Occupational Therapy

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Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Mission
The mission of Florida International University’s Occupational Therapy Department is to establish excellence in occupational therapy education, research and scholarly activities as well as to prepare culturally knowledgeable entry level practitioners who will provide evidence-based occupational therapy services to a locally and globally diverse community. The Department’s mission reflects the College’s mission, to teach, conduct research, and service the community. The College prepares diverse health care professionals as providers and leaders in the delivery of high quality, accessible, culturally competent care within a highly technological and global environment. The College promotes, expands and validates scientific knowledge and evidence-based practice through interdisciplinary research. The Department’s mission is in concert with the University’s mission, to meet the educational and support needs of a diverse student population and provide opportunities for minority and non-traditional students.

Vision
The vision of the Occupational Therapy Department is to be locally and globally recognized for quality occupational therapy education, community engagement, research, and scholarly activity.

About The Profession
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 is an increasing demand for occupational therapists and excellent opportunities exist for career advancement. Additional information regarding careers in Occupational Therapy can be requested from the American Occupational Therapy Association Inc. at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, 20824-1220, at www.aota.org, or by calling (301) 652-AOTA or (800) 377-8555 (TDD - Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

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 from a regionally accredited college or university in a discipline other than occupational therapy, and
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, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. ACOTE’s telephone number C/O AOTA is (301) 652-6611. ONLY, the entry-level Professional Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program is accredited by ACOTE. Graduates of the program will be eligible 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).

Certification and Licensure
Most states require licensure to practice; however, it is usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure. Students should be aware that it is difficult (or impossible) to obtain a license if they have ever been convicted, plead guilty or nolo contendre to a felony violation.

Background Checks and Drug Screenings
All incoming students, as part of the admission process, must comply with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences [CNHS] policy for health and immunization screening and background check.

The health and immunization screening includes the following requirements:
- Immunization and/or titers of:
  - Varicella, Rubeola and Rubella, Mumps or MMR vaccine
• Tetanus Toxoid booster; diphtheria; pertussis, or
  ADACEL vaccine
• Hepatitis B Vaccine (3 doses)
• PPD - 2 step-if 1st time taker
  ▪ Medical history and Physical
  ▪ CPR/BLS – for health care providers from AHA or
  American Red Cross
  ▪ Proof of major medical health insurance coverage
  ▪ 7 year employment verification

Florida International University- College of Nursing and Health Sciences utilizes American Data Bank as the background clearing house, and for tracking student immunization records.

The background check includes social security number search (residency history, state and year SSN issued), criminal search (7 years), sex offender search, federal criminal search, and healthcare exclusion list.

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 policies 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 a regionally 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 complete an OT department application packet and send to the Occupational Therapy Department, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, AHC3 442A, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, 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.
2. All Applicants must also apply online to the FIU Graduate School by February 15. For additional information please visit http://gradschool.fiu.edu.

Admission Requirements
Admission to the Professional Master of Science in Occupational Therapy is highly competitive and admits students for the fall semester of each academic year. The department selects students based primarily on their record of academic excellence, although evidence of non-academic outstanding personal qualities and achievements are also considered.

To be admitted to the Professional Master's degree program students must:
1. Must have taken the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) within the last five years. GRE scores must be received by the application deadline.
2. Hold a bachelor degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
3. Have a minimum of 3.0 GPA average based on a 4.0 scale in upper division courses of the bachelor degree.
4. Complete the following prerequisite courses prior to the start of the fall admission term with a minimum grade of “C”: a) Abnormal Psychology; b) Human Growth & Development; c) Biology with Lab; d) Statistics; and e) Medical Terminology. Required cumulative GPA for all prerequisite courses is 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
5. A grade of “B” or above must be earned in the following 4 courses: a) Anatomy and Anatomy Lab; b) Pathology; c) Physiology; and d) Neuroscience. Three of the 4 courses must be completed prior to the February 15th OT Department Application submission deadline.
6. Complete the Occupational Therapy Department application (available to download online). Provide 3 letters of reference, a curriculum vitae/resume, and a summary statement of professional and educational goals. These documents are sent directly to the OT department with your application. Admission is competitive and submission of application materials does not guarantee admission into the program.
7. Meet admissions requirements of the OT department and the University Graduate School.
8. 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
1. Biology and lab
2. Human Physiology (3 credits) or Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs (students who have completed Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs have met the prerequisites for Biology and Physiology, but not Anatomy)6-8
3. Abnormal Psychology
4. Human Growth and Development
5. Statistics
6. Human Anatomy with lab1
Required Courses for Professional Master in OT:
(80 credits)

Professional Master's Course Sequence**

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<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>OTH 5011</td>
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<td>OTH 5760</td>
<td>Current Research in Occupational Therapy*</td>
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<td>Occupational Development: Adulthood and Aging</td>
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<td>Analysis &amp; Adaptation Human Motion Lab</td>
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<td>OTH 6772</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal*</td>
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<td>OTH 5922L</td>
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<td>OTH 5301</td>
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<td>OTH 6972</td>
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<td>OTH 6706</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Management</td>
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<td>OTH 5725</td>
<td>Infusing Occupation into Community Based Practice*</td>
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<td>OTH 6973</td>
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<td>OTH 6950L</td>
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OT Elective: 3
OTH 5845 Level II Fieldwork I: 6
OTH 5846 Level II Fieldwork II: 6

*Offered Online

** Curriculum and sequence may be changed by department

Academic Standing

Good Standing: To achieve and maintain a classification of good standing, the student must maintain a G.P.A. of 3.0.

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](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](http://gradschool.fiu.edu).
2. All applicants must complete an OT department application packet and send to the Occupational Therapy Department, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, AHC3 442A, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, 11200 SW 8th St., Miami, FL 33199. Department applications are available at [http://ot.fiu.edu](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 level work 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)**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>OTH 6009</td>
<td>Current Issues and Theories of Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OTH 6772</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal</td>
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<td>OTH 5280</td>
<td>Role of Environment in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OTH 5214</td>
<td>Occupational Therapist Role in Family Centered Care</td>
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<td>OTH 6972</td>
<td>Master's Project Development</td>
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<td>OTH 6973</td>
<td>Master's Project Implementation</td>
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**Academic Standing**

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