

## Occupational Therapy

**Lynne Richard, Ph.D., OT/L**, *Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Clinical Associate Professor*

**Ingris Treminio, OTD, OTR/L**, *Interim Chair and Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Alma Abdel-Moty, Dr. OT, MS, OTR/L**, *Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Clinical Professor*

**Tana Carson, Ph.D., MOT, OTR/L**, *Assistant Professor*

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

**Ellen Modlin, PhD, OTR/L, BCP, (New York University)**, *Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy*

**Rebecca Mojica, OTD, MS, OTR/L**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*

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

**Ana Rodriguez, OTD, MS, OTR/L**, *Clinical 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 responsive 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 found at the American Occupational Therapy Association Inc. at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929, at [www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org), or by calling (301) 652-6611 or (800) 377-8555 (TDD - Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

The OT program is a seven semester, 80 credit, and full-time program leading to a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree.

### Program Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Professional MS Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number C/O AOTA is (301) 652-6611, [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; eligibility for a licensure is usually based on successful graduation from an accredited OT program and passing the NBCOT Certification Exam. 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 admitted and 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, Rubella 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
- Proof of major medical health insurance coverage
- 7 year employment verification
- Pass a drug screening

Florida International University- NWCNHS utilizes Complio 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 information sessions for interested applicants are held on a regular basis during the semester; the dates are posted on the department website, <https://cnhs.fiu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy/index.html>. If you have specific questions related to your application, the OT advisor will answer them during the session. All applicants are expected to attend an information session. Students can also call the OT department at (305) 348-6068 or (305) 348-2922 and ask to speak with an advisor.

**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 <https://cnhs.fiu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy/index.html> 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 an 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 three parts:

1. The OT program uses the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) for application to our program. An applicant must create an OTCAS account at: <https://otcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/>. All application materials are completed through the OTCAS system. All official transcripts should be sent directly to OTCAS to verify your academic records. All application materials must be received by the application deadline in order to be considered. Our website: <https://cnhs.fiu.edu/academics/occupational-therapy/index.html> provides full details and application the deadline date.

2. Applicants are required to submit an Admissions application fee. The FIU Admissions Office will contact applicants via email with instructions regarding payment after the OTCAS application is complete.
3. Official transcripts must be sent to the FIU Admission's Office if you are admitted to the OT program. For more information: <https://admissions.fiu.edu/how-to-apply/graduate-applicant/index.html>.

### 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 considered for admission to the Professional Master's degree program students must:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Have a minimum of 3.0 GPA average based on a 4.0 scale in upper division courses of the bachelor's degree.
3. 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.
4. A grade of "B" or above must be earned in the following 4 courses: a) Anatomy and Anatomy Lab; b) Kinesiology; c) Physiology; and d) Neuroscience. Applicants with 3 of the 4 courses complete by the application deadline will be given priority for review and potential admission.
5. Complete the OTCAS application. Provide 3 letters of reference, a personal essay of professional and educational goals, work experience, activities, accomplishments and recognitions. 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.
6. Meet admissions requirements of the OT department, FIU's Admission Office and pay the FIU Admissions Office application fee.
7. 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.
8. A departmental interview may be 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 Anatomy and Physiology) 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. Kinesiology	3
8. Medical Terminology	1-3
9. Neuroscience <sup>1</sup>	3

<sup>1</sup>This course must be numbered 3000 or above.

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

#### Professional Master's Course Sequence\*

OTH 5011	Foundations of O.T. Practice	3
OTH 5162	Therapeutic Approaches in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 5162L	Therapeutic Approaches in Occupational Therapy - Lab	1
OTH 5202	Occupational Development: Infancy Throughout Adolescence	3
OTH 5202L	Occupational Development: Infancy Through Adolescence Lab	1
OTH 5760	Current Research in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 5224	Conditions Affecting Occupational Performance	3
OTH 5203	Occupational Development: Adulthood and Aging	3
OTH 5414	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion	3
OTH 5414L	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion Lab	1
OTH 6195	Assistive Technology and the Environment	2
OTH 6195L	Assistive Technology and the Environment Lab	1
OTH 6772	Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal	3
OTH 5430	Biomechanical and Rehabilitative Approaches in Occupational Therapy I	2
OTH 5430L	Biomechanical and Rehabilitative Approaches in Occupational Therapy I - Lab	1
OTH 5217	Occupational Engagement Throughout the Continuum of Care	2
OTH 5217L	Occupational Engagement Throughout the Continuum of Care Lab	1
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 5524	Occupation-based Intervention for Pediatric Populations	3
OTH 5524L	Occupation-based Intervention for Pediatric Populations Lab	1
OTH 6972	Master's Project	3
OTH 6431	Biomechanical and Rehabilitative Approaches in Occupational Therapy II	3
OTH 6431L	Biomechanical and Rehabilitative Approaches in Occupational Therapy II Lab	1
OTH 5438	Adult Neurorehabilitative Approaches in Occupational Therapy	3

OTH 5438L	Adult Neurorehabilitative Approaches in Occupational Therapy - Lab	1
OTH 5843C	Adaptation of Human Occupation and Environment for Psychosocial Practice II 3	
OTH 5725	Management and Community Based Practice in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 6973	Master's Project	3
OTH 5922L	Integrative Seminar	2
OT Elective		3
OTH 5845	Level II Fieldwork I	6
OTH 5846	Level II Fieldwork II	6

*\*Some courses may be 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 minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 in the courses required for the OT degree. The OT Program consists of 80 graduate credits. Full time enrollment is required. Students will complete seven semesters in the program.

### Progression in the OT MS Program

The student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in required OT graduate courses with a minimum of a "C+" (77%) or better in all required OT courses including OT electives.

If a student earns less than a C+ in any course, the course must be repeated and earn a grade of "B" or better. If this course is a pre-requisite for another course, the student will not be allowed to continue enrollment. Only one course repeat in the program will be allowed. Therefore, a student who earns a grade below a C+ in more than one course will be dismissed from the OT program.

Students may not have a cumulative GPA below 3.0 in the OT didactic courses for more than two semesters (this encompasses semesters one through five). If the cumulative GPA for required coursework is below 3.0 for a third semester, the student will be dismissed from the program.

In order to enroll in semesters six and seven (OTH 5845 and OTH 5846 fieldwork courses) a cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required.

### Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for graduation the student must:

- Meet all University Graduate School requirements for graduation.
- Satisfactorily complete all didactic and fieldwork requirements within OT degree program guidelines.
- Have a minimum graduate GPA of 3.0 in the OT degree required courses