



Department of Occupational Therapy
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0059
Voice: 408-924-3070
Fax: 408-924-3088
www.sjsu.edu/ot/