



BS/MS in  
Occupational Therapy

Applicant Handbook

*Occupational Therapy:  
Living Life to Its Fullest*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	3
Progression Criteria	5
Procedures for Matriculation into the MS in OT Program	5
Graduation and Commencement	6
Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)	6
Accepted Student Requirements	6
Certification/ Licensure Requirements	6
OT Program Accreditation	7
Program Goals	7
Curriculum: BS in Health Sciences/ MS in Occupational Therapy	8
Curriculum: BS in Psychology / MS in Occupational Therapy	10
OT Program Academic Standards	12
Certification for Level II Fieldwork	14
Graduation Requirements	14
Forms:	
Academic Standards Statement	15
Clinical Observation Hours	16
OT Program Prerequisite Record	17
M.S. in OT Curricular Sequence	18

**Combined BS in Health Sciences/MS in Occupational Therapy  
Combined BS in Psychology/MS in Occupational Therapy**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is a combined BS/MS program?**

The combined BS/MS program at Philadelphia University is **designed for students who know early on that they want to become occupational therapists**. This program allows students to seamlessly complete undergraduate and graduate degrees in less time than would be required to complete both of these degrees separately. Undergraduate courses and extra-curricular experiences provide students with a foundation to develop the knowledge, values and interpersonal skills needed for success as an occupational therapist.

During the first three years of undergraduate coursework, students complete major requirements for the bachelor degree, including PhilaU's college studies courses and Occupational Therapy (OT) program prerequisites. Students who meet the graduate OT Program progression criteria can matriculate into the master's program by enrolling in first year OT graduate coursework during Year 4 of undergraduate studies. At the end of the Year 4, students are awarded the bachelor degree in either Health Sciences or Psychology, and upon completion of graduate OT program requirements, the master's degree in Occupational Therapy.

**2. What are my undergraduate degree options in this combined BS/MS degree program?**

Philadelphia University offers two tracks in undergraduate disciplines that provide an excellent foundation for a career in healthcare. The **BS in Health Sciences** and **BS in Psychology** are designed so that major coursework, college studies and OT Program prerequisites can be completed within the first three years of undergraduate studies. Qualified students matriculate into the graduate program and enroll in OT coursework in Year 4.

**3. Who is eligible for the combined BS/MS in Occupational Therapy?**

Freshmen applicants who demonstrate the following profile will be considered for admission to the program:

- Minimum overall high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
- Minimum combined SAT score of 1000 for Critical Reading and Math, or 22 on the ACT
- Four years of science -- strongly encouraged

Transfer applicants should contact the Office of Admissions to discuss entry requirements.

**4. If I am interested in the M.S. in Occupational Therapy, yet do not want a combined BS/MS program, what other options do I have?**

Students may find that with some disciplines, completing the undergraduate major in four years is more conducive to success, and allows greater opportunities for electives and participation in intercollegiate sports and extracurricular activities. Students who are interested in completing their bachelor degrees prior to matriculating into the M.S. in Occupational Therapy can choose other undergraduate majors as long as they complete the following prerequisite courses before entering into the OT Program:

<b>M.S. in OT Program Prerequisite Courses</b>	<b>PhilaU Courses</b>
Anatomy and Physiology I	BIOL 201/201L
Anatomy and Physiology II	BIOL 202/202L
Physics	PHYS 101

Statistics	STAT 221
Human Lifespan Development	PYSCH 213
Abnormal Psychology	PSYCH 201
Sociology/Anthropology/Cultural Studies I	SOC 201, SOC 204, JSLA 380,
Sociology/Anthropology/Cultural Studies II	JSLA 391, JSINT 384

Students pursuing other undergraduate majors should consult with the appropriate program's advisor. Students are also advised to meet with a representative of the OT faculty to indicate their interest in OT, review potential for acceptance, and ensure that all appropriate prerequisite coursework can be completed in a timely fashion.

**5. If I'm not initially accepted into the combined degree program, what course sequence do I follow to be considered for admission to the graduate program in Occupational Therapy?**

Students may follow the same curricular sequence as those students accepted into the combined degree program. After completing two full-time semesters of Philadelphia University coursework, students may be reviewed for entry into the combined BS/MS program. Please contact Learning and Advising or the OT program for more information.

