

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (ADVANCED STANDING) (OTD)

<https://chhs.unh.edu/occupational-therapy/program/otd/occupational-therapy-advanced-standing>

Description

UNH students who are in the BS program in occupational therapy may apply to enter into the Advanced-Standing OTD Program to complete an OTD Degree in Occupational Therapy to be eligible to enter the profession of occupational therapy. Because they have completed some of the professional courses as an undergraduate student at UNH, they earn their OTD Degree in Occupational Therapy in two full years (6 semesters, including 2 summers).

An entry level doctoral degree in occupational therapy will prepare you to enter the profession with strong foundational skills in occupational therapy assessment and intervention, advanced training in clinical skills, leadership and advocacy, clinical research, and program development. You will learn to evaluate, plan and provide intervention, and monitor the outcomes of clients facing a variety of illnesses, injuries, and disabilities such as autism, traumatic brain injury, stroke, substance abuse and musculoskeletal injuries. At UNH, you will learn and apply occupational therapy principles to traditional and emerging areas of practice, in hospital and community-based settings and for individual clients and population groups. Graduates gain valuable skills to become leaders in their field, advance in their careers, and position themselves as agents of change to influence policy and practice.

You would complete the Advanced-Standing OTD Program in 2 years (6 semesters) of professional courses to prepare for all areas of occupational therapy practice. The curriculum includes 24 weeks of full-time fieldwork. You also may choose to complete a graduate certificate in Assistive Technology to focus your education. Your education concludes with a 14-week doctoral capstone where you apply and expand your knowledge and take on leadership roles to develop a new program addressing specific client needs, conduct research, promote policy changes, or provide education.

After completing your degree, including fieldwork and the doctoral capstone, you will be eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy examination to become a registered occupational therapist (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect your ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

OTD Program Accreditation Status

The entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctoral Degree Program has been granted **Candidacy Status** by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929, (301) 652-AOTA. The program must have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational

Therapy (NBCOT). The UNH Program is scheduled for on-site evaluation in the fall of 2025, prior to a May 2026 graduation.

Admissions Information

Students who are completing the undergraduate portion of the UNH occupational therapy program declare their intent to apply to our Advanced Standing OTD program by the end of their sophomore year. They take professional courses as part of their baccalaureate degree requirements enabling them to enter the OTD program with Advanced Standing, with a full year of courses completed. Students officially apply to the Graduate School for the Advanced Standing OTD Program in the spring semester of their senior year, using an abbreviated process. Students should speak with their academic advisor regarding specific application requirements for writing a personal statement and letters of recommendation. An overall minimum grade point of B (3.0) is required for admission. Students must earn grades of B- or above in all OT courses at 700 level, with no more than 8 credits of B- or lower in OT courses (700 level or above).

Academic Standards and Policies

Retention in the OTD program reflects the same grade criteria required for entry and students must meet the professional behavior standards, which are explained in detail in the *OT Department Policy and Procedure Manual*, provided to all occupational therapy students. Because curriculum review and revision are undertaken annually, occupational therapy faculty work closely with students during academic advising sessions and share information about any policy and requirement changes during registration periods as well as throughout the academic year. Students are expected to take an active role in verifying expectations and requirements and should check with their departmental advisers each September for updated policies and requirements. Program requirements and policies for retention in the major are posted annually in the *OT Department Policy and Procedure Manual*, which is available on the OT department's organization site on the Learning Management Platform, *MyCourses*.

The OTD is awarded at the completion of all academic coursework, meeting the above grade requirements, passing all competency (practical) exams as part of OT courses, passing all level I fieldwork requirements and receive a passing criterion score on the *American Occupational Therapy Association Fieldwork Performance Evaluation for the Occupational Therapist* in both 12-week Level II fieldwork experiences as well as successfully completing the doctoral capstone.

Students participate in a variety of off-campus and fieldwork experiences throughout the course of study and are covered with basic personal liability insurance through UNH for all practical components of the curriculum. Students are responsible for transportation to fieldwork sites and other off-campus learning experiences. Students are responsible for meeting the health and criminal record clearances established by their fieldwork sites and off-campus learning sites including capstone sites. Proof of immunization such as poliomyelitis, rubella, H1N1, and hepatitis B may also be required. For Level II fieldwork, health insurance and a physical examination, including a tuberculin test, are required. All fieldwork experiences are scheduled in centers approved by the Department of Occupational Therapy and with whom active Memoranda of Understanding with UNH exist. Fieldwork is planned collaboratively with the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and capstone is planned with guidance from the Capstone Coordinator.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

The OTD is awarded at the completion of all academic coursework, meeting grade requirements, passing all competency (practical) exams as part of OT courses, passing all level I fieldwork requirements and receive a passing criterion score on the *American Occupational Therapy Association Fieldwork Performance Evaluation for the Occupational Therapist* in both 12-week Level II fieldwork experiences as well as successfully completing the doctoral capstone.

