

## Occupational Therapy

**Kinsuk Maitra, Ph.D., OTR/L**, *Chairperson and Professor*

**Alma Abdel-Moty, Dr. OT, OTR/L**, *Clinical Associate*

*Professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator*

**Hector Huerta, OTD, OTR/L**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Elizabeth O. Morejon, OTD, OTR/L**, *Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Amy Paul-Ward, Ph.D., MSOT**, *Associate Professor*

**Lynne Richard, Ph.D., OT/L**, *Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Director*

**Ana Rodriguez, MSOT, OTR/L**, *Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Jaclyn Schwartz, Ph.D., OTR/L**, *Assistant Professor*

**Pey-Shan Wen, Ph.D., OTR/L**, *Assistant Professor*

## 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 serve 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 help people across the lifespan to participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (American Occupational Therapy Association).

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 therapists develop 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. Occupational therapists work collaboratively with individuals, families, 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 facilities, 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, 20824-3449, at [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org), or by calling (301) 652-6611 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, 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 20824-3449. ACOTE's telephone number C/O AOTA is (301) 652-2682, [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org).

### Certification and Licensure

The entry-level Professional Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program is accredited by ACOTE. Graduates of the program are 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).

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 contendere to a felony violation.

### Background Checks and Drug Screenings

All incoming students, as part of the admission process, must comply with the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences [NWCNHS] 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 Exam
- 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- Nicole Wertheim 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://cnhs.fiu.edu/ot/admission-and-advising/advising/index.html>. 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 or (305) 348-2922 and ask to speak with an advisor or Graduate Coordinator.

**NOTE:** The programs, policies, requirements, and regulations listed in this catalog are continually reviewed 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://cnhs.fiu.edu/ot/> 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 from a regionally accredited college or university. Through a combination of academic and fieldwork education the MSOT 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 OTCAS application at <https://portal.otcas.org>. Applications are accepted starting mid-July for admission in the fall semester of the following year. The application deadline is the beginning of February. Current departmental applications and instructions are available at <http://cnhs.fiu.edu/ot/admission-and-advising/advising/index.html>.
2. All Applicants must also apply to the FIU Graduate School by the application deadline date, February 15.

For additional information and application deadline to University Graduate School 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 on their record of academic excellence, outstanding personal qualities and achievements.

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

1. Have taken the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) within the last five years. GRE scores must be received by University Graduate School (GRE School Code 5206) 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 OT Department Application submission deadline.
6. Complete the OTCAS application. Provide 3 letters of reference, a curriculum vitae/resume, and a summary statement of professional and educational goals. These documents are submitted directly with your application. Admission is competitive and meeting the minimum requirements for admission does not guarantee admission into the program.
7. Meet admissions requirements of the OT department and the University Graduate School.
8. International students must have a Bachelor's degree equivalent of a US baccalaureate degree from an institution recognized in their own country as preparing students for graduate level study. 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). Minimum required scores is 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, 80 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT) or 6.5 overall on the IELTS.

### Prerequisites for the Professional MS degree

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Biology and lab   | 4   |
| 2. Human 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 Biology and 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 <sup>1</sup>   | 4   |
| 7. Pathology   | 3   |

8. Medical Terminology		1-3	OTH 5845	Level II Fieldwork I	6
9. Neuroscience <sup>1</sup>		3	OTH 5846	Level II Fieldwork II	6
<sup>1</sup> These courses must be numbered 3000 or above.					
<b>Required Courses for Professional Master in OT: (80 credits)</b>			<b>Academic Standing</b>		
<b>Professional Master's Course Sequence*</b>			Good Standing: To achieve and maintain a classification of good standing, the student must maintain a G.P.A. of 3.0.		
OTH 5011	Theories & Practice of O.T.	3	<b>Post Professional Master of Science: fully on-line (30 credits)</b>  This program is designed for occupational therapists who have achieved initial NBCOT certification and a degree in Occupational Therapy at the baccalaureate level.  <b>Application Process and Deadlines</b>  <b>Post Professional Master Degree</b>  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. <a href="http://gradschool.fiu.edu">http://gradschool.fiu.edu</a> .  The application and admission process is composed of two parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All Applicants must apply online to the FIU Graduate School at <a href="http://gradschool.fiu.edu">http://gradschool.fiu.edu</a>.</li><li>2. All applicants must complete an OT department application packet and send to the Occupational Therapy Department, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences, AHC3 442A, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, 11200 SW 8th St., Miami, FL 33199. Department applications are available at <a href="http://cnhs.fiu.edu/ot/admission-and-advising/index.html">http://cnhs.fiu.edu/ot/admission-and-advising/index.html</a>.</li></ol> <b>Admission Requirements</b>  To be admitted to the Post Professional Master's degree program students must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hold a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from an accredited institution and achieved initial NBCOT Certification in Occupational Therapy.</li><li>2. Have a minimum of 3.0 GPA average based on a 4.0 scale in upper level work of the baccalaureate degree.</li><li>3. Have a basic statistics course.</li><li>4. Provide three letters of reference, a curriculum vitae/resume, a summary statement of professional and educational goals.</li><li>5. Meet admissions requirements of the OT department and the University Graduate School.</li><li>6. International 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. 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). Minimum required scores is 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, 80 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT) or 6.5 overall on the IELTS.</li></ol>		
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 Through Adolescence Lab	1			
OTH 5760	Current Research in Occupational Therapy	3			
OTH 5921L	Integrative Seminar I	2			
OTH 5203	Occupational Development: Adulthood and Aging	3			
OTH 5414	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion	3			
OTH 5414L	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion Lab	1			
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 6772	Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal	3			
OTH 5922L	Integrative Seminar II	2			
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 6281	Cultural, Global, and Environmental Issues in Occupational Therapy*	3			
OTH 5301	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Psychosocial Practice I	2			
OTH 5301L	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Psychosocial Practice I Lab	1			
OTH 6972	Master's Project	3			
OTH 6706	Occupational Therapy Management	3			
OTH 6923L	Integrative Seminar III	2			
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			
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 5843C	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Psychosocial Practice II	3			
OTH 5725	Infusing Occupation into Community Based Practice	3			
OTH 6973	Master's Project	3			
OTH 6950L	Integrative Seminar IV	2			
OT Elective		3			

### **Degree Requirements for the Post-Professional Master in OT:**

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, Global, and Environmental Issues in Occupational Therapy	3
OT Elective		3
OTH 6972	Master's Project Development	3
OTH 6973	Master's Project Implementation	3

#### **Academic Standing**

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