**6. Once accepted, what are the requirements to maintain my status (also called progression criteria) in the combined BS/MS degree program?**

Students who demonstrate the following profile are guaranteed matriculation into the MS in Occupational Therapy Program:

- Completion of undergraduate major and college studies requirements
- Overall minimum 3.0 GPA for all college coursework (including transfer courses)
- Overall minimum 3.0 GPA in OT prerequisites (minimum grades of "B-" or better in all OT Program prerequisite courses)

By **October 15** of the Year 3 (or equivalent) of undergraduate study, students should:

- Submit the matriculation documents identified below (available from the Occupational Therapy Department or on the program's web page: [www.philau.edu/ot](http://www.philau.edu/ot))
  - Academic Standards Statement
  - Clinical Observation Document: documentation of at least 20 hours of clinical observation under the supervision of an occupational therapist
  - Program Prerequisite record
- Submit current resume
- Submit one letter of recommendation from PhilaU faculty
- Submit career goals essay (no more than 500 words)
- Complete the GRE or MAT (prior to July following Year 3 of studies)

*Students who are unable to achieve the standards listed above are not eligible to matriculate into the MS in OT Program. They will complete electives, by advisement, during their fourth undergraduate year to complete the bachelor degree in their chosen majors. Students who wish to reapply to the OT graduate program after receiving their bachelor degrees may be advised to repeat specified courses to raise their GPAs.*

## **PROGRESSION CRITERIA**

### **for Matriculation into the MS in OT Program**

**PhilaU students will matriculate into the MS in Occupational Therapy Program who meet the following requirements.** The first formal review of students' transcripts will take place after the spring semester of Year 2 (or equivalent). Students who are unable to achieve the required minimum 3.0 GPA defined below will not matriculate into the OT Program and will enroll in college electives, by advisement, during Year 4.

- Completion of PhilaU major requirements, college studies courses and OT Program prerequisites during the first three years of undergraduate study.
- Achievement of minimum overall 3.0 GPA in undergraduate study (transfer courses included)
- Achievement of minimum overall 3.0 GPA in OT Program course prerequisites with minimum grades of "B-" or better: (document prerequisite progress or completion on **Program Prerequisite Record – see form in this packet**).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ BIOL 201/202 Anatomy & Physiology I and II (with labs)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ PHYS 101 General Physics
  - \_\_\_\_\_ PSYCH 213 Developmental Psychology (Lifespan)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ PSYCH 201 Abnormal Psychology
  - \_\_\_\_\_ STAT 221 Statistics
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Sociology/ Anthropology/ Cultural Studies I (choose from SOC 201, SOC 204, JSLA 380, JSLA 391, JSINT 384)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Sociology/ Anthropology/ Cultural Studies II (choose from SOC 201, SOC 204, JSLA 380, JSLA 391, JSINT 384)
- Positive review by the OT Program Admissions Committee. This committee will evaluate the student's academic performance and matriculation materials. Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Policy violations may negatively affect a student's ability to matriculate into the Occupational Therapy Program.

## **Procedures for Matriculation into the MS in OT Program**

### **(for PhilaU students completing the BS/ MS in Occupational Therapy)**

**By October 15 of Year 3** (or equivalent) of undergraduate academic study, students who are matriculating into the MS in OT Program will complete and submit the following to the OT office:

- OT Program matriculation forms:
  - a. Academic Standards Statement (see form in this packet, or on the web at [www.philau.edu/ot](http://www.philau.edu/ot))
  - b. Clinical Observation Hours (see form in this packet, or on the web at [www.philau.edu/ot](http://www.philau.edu/ot)): documentation of at least 20 hours of **clinical observation** under the supervision of an occupational therapist. *For all students, we strongly recommend that you complete your clinical observations as early as possible.*
  - c. Program Prerequisite Record (see form in this packet, or on the web at [www.philau.edu/ot](http://www.philau.edu/ot))
- Current resume
- Career goals essay describing how you became interested in Occupational Therapy, and the qualities you possess that will enable you to be a successful student in this program and practitioner in the field (no more than 500 words)
- One letter of reference from PhilaU faculty

## **GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT**

The Philadelphia University commencement ceremony, with full faculty attendance, is held in May. Degrees are also awarded in December, although there are no ceremonies at those times.

