

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT)

## Degrees Offered: M.S., Graduate Certificate

*These programs are offered in Durham.*

The Department of Occupational Therapy offers the master of science degree in occupational therapy and an online graduate certificate in assistive technology.

Occupational therapy enables people to participate successfully in their choice of daily life activities including leisure, play, work, self care, and home management. The master's degree prepares students for entry level occupational therapy practice. Students gain the knowledge and skills to work with people of all ages to enable their participation within their natural environments.

The Occupational Therapy Program at the University of New Hampshire is accredited by the:

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA),  
4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200  
Bethesda, MD 20824-3449

ACOTE's telephone number is (301) 652-AOTA and its website is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org) (<http://www.acoteonline.org>).

Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapist, administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice. State licenses are based on the successful 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.

## Admission Requirements

### Professional Master's Program in Occupational Therapy

(This admissions process applies to candidates with completed undergraduate degree(s) and UNH seniors who are not in the B.S./M.S. Occupational Science/Occupational Therapy program.)

Applicants need a minimum overall grade point of 3.0 in undergraduate coursework and the following prerequisite courses:

- Human anatomy and physiology (two courses with labs)
- Neuroanatomy
- Clinical Kinesiology
- Research Methods
- Human development (one lifespan development course that covers from birth to old age, or two courses, a child and an adult development course)
- Statistics

Applicants must complete and submit the Prerequisite Verification Form ([http://gradschool.unh.edu/pdf/frm\\_ot\\_crse\\_verify\\_nofil.pdf](http://gradschool.unh.edu/pdf/frm_ot_crse_verify_nofil.pdf)). Priority for admission will be given to applicants with all prerequisite courses

completed. Prerequisites must be completed prior to entry into the professional master's program.

Three letters of reference must accompany the application. Two of these must address the applicant's educational abilities/performance. One letter must address the applicant's interpersonal/communication skills as observed in a volunteer or paid-employment setting.

Applications are accepted beginning in the fall of the year before a candidate will begin the program. Candidates are encouraged to submit their applications to the Graduate School by the end of December to ensure that all applications are complete in time for review. Once submitted, applicants should periodically review their application status on the Graduate School website and contact the Graduate School about missing items. Admission to the occupational therapy program is a competitive process and not all qualified students are admitted. Applicants will be notified of admission mid-March.

### UNH B.S./M.S. Students (Advanced-standing) Applying to the Entry-Level Professional Master's Degree Program

Students who are completing a baccalaureate degree in occupational science at UNH apply with advanced standing to the entry-level master's in occupational therapy degree program. These students take the first year of the two-and-a-half year (five semesters) entry-level master's program as part of their baccalaureate in occupational science degree requirements.

Students in the combined B.S./M.S. program must apply for admission to the Graduate School to enter into the professional master's degree program, meet Graduate School requirements for entry into the graduate portion of their program, and be officially admitted by the Graduate School. This process occurs in the spring semester of the senior year. An overall minimum grade point of 3.0 and a grade of B- or better in all OT coursework are required for admission.

Two letters of references must accompany the application for B.S./M.S. students:

- one from the student's undergraduate academic adviser; and
- one from an Occupational Therapy Department faculty member.

B.S./M.S. students planning to also complete a graduate certificate may apply into the accelerated cohort. Accelerated admission enables B.S./M.S. students to take graduate certificate courses at the 800 level in the J term and spring semester of their senior year in the B.S. program (see detailed instructions below).

### UNH B.S./M.S. Students Applying to the Professional Master's Degree Program for Early Admission (Accelerated Master's)

Students applying into the accelerated cohort are those students in the B.S./M.S. program who plan to complete graduate certificates, such as the Graduate Certificate in Assistive Technology. Accelerated admission enables students to take graduate certificate courses at the 800-level in the J term and spring semester of their senior year in the B.S. program.

Applications for admission as an accelerated master's candidate must be completed by the posted deadlines. An overall minimum grade point of **3.2** and a grade of B- or better in all senior-level OT coursework is required for admission.

Two letters of references must accompany the application for B.S./M.S. students:

- one from the student's undergraduate academic adviser; and
- one from an Occupational Therapy Department faculty member.

