

Occupational Therapy

Alma Abdel-Moty, *Chairperson, Clinical Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator*

Elise Bloch, *Clinical Assistant Professor*

Marek Graczkowski, *Visiting Assistant Professor*

Dennis McCarthy, *Assistant Professor*

Amy Paul-Ward, *Assistant Professor*

Pamela Shaffner, *Clinical Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator*

Agnes Sheffey, *Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator*

Mirtha Whaley, *Assistant Professor*

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy (OT) is a health profession which prepares practitioners to develop and restore the functional performance abilities needed for individuals experiencing disease and disability to lead satisfying productive lives. Occupational therapy may be indicated for persons whose lives have been interrupted by disease or injury, or those who suffer from developmental delays, mental illness or problems associated with aging.

Occupational therapists assess individuals' abilities to carry out tasks and activities necessary to enable function for productive living. Working collaboratively with clients, considering their personal goals, lifestyles, and environments, the therapist develops intervention programs designed to help develop/restore the greatest possible functional capacity. During the treatment or rehabilitation process, the clients actively engage in directed programs of purposeful, meaningful activities designed to increase their levels of functioning. The occupational therapist works collaboratively with individuals, other health professionals, and health and community agency personnel. A successful therapist must be able to work with others, look at the totality of human performance, think creatively, problem solve, and direct the actions of others. Occupational therapists serve a wide variety of individuals in all age ranges and work in settings such as community agencies, sheltered workshops, hospitals, schools, skilled nursing centers, rehabilitation centers, and home health.

There are two ways to earn the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree.

1. **Professional Master** – this is a seven semester full time program designed for students with a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than occupational therapy,
2. **Post Professional MS** – this program is designed for occupational therapists who achieved initial NBCOT certification and a degree in Occupational Therapy at the baccalaureate level.

Program Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Professional MS Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. ACOTE'S telephone number C/O AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA. Graduates of the program will be able to

sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapists administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR).

Background Checks and Drug Screenings

The practicum/field placement sites used by the OT program require the disclosure of conviction records for misdemeanors and/or felonies and current screening for drug use. Therefore, students are required to submit to criminal background checks and drug screening tests at the time of admission to the program and prior to the initiation of the clinical education portion of their education. The student will be responsible for the financial cost of such screenings.

Findings in background checks and/or drug screening tests may affect a student's ability to participate in clinical experiences and complete the program, and/or obtain licensure or certification.

Advising

Group advising sessions are held on a regular basis during the semester; the dates are posted on the department website, <http://ot.fiu.edu>. If you have specific questions related to your application, the OT advisor will answer them during the session. All applicants who live in Miami- Fort Lauderdale area are expected to attend an advising session. Students who live outside the area can call the OT department at (305) 348-6068 and ask to speak with an advisor.

NOTE: The programs, policies, requirements, and regulations listed in this catalog are continually subject to review in order to serve the needs of the University's and College's various publics and to respond to the mandates of the Florida Department of Education, Board of Governors, the Legislature, and other regulatory and accrediting agencies. Changes may be made without advance notice. Please refer to the General Information section for the University's policies, requirements, and regulations. Please refer to <http://ot.fiu.edu> for latest information on the OT program, policies, and procedures.

The Professional Master of Science

The Professional Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program is designed for students who hold a baccalaureate degree in another discipline from an accredited college or university. Through a combination of academic and fieldwork education the program of study prepares students for entry-level practice as a generalist practitioner.

Application Process and Deadlines

The application and admission process is composed of two parts:

1. All Applicants must apply online to the FIU Graduate School. The application deadline for the graduate school for fall admissions is June 1st for domestic students and April 1st for international students. <http://gradschool.fiu.edu>. The OT Department applications deadline for the Professional MS program is February 15th. Late applications will be reviewed on a space available basis.
2. All applicants must complete an OT department application packet and send to the Occupational

Therapy Department, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, AHC3 442A, 11200 SW 8th St., Miami, FL 33199. Department applications are available at <http://ot.fiu.edu>. Applications are accepted starting January 15th for fall admission. The application deadline is February 15th.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the Professional Master's degree program students must:

1. Hold a bachelor degree from an accredited institution.
2. Have a minimum of 3.0 GPA average based on a 4.0 scale in upper division courses of the bachelor degree.
3. Have completed all prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of "C".
4. Provide three letters of reference, a curriculum vitae/resume, a summary statement of professional and educational goals and assessment of current professional activities.
5. Meet admissions requirements of the OT department and the University Graduate School.
6. International students are accepted subject to space and fiscal limitations. Students must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in occupational therapy from an institution recognized in their own country as preparing students for graduate level study; academic eligibility for further study in their own country. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.5 overall on the IELTS is required.