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Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
OT 830 & 830L or OT 871 & 871L	Assistive Technology for Enhancing Occupational Performance and Assistive Technology for Enhancing Occupational Performance Lab Enabling Participation in Community Groups and Enabling Participation in Community Groups Lab	4
OT 845	Administration and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice	3
OT 846	Fieldwork and Professionalism-Level II	1
OT 854	Level II Fieldwork, I	8
OT 855	Level II Fieldwork Discussion	1
OT 856	Level II Fieldwork, II	8
OT 964	Age Well: Occupational Therapy with Older Adults	3
OT 998	Recent Advances in Neurological Evaluation and Intervention	3
OT 983	Engagement in Research	3
OT #965	Occupational Therapy Practice and Professional Reasoning	3
OT #975	Leadership in OT Systems of Practice	3
OT #901	Introduction to Capstone	2
OT #902	Capstone Preparation	3
OT #903	Capstone: Project Implementation, Evaluation and Dissemination	12
Elective or Graduate Certificate Course		3-4

Degree Plan

Occupational Therapy (Advanced Standing) OTD

First Year

Summer		Credits
OT 964	Age Well: Occupational Therapy with Older Adults	3
OT 998	Recent Advances in Neurological Evaluation and Intervention	3
Credits		6

Fall

OT 845	Administration and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice	3
OT 983	Engagement in Research	3
OT 830 & 830L or OT 871 <i>and</i> OT 871L	Assistive Technology for Enhancing Occupational Performance or Enabling Participation in Community Groups <i>and</i> Enabling Participation in Community Groups Lab	4
OT 846	Fieldwork and Professionalism-Level II	1
Credits		11

Spring

OT 854	Level II Fieldwork, I	8
OT 855	Level II Fieldwork Discussion	1
OT 856	Level II Fieldwork, II	8
Credits		17

Second Year

Summer

OT #901	Introduction to Capstone	2
Credits		2

Fall

OT #965	Occupational Therapy Practice and Professional Reasoning	3
OT #975	Leadership in OT Systems of Practice	3
OT #902	Capstone Preparation	3
Required Elective or Grad Certificate Course		3-4
Credits		12-13

Spring

OT #903	Capstone: Project Implementation, Evaluation and Dissemination	12
Credits		12
Total Credits		60-61

Student Learning Outcomes

Occupational Therapy OTD Entry-level Program Student Outcomes at the completion of the professional entry-level OTD Program, our graduates will:

Demonstrate commitment and ability to use meaningful occupation for promoting health and well-being.

- Our curriculum emphasizes the idea that engagement in everyday occupations will lead to fulfillment of life roles and the promotion of health and well-being of individuals, communities, and populations. Our graduates are ready and dedicated to apply occupation-based evaluation and intervention techniques, and to share and expand authentic occupational therapy practice.

Demonstrate professional attitudes and behaviors in their interactions with clients and others.

- Our graduates will be dedicated to ethical, client-driven practice demonstrating cultural sensitivity, integrity, honesty, compassion, and fairness. They will demonstrate respect for all persons with whom they work, appreciating and considering individual identities, priorities, abilities, and life experiences. They will be able to collaborate in intraprofessional and interdisciplinary teams within various settings, understanding the roles and expertise of other occupational therapists and other professionals.

Demonstrate entry-level competencies as OT practitioners across diverse practice settings, skilled in the delivery evidence-based, occupation-centered evaluation and intervention techniques.

- Our graduates develop critical thinking skills and the capacity for creative clinical reasoning for providing client-centered, occupation-centered services. Graduates will apply a variety of evaluation methods for understanding a person's occupational history, abilities, challenges and goals. They will apply occupation-centered

intervention approaches and innovative technologies to address the needs of individuals and populations in traditional and emerging medical, educational, and other community-based practice settings.

Demonstrate skills for translating research-to-practice and generating new knowledge grounded in occupational therapy practice.

- Our graduates will be skilled in identifying, critiquing, and synthesizing relevant research for delivering evidence-based services. Graduates will demonstrate capacity to translate research evidence to influence practice. They will have skills for contributing to the body of knowledge that supports and advances the profession.

Demonstrate skills to become leaders and innovators as practitioners, researchers, advocates, educators, administrators, policy-makers, and entrepreneurs.

- Our graduates will apply leadership knowledge and skills, ethical reasoning, knowledge of policy and systems to be agents of change in diverse settings. Our graduates will be life-long learners and innovative thinkers committed to ongoing professional development. Our graduates will support and promote occupational justice for individuals, communities, and populations.

Disclosures

Professional Licensure/Certification Disclosures

The University of New Hampshire offers a number of academic programs designed to lead to professional licensure or certification in New Hampshire. However, completing a UNH degree/program does not guarantee professional licensure or certification. Eligibility may also depend on factors like years of work experience, professional examinations, passing a background check, and other criteria.

UNH does not guarantee that its professional licensure programs will satisfy the criteria of professional licensure boards in other states. Some states maintain different requirements for professional licensure or certification and requirements can change frequently. Federal regulations require the University to make public disclosure of certain information regarding professional licensure or certification programs, regardless of the modality the program is offered (i.e., in-person or online). The University provides guidance below but recommends students contact their state/territory licensing or certification board to ensure a program meets specific state/territory requirements.

Visit the Office of the Registrar's [website](#) for information about whether this program meets professional licensure requirements in your state.