Students in the accelerated master's professional program can **only** register in the graduate certificate-related courses at the 800 level; all other senior OT courses must be taken at the 700 level.

<https://chhs.unh.edu/directory/all>

## Programs

- Occupational Therapy (M.S.) (<http://catalog.unh.edu/graduate/programs-study/occupational-therapy/occupational-therapy-ms>)
- Assistive Technology (Graduate Certificate) (<http://catalog.unh.edu/graduate/programs-study/occupational-therapy/assistive-technology-certificate>)

## Courses

### Occupational Therapy (OT)

#### OT 810 - OT Practice and Professional Roles

**Credits:** 3

Students are introduced to foundation knowledge, values and philosophy of occupational therapy practice. Students learn skills to apply professional behaviors and skills required to be ethical practitioners. They learn about various practice settings and systems within which occupational therapists practice to prepare them to begin to make decisions regarding their fieldwork site selections. They are introduced to models of OT practice. Only open to OT majors. Special fee.

#### OT 822 - Introduction to Assistive Technology

**Credits:** 4

This hands on course will provide participants with an overview of the application of assistive technology in all life settings for individuals affected by physical, sensory, or cognitive limitations. Methods, materials, and resources for obtaining and providing assistive technology services will also be discussed. Special fee.

#### OT 824 - Assistive Technology and Physical Disabilities

**Credits:** 4

An advanced course that focuses on the specialized assistive technology needs of persons with physical impairments. Topics include: seating and positioning needs; prosthetic devices; manual and powered mobility devices; ergonomics and computer access. Special fee.

#### OT 826 - Assistive Technology and Sensory, Communicative, and Cognitive Disabilities

**Credits:** 4

Explores the application of various technologies for individuals with visual, auditory, cognitive and communication impairments. Included are: Blind and low vision aides, assistive listening devices, alternative and augmentative communication devices, memory aides, and prompting aides. Special fee.

#### OT 830 - Assistive Technology for Enhancing Occupational Performance

**Credits:** 3

This course provides instruction on how occupational therapy practitioners use and apply assistive technology in the context of client evaluation and intervention, to improve quality of life and functional capacities. Students learn and apply clinical reasoning skills related to selection, procurement, modification and training in the use of assistive technology solutions.

**Co-requisite:** OT 830L

#### OT 830L - Assistive Technology for Enhancing Occupational Performance Lab

**Credits:** 2

Co-Requisite Laboratory for OT 730/830 Assistive Technology for Enhancing Occupational Performance. Students are provided hands-on learning experiences regarding the fabrication, identification, adaptation and training in the use of assistive technology for individuals with functional problems associated with disability or impairment. OT evaluation and interventions related to the application of assistive technology are addressed.

**Co-requisite:** OT 830

#### OT 831 - Introduction to Assistive Technology Principles

**Credits:** 2

This course presents an overview of the various assistive technology service delivery models, assessments tools, legislation, funding, and assistive technology across the lifespan.

#### OT 832 - Introduction to Assistive Technology Practices

**Credits:** 2

This course provides an overview of various service delivery models and teaches students how to create and modify devices. Students will conduct device demonstrations, training, reuse, and repair while acquiring skills using various fabrication tools, materials and techniques. Students will receive a materials kit they will use to fabricate eight assistive technology solutions. They will also be required to submit video clips and photos demonstrating their skills providing device demonstrations, loans and customer training.

#### OT 833 - Assistive Technology and Physical Disabilities for Electronic Devices

**Credits:** 2

This course focuses on switch and computer access solutions; programming switch interfaces for computers and iPads; alternative mice and keyboards; switch access recipes; iPad mounting solutions; electronic aids for daily living, voice controlled solutions for the phone, computer, and activation of household appliances. Students will learn how to make, modify, and mount various switches and electronic devices. Intensive hands-on AT exploration will be completed on campus or virtual evidence provided will be accepted.