Prerequisites for the Professional MS degree

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| 1. Biology and lab | 4 |
| 2. Physiology (3 credits) or Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs (<i>students who have completed Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs have met the prerequisites for Physiology, but not Anatomy</i>) | 6-8 |
| 3. Abnormal Psychology | 3 |
| 4. Human Growth and Development | 3 |
| 5. Statistics | 3 |
| 6. Human Anatomy with lab ¹ | 3 |
| 7. Pathology | 3 |
| 8. Medical Terminology | 1-3 |
| 8. Neuroscience ^{1,2} | 3 |

¹These courses must be numbered 3000 or above.
²If not taken as prerequisite, may be taken after admission to the master's program.

Required Courses for Professional Master in OT: (80 credits)

Professional Master's Course Sequence***

OTH 5011	Theories & Practice of O.T.	3
OTH 5162	Adaptation of Human Occupation	2
OTH 5162L	Adaptation of Human Occupation Lab	1
OTH 5202	Occupational Development: Infancy Throughout Adolescence	2
OTH 5202L	Occupational Development: Infancy Throughout Adolescence Lab	1
OTH 5203	Occupational Development: Adulthood and Aging	3

OTH 5430	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Musculoskeletal Disorders I	2
OTH 5430L	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Musculoskeletal Disorders I Lab	1
OTH 5414	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion	3
OTH 5414L	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion Lab	1
OTH 6431	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Musculoskeletal Disorders II	2
OTH 6431L	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Musculoskeletal Disorders II Lab	1
OT Elective		3
OTH 5524	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Neuromotor Disorders I	3
OTH 5524L	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Neuromotor Disorders I Lab	1
OTH 5438	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Neuromotor Disorders II	3
OTH 5438L	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Neuromotor Disorders II Lab	1
OTH 5301	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment in Mental Health	2
OTH 5301L	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment in Mental Health Lab	1
OTH 5843	Psychosocial Level I Fieldwork	2
OTH 6009	Current Issues and Theories of Occupational Therapy*	3
OTH 6772	Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal*	3
OTH 5280	Role of Environment in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 6706	Occupational Therapy Management*	3
OTH 5760	Current Research in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 5725	Infusing Occupation into Community Based Practice*	3
OTH 6281	Cultural and International Issues in OT	3
OTH 5214	Occupational Therapist in Family Centered Care	3
OTH 5845	Level II Fieldwork	6
OTH 5846	Level II Fieldwork	6
OTH 6972	Master's Project	3
OTH 6973	Master's Project	3

*Offered Online

**Can be taken prior to starting the program

*** Curriculum and sequence may be changed by department

Post Professional Master of Science: fully on-line (30 credits)

This program is designed for occupational therapists who have achieved initial NBCOT certification and a degree in Occupational Therapy at the baccalaureate level.

Application Process and Deadlines**Post Professional Master Degree**

Occupational therapists who achieved initial NBCOT certification can apply to the Post Professional MS for any academic term. Applicants must meet the University Graduate School application deadlines for the admission term. <http://gradschool.fiu.edu>.

The application and admission process is composed of two parts:

1. All Applicants must apply online to the FIU Graduate School at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu>.
2. All applicants must complete an OT department application packet and send to the Occupational Therapy Department, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, AHC3 442A, 11200 SW 8th St., Miami, FL 33199. Department applications are available at <http://ot.fiu.edu>.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the Post Professional Master's degree program students must:

1. Hold a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from an accredited institution and achieved initial NBCOT Certification in Occupational Therapy.
2. Have a minimum of 3.0 GPA average based on a 4.0 scale in upper division courses of the baccalaureate degree.
3. Have a basic statistics course.
4. Provide three letters of reference, a curriculum vitae/resume, a summary statement of professional and educational goals.
5. Meet admissions requirements of the OT department and the University Graduate School.
6. International students are accepted subject to space and fiscal limitations. Students must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in occupational therapy from an institution recognized in their own country as preparing students for graduate level study; academic eligibility for further study in their own country. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.
7. Occupational therapists may apply for admission for any semester during the academic year.

Degree Requirements

The Post Professional Master of Science in Occupational Therapy consists of 30 credits including 6 credits of a master's research project (thesis option).

A maximum of six credits of graduate course work may be transferred from other institutions, provided they meet university requirements, subject to the approval of the department graduate committee.

Required Courses: (30 credits)

OTH 6009	Current Issues and Theories of Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 6772	Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal	3
OTH 5280	Role of Environment in Occupational	

	Therapy	3
OTH 5214	Occupational Therapist Role in Family Centered Care	3
OTH 5760	Current Research in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 5725	Infusing Occupation into Community Based Practice	3
OTH 6281	Cultural and International Issues in OT	3
OT Elective		3
OTH 6972	Master's Project Development	3
OTH 6973	Master's Project Implementation	3