

Curriculum Clusters

Cluster 1: Occupation: The Core of the Profession

OCTH 211: Historical and Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy

OCTH 221: Occupational Analysis

The two courses in this cluster provide grounding for students in two of the key concepts related to the construct of occupation as the core of the profession. In OCTH 211, students are introduced to the history of occupational therapy as a profession, the concurrent development of theories informing the practice of occupational theory, and how historical and social contexts influenced the development of the profession. Particular emphasis is placed on how the core concept of occupation has evolved over the past 100 years. In OCTH 221, students are introduced to the process of occupational analysis through engagement in craft projects. Key aspects of the occupational therapy process are addressed including, activity analysis, adaptation, teaching, meaning of occupations, competency and mastery. These courses are taken concurrently in the first semester of the program, providing foundational understanding and application of occupation in historical, theoretical, and practical contexts.

Cluster 2: Foundations for Occupational Therapy Practice

OCTH 212: Occupation Through the Lifespan

OCTH 222: Functional Kinesiology for Occupational Therapists

The two courses in this cluster address knowledge from within and outside of occupational therapy that is essential to the practice of occupational therapy. OCTH 212 examines the role of occupation throughout the lifespan and factors such as illness, injury, disease, social or environmental conditions that can create barriers to occupational participation. OCTH 222 introduces students to the foundations of movement that underlie all functional activities and occupations. OCTH 212 is taken in the first semester of the program and OCTH 222 is taken in the first or second semester. Together these two courses provide a foundation in the physical, developmental, social-emotional, and environmental influences on occupational participation.

Cluster 3: Professional Development

OCTH 213: Professional Development I

OCTH 233: Professional Development II

This series of two courses addresses professional knowledge necessary for competent practice. OCTH 213 is taken in the first semester and introduces students to the profession and professional organizations, professional communication and leadership, and ethics. Culture and worldview are addressed as they relate to communication styles and strategies, and the occupational therapy process. OCTH 233 is taken in the third semester and explores laws and regulations governing occupational therapy practice and expands the exploration of leadership to management, supervision, and entrepreneurship.

Cluster 4: Practice in the Community

OCTH 224: Occupational Therapy Practice in the Community I
OCTH 234: Occupational Therapy Practice in the Community II
OCTH 210: Seminar in Occupational Therapy
OCTH 210I: Seminar in Occupational Therapy: International Experience

These courses address community-based practice in both established and emerging practice areas. The focus is on wellness and health-promotion as it is addressed in a variety of programs that serve individuals and groups of all ages and ability levels. OCTH 224 is taken in the second semester of the program, and students are introduced to theoretical constructs supporting community and population-based practice such as the social model of health, occupational justice, and prevention and wellness models. Students engage in service learning in a community site and begin an examination of the services provided and the role of occupational therapy in the setting. In OCTH 234, taken in the 3rd or 4th semester in the program, the emphasis is on student engagement in their community site, with seminars supporting their developing knowledge of needs assessment, program development, program evaluation, and program implementation. OCTH 210 (rotating topics) and OCTH 210I are elective courses offered during inter-sessions or the second year that provide students with an opportunity to explore emerging topics, or to participate in service learning and explore the role of occupations and occupational therapy in other cultures. This cluster prepares students to work in a variety of roles as a member of an interdisciplinary team in community programs.

Cluster 5: Research and Knowledge Development

OCTH 245: Introduction to Research Methodology
OCTH 275: Evidence-Based Practice in Occupational Therapy
OCTH 295: Advanced Research Methodology in Occupational Therapy

The three courses in this cluster, taken as a sequence in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th semesters of the program, provide foundational knowledge in research methods (OCTH 245), evidence-based practice (OCTH 275) and the application of research methods in occupational therapy (OCTH 295). OCTH 295 is also the master's degree project course. Students identify an area of interest for inquiry and conduct a literature review in OCTH 245. They further develop their idea and identify appropriate methodology in OCTH 275, and in OCTH 295 they carry out their project, analyze results, write a project or scientific paper, and present their outcomes at a poster session. Throughout the courses in this cluster, the process of critical analysis and the role of data in clinical decision making are emphasized.

Cluster 6: The Practice of Occupational Therapy

OCTH 276: Seminar and Practicum IA
OCTH 216: Evaluation in Occupational Therapy
OCTH 226: Occupational Therapy with Children
OCTH 236: Occupational Therapy with Youth
OCTH 246: Occupational Therapy with Young Adults
OCTH 256: Occupational Therapy with Middle Aged Adults
OCTH 266: Occupational Therapy with Older Adults
OCTH 286: Seminar and Practicum IB

(Cluster 6 Cont'd)

OCTH 201A Fieldwork Experience

OCTH 201B Advanced Fieldwork Experience

Courses in this cluster address theoretical and applied aspects of occupational therapy practice through the lifespan. The evaluation course, OCTH 216, is taken in the second semester concurrently with research methods. Students learn the rationale and strategies for evaluation in occupational therapy, including frequently used instruments and data gathering techniques. The subsequent practice courses are taken over the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th semesters of the program. The course material is organized according to the lifespan, with occupational participation as the central outcome. The occupational therapy process is addressed holistically according to practice setting, level of acuity, and other appropriate parameters. Complex case studies are used to promote development of clinical reasoning skills. Two of the courses constitute the Level I practicum experience. OCTH 276 is taken in the first or second semester of the program. Students are assigned to a traditional occupational therapy practice setting and observe and participate in occupational therapy services and documentation. OCTH 286 is taken in the third or fourth semester. Under faculty supervision, students engage in the occupational therapy process with a client in one of the campus-based OT clinics, including evaluation, development and implementation of the intervention plan, documentation, consultation with family/caregivers, and discharge/home recommendations. OCTH 201A and 201B (Level II fieldwork courses) are taken following completion of academic coursework.