#### OT 834 - Assistive Technology and Physical Disabilities for the Home, Community and Employment

**Credits:** 2

This course focuses on assistive technology solutions to maximize independence at home, in the community, and on the job for individuals who experience physical disabilities. Students will acquire skills in conducting accessibility assessments. Topics explored include wheelchair seating and mobility; ergonomic hand tools; independent living aids; ramps and lifts; vehicle modifications; and modifications for canes, crutches, walkers, and wheelchairs. Intensive hands-on AT exploration will be completed on campus or virtual evidence provided will be accepted.

**OT 835 - Assistive Technology for Communication and Cognitive Impairments****Credits: 2**

This course focuses on alternative and augmentative communication devices and devices that benefit individuals who experience cognitive impairments. This course explores assistive technology solutions for note taking, devices and apps for self-regulation, organization, and reminders. Students will learn how to conduct cognitive demand analysis for devices and apps to help users select appropriate accommodations and assistive technology solutions. Intensive hands-on AT exploration will be completed on campus or virtual evidence provided will be accepted.

**OT 836 - Assistive Technology and Vision and Hearing Impairments****Credits: 2**

This course focuses on assistive technology for blind and low vision; deaf and hard of hearing; and deaf/blindness. Students will use an assortment of magnification devices; amplification systems; and assistive listening devices as well as learn how to create a variety of approaches to accommodate for vision and hearing impairments. Intensive hands-on AT exploration will be completed on campus or virtual evidence provided will be accepted.

**OT 841 - Human Occupation****Credits: 4**

This course introduces students to the broad concept of occupation by exploring ways people acquire skills for occupational performance. Students develop an understanding of the relations between health and occupation, disability and occupation, and explore how humans find meaning in their lives, through occupational engagement. This course is writing intensive.

**OT 844 - Fieldwork and Professionalism - Level 1****Credits: 1**

This course prepares students to enter level 1 fieldwork with confidence and working knowledge of expectations for a full-time two-week level 1 fieldwork experience. Cr/F.

**OT 845 - Administration and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice****Credits: 3**

This course aims to increase the student's understanding of systems of practice, and to business fundamentals associated with occupational therapy service delivery. Specific topics covered include and analysis of practice settings, reimbursement, supervision of professional and non-professional staff, program evaluation methods, ethics, OT management practices, marketing, health policy including medicare, Human Rights and Education Legislation, and the impact of policy decisions for the delivery of OT services. OT and OT Asst Tech Certificate majors only.

**OT 846 - Transitions: Student to Professional****Credits: 2**

This course is designed to help occupational therapy students explore role changes involved in leaving the academic world and entering the larger realm of professional and practice settings. Research on professional development indicates this transition is easier when students are prepared in both personal and institutional domains. Through lecture, presentations, small group work, readings, and written assignments students are given opportunities to analyze factors that contribute to successful professional development and ethical practice. Students use the results of their analyses to plan their individual transitions to fieldwork and entry-level practice. Prereq: OT 892; second semester standing in first year of MS program.

**OT 851 - Mind Body Systems/Neurologically-based Function and Dysfunction****Credits: 3**

Students study most significant occupational-related disorders commonly seen by occupational therapists. A self-directed method is used to examine the perceptual, cognitive, biopsychosocial basis of these disorders. A basic overview of human body-mind systems is provided with an emphasis on pathology, the recognition of symptoms, their causes and the occupational implications of the disorders. The course is a prerequisites for courses in specific occupational therapy assessment and intervention.

**OT 852 - Human Movement and Environmental Effects on Everyday Occupations****Credits: 3**

Students will integrate their prerequisite knowledge of occupation. The course will develop skills required for interpretation of biomechanical analysis for creating successful occupational performance for individuals with varied musculoskeletal, cardiac, and respiratory dysfunction. Integration of the occupational therapy clinical reasoning process and the use of occupations as a therapeutic mechanism for change will be emphasized. The analysis of environment as it relates to human movement and participation in desired occupations will be explored. Special fee.

**Co-requisite:** OT 852L**OT 852L - Human Movement and Environmental Effects on Everyday Occupations Lab****Credits: 1**

Lab. OT majors only. Special fee. Cr/F.

**Co-requisite:** OT 852**OT 853 - Mind Body Systems: Neurologically-based Function and Dysfunction--Pediatric Conditions****Credits: 4**

This course is the first course in a two-part sequence that uses a life span approach, drawing on occupational science perspectives to study conditions diagnosed during childhood (birth through age 20). The emphasis is on the interaction of the individual (the mind), the body and the psychosocial environment as related to occupational performance. Students will work in pairs to examine selected disorders, and will further develop their presentation skills. This course is a prerequisite for courses in occupational therapy assessment and intervention in pediatric practice. Prereq: KIN 706.

**OT 854 - Level II Fieldwork, I****Credits: 8**

This course is a 12-week, full-time internship that takes place after completion of the first graduate year, either in the summer or the fall. Level II fieldwork provides students with opportunities to: experience in-depth delivery of occupational therapy services to clients; focus on the application of purposeful and meaningful occupation and/or research, administration and management of occupational therapy services. Level II fieldwork is designed to promote clinical reasoning and reflective practice, to transmit values and beliefs that promote ethical practice and to develop professionalism and competence as career responsibilities.

OT majors only. Cr/F.

**Co-requisite:** OT 855

**OT 855 - Level II Fieldwork Discussion****Credits: 1**

OT 855 Level II Fieldwork, I, online discussion is a co-requisite course that accompanies OT 854 and OT 856: Level II Fieldwork. Students respond to instructor-lead discussion prompts as well as to postings of their classmates. The online discussion provides the opportunity for students to relate fieldwork experiential learning to all areas of UNH coursework including: mind-body systems, health-and-human systems of care; assessment; intervention; documentation; evidence-based practice; client-centered and occupation-centered practice; and application of research to practice. Students engage in on-going discussion about professional identity and the transition from student to professional as they describe and discuss fieldwork challenges and successes across a variety of practice settings. Cr/F.

**Co-requisite:** OT 854

**OT 856 - Level II Fieldwork, II****Credits: 8**

This course is the second 12-week, full-time internship. It takes place after two semesters in the second graduate year. OT 856 provides students with opportunities to evaluate, develop and implement in-depth delivery of occupational therapy services in population-based practice and to focus on research and/or administration and management of occupational therapy services. OT majors only. Cr/F.

**OT 857 - Mind Body Systems: Neurologically-based Function and Dysfunction--Adult Conditions****Credits: 4**

This course is the second course in a two-part course sequence that uses a life span approach, drawing on occupational science perspectives to study conditions typically diagnosed during adulthood (ages 21 and up). The emphasis is on the interaction of the individual (the mind), the body and the psychosocial environment as related to occupational performance. Students will work in pairs to examine selected disorders, and will further develop their presentation skills. This course is a prerequisite for courses in occupational therapy assessment and intervention for adults. Prereq: KIN 706; OT 753/OT 853.

**OT 860 - Psychosocial Evaluation and Intervention****Credits: 3**

Examines the evaluation of psychosocial and psycho-emotional areas of occupational performance and the planning and implementation of occupation-based interventions across domains of practice and client populations. Course addresses developing a client's occupational profile, narrative reasoning and therapeutic use of self, behavioral change, illness representation, and adjustment to chronic disorders. A specific focus of the course is evaluation of and intervention for clients' presenting with mental health disorders. Open to OT majors only.

**Co-requisite:** OT 860L

**OT 860L - Psychosocial Evaluation and Intervention Lab****Credits: 1**

This is the co-requisite lab for OT 860. Lab provides hands-on experiences regarding the evaluation and intervention of psychological and psycho-emotional areas of occupational performance. Course focuses on the evaluation and intervention for clients presenting with mental health disorders and also addresses narrative reasoning, therapeutic use of self, behavioral change, illness representation and adjustment to chronic disorders. Special fee. Cr/F.

**Co-requisite:** OT 860

**OT 862 - OT Evaluation and Intervention for Children****Credits: 3**

Students will gain foundation knowledge of OT evaluation intervention process. Students apply the clinical reasoning process for the evaluation and treatment of children with various conditions, and across age groups. Students learn common assessment tools used by occupational therapists, and how to select and critique evaluation methods. Select cases will be used for the application of knowledge, interventions, and frames of reference used with children.

**Co-requisite:** OT 862L

**OT 862L - OT Evaluation and Intervention for Children - Lab****Credits: 1**

This is the corequisite lab for OT 862, Evaluation and Intervention for Children. Students develop technical skills in administering evaluation tools, methods and procedures, in making clinical decisions about intervention planning and implementation. Students learn, practice and demonstrate many intervention techniques used with children, and complete a number of clinical case studies. OT majors only. Special fee.

**Co-requisite:** OT 862

**OT 863 - Occupational Therapy Intervention for Adults****Credits: 3**

Students gain foundation knowledge of the OT evaluation and intervention process with adults with neurological and orthopedic conditions. Students apply the clinical reasoning process to clinical practice with adults with various types of medical conditions. Students learn about common assessment tools available to occupational therapists for adults, where, when, and how to apply them. Students develop technical skills in administering selected evaluation tools, in integrating assessment data, and demonstrate clinical decisions about intervention planning and implementation. Selected cases are used for application of knowledge, and the course covers the application of common intervention strategies used by occupational therapists with adults.

**Co-requisite:** OT 863L

**OT 863L - Occupational Therapy Evaluation and Intervention for Adults - Lab****Credits: 1**

Students develop technical skills in administering selected evaluation tools, in integrating assessment data, and demonstrate clinical decisions about intervention planning and implementation. OT majors only. Special fee.

**Co-requisite:** OT 863

**OT 863R - Adult Evaluation and Intervention Recitation****Credits: 0**

Adult Evaluation and Intervention Recitation provides additional hands-on and reflective discussion for acquiring skills needed for acute care/hospital in-patient settings.

**Co-requisite:** OT 863

**OT 865 - Occupational Therapy Practice and Professional Reasoning****Credits: 3**

Develops professional reasoning by building upon level II fieldwork experiences. Students develop a population-based intervention plan, explore occupational therapy in an emerging or specialized practice setting, and implement a plan for continuing professional development. Students prepare for their OT board certification examination, and complete a culminating capstone experience.

**OT 866 - AMPS Training****Credits: 4**

The Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS) provides a client-centered, occupation-based assessment of a person's ADL ability. The course supports occupation-based intervention. Students learn to reliably administer the AMPS and use it in the context of occupational therapy practice. Cr/F.

**OT 871 - Enabling Participation in Community Groups****Credits: 3**

Students will work in an organization, learn about the people served by this organization, conduct therapeutic groups within the organization. Emphasis of content includes group process, clinical documentation, intervention planning and OT services with adults with cognitive impairments.

**OT 871L - Enabling Participation in Community Groups Lab****Credits: 2**

Students will work in an organization, learn about the people served by this organization and conduct therapeutic groups. This lab serves as a Level I Fieldwork placement. Special fee.

**OT 875 - Leadership in Occupational Therapy Systems of Practice****Credits: 3**

Students will integrate concepts, principles, and strategies that are fundamental to the provision of occupational therapy services in the changing U.S. health care system. This course links system management, reimbursement mechanisms, and public policy found in occupational therapy practice settings to the populations served. Knowledge of leadership, management, ethics and marketing principles that are necessary for success in today's health care industry are emphasized.

**OT 885 - Research Methods and Application to Practice****Credits: 3**

Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods types of research are introduced and applied to relevant occupational therapy questions. Students acquire the fundamental skills of conducting research such as formulating research questions and identifying appropriate research designs and/or methods. Students also develop the ability to critically analyze research studies and apply the outcome to evidence-based practice in occupational therapy. OT majors only.

**OT 886 - Engagement in Research****Credits: 3**

Students engage in activities of systematic inquiry and research under the mentorship of a research-active faculty mentor. Students gain experience with aspects of the research process, which may include conducting a literature review, developing a research proposal, data collection, data analysis, writing a research paper, and the presentation of research findings. Students also apply ethics for the use of human participation in research, and learn about funding avenues for different areas of research. OT and OT Asst Tech Certificate majors only.

**OT 887 - Upper Extremity Rehabilitation and Splinting****Credits: 4**

This graduate course is designated to expose students to the specialized area of upper extremity rehabilitation including a detailed, working knowledge of hand anatomy, biomechanics, kinesiology, surgical techniques, and splinting in order to effectively treat upper extremity clinical problems. Students also learn about the common diagnoses seen in upper extremity rehabilitation, critically analyze treatment protocols, and precautions for these common diagnoses, and develop splinting and other evaluation and intervention techniques for this population. OT majors only. Special fee.

**OT 888 - Application of Physical Agent Modalities in Occupational Therapy Practice****Credits: 3**

This course is designed to instruct occupational therapy students and practicing occupational therapists in proper application of physical agent modality techniques through a physiologically based approach. The course will link the underlying physical and biological principles of PAMS interventions with their use as preparatory methods for enhancement of occupational performance, improving client outcomes when applied in a client centered, occupation based approach. Prereq: OT 863. Special fee.

**OT 889 - Using iPads to Support Children with Disabilities****Credits: 3**

The iPad has changed the way we teach, learn and play. Effectively using the iPad to support children with significant disabilities is part of being an inclusive professional knowledgeable about Assistive Technology. In this course, students explore using the iPad to support children with disabilities through asynchronous lectures, videos and assignments as well as hands on activities.

**OT 890 - Occupational Therapy and Sensory Integration****Credits: 4**

This course presents, integrates and applies Ayres sensory integration (SI) theory in the context of occupational therapy for children. Content related to the theoretical constructs upon which sensory integration functions is emphasized. Current views related to sensory processing disorders, diagnostic considerations, patterns of sensory integration dysfunction, and SI deficits commonly associated with disorders such as autism and attention disorders are covered. Intervention planning and implementation are covered through video case studies, and observation and analysis of occupational therapy sessions using SI strategies. Students apply their understanding of normal and abnormal child development, and clinical reasoning skills for providing OT services for children with sensory integration problems in clinical, early intervention and school-based settings. Prereq: OT 862 and OT 862L. OT majors only.

**OT 891 - Ergonomics for Occupational Therapy****Credits: 4**

This course explores the definition, concepts, and application of ergonomics, within OT evaluation and intervention, with the emphasis on work-related occupations. Students learn about the numerous components of ergonomics, evaluation and intervention techniques, current research, advanced educational opportunities and the relationship it has to the field of occupational therapy. Students also have the opportunity to apply their knowledge with the UNH community in performing job-site evaluations. OT majors only.

**OT 892 - Level I Fieldwork****Credits: 1**

During a two-week fieldwork, students observe an occupational therapist and participate in the planning and implementation of the occupational therapy evaluation and intervention process for a client. The Level I Fieldwork placement is scheduled between fall and spring of their first graduate year. OT majors only. Cr/F.

**OT 893 - Special Topics****Credits: 2-4**

Formal courses given on selected topics or special interest subjects. Work may be directed in one of the following areas: A) Administration; B) Clinical Education; C) Pediatrics; D) Physical Disabilities; E) Mental Health; F) Gerontology/Geriatrics; G) School-based Practice, and others. Prereq: permission. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credits. Special fee on some topics.

**OT 894 - Special Topics**

**Credits:** 2-4

This course is a 12-week, full-time internship that takes place after completion of the first graduate year, either in the summer or the fall. Level II fieldwork provides students with opportunities to: experience in-depth delivery of occupational therapy services to clients; focus on the application of purposeful and meaningful occupation and/or research, administration and management of occupational therapy services. Level II fieldwork is designed to promote clinical reasoning and reflective practice, to transmit values and beliefs that promote ethical practice and to develop professionalism and competence as career responsibilities. Cr/F.

**OT 895 - Readings and Research in Occupational Therapy**

**Credits:** 1-6

Independent work under the guidance of an instructor. Work may be directed in one of the following areas: A) Administration; B) Clinical Education; C) Pediatrics; D) Physical Disabilities; E) Mental Health; F) Gerontology/Geriatrics; G) School-based Practice, and others. Prereq: permission. May be repeated to a maximum of 8 credits.

## Faculty

See <https://chhs.unh.edu/directory/all> for faculty.