Students who enter the combined **BS/MS** program are eligible to receive the bachelor's degree, in May, after Year 4 coursework. Students receive the MS in Occupational Therapy after completion of all graduate coursework and fieldwork, usually in December of Year 5, or May of Year 6, depending on the timing of each student's final Level II Fieldwork.

## **STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (SOTA)**

All students are encouraged to join and support the Student Occupational Therapy Association. This student-run group hosts and sponsors educational and community service activities, social events, and continuing education workshops. Through the activities of this organization, students begin to experience the benefits and satisfaction gained from working alongside other students and therapists in activities promoting the occupational therapy profession and PhilaU. A program faculty member serves as the group's advisor. Students elect officers including student representatives to the American Occupational Therapy Association and Pennsylvania State OT Association. These representatives are supported financially in their attendance at association annual conferences.

## **ACCEPTED STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**

Students in the Occupational Therapy Program are expected to fulfill the following requirements during their student experience at Philadelphia University.

- A. Obtain materials and/or complete documentation required for Fieldwork:
  - a. Health Clearance (by July 1 following Year 3)
    - i. Annual physical examination (use PhilaU Student Health Medical Record Form)
    - ii. Annual update of immunizations according to fieldwork site requirements
    - iii. Annual proof of active health insurance coverage
  - b. Legal Clearance
    - i. Annual criminal background check ([www.CertifiedBackground.com](http://www.CertifiedBackground.com))
    - ii. Annual child abuse history clearance
    - iii. Requirements unique to specific fieldwork sites. Many settings require students to be fingerprinted, undergo a drug screening, and/or gain clearance from the PA Sex Offender Registry. Students are responsible for the costs of these processes, as well as for transportation arrangements and costs associated with fieldwork experiences. Information regarding how to meet these requirements is provided by the program.
  - c. CPR certification (required prior to Level II Fieldwork)
- B. Maintain professional organization memberships (highly recommended):
  - a. Philadelphia University Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)
  - b. American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
  - c. Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association (POTA) (or other state OT association)

## **CERTIFICATION/ LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

To practice as an occupational therapist, students must satisfy all the requirements for the MS in Occupational Therapy degree, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA, satisfactory completion of fieldwork, and complete the following:

- A. Apply for Philadelphia University graduation through the Registrar's Office
- B. Apply for and pass the \*NBCOT national certification exam as a prerequisite for state licensing
- C. Complete the PA (or other state) \*licensing application

*\*A felony conviction may affect a student's ability to be placed at a fieldwork setting, sit for the certification exam or to attain state licensure. Information regarding individual eligibility may be obtained from the appropriate credentialing bodies. Clinical and fieldwork sites may require a criminal background check and/or child abuse history clearance in order to permit participation in the clinical experience. Participation in clinical and fieldwork experiences is a required part of the curriculum and a requirement for graduation. Clinical and fieldwork sites may deny a student's participation in the clinical or fieldwork experience because of a felony or misdemeanor conviction, failure of a required drug test, or inability to produce an appropriate health clearance, all of which would result in delayed graduation or, in the inability to graduate from the program.*

## **PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY OT PROGRAM ACCREDITATION**

The Philadelphia University Occupational Therapy Program is registered with the PA Education Department and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220, 301/652-2682. The most recent reaccreditation was granted in April 2008. Upon graduation students are eligible to sit for the national certification exam that is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice occupational therapy; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the national certification exam.

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM GOALS**

The Philadelphia University entry-level master's degree in occupational therapy curriculum is designed to prepare competent, reflective and ethical occupational therapists who possess a commitment to professionalism and lifelong learning.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

### **Enable Participation**

- Establish therapeutic relationships with clients, their caregivers and families
- Select and use appropriate screening and evaluation methods to determine client needs and priorities, and make referrals to other disciplines as indicated
- Incorporate occupation-based and client-centered strategies into therapy sessions to support full participation
- Respect the value of diversity
- Develop and implement discharge plans that address the client's personal, environmental and occupational needs
- Document services to ensure accountability and meet reimbursement standards

### **Apply Evidence & Clinical Reasoning to Practice**

- Apply core theory, knowledge, skills, and critical thinking to inform practice
- Validate the effectiveness of occupational therapy services by objectively measuring its effects on the individual's or group's occupational performance
- Locate, evaluate and apply research findings to promote best practice in occupational therapy
- Engage in a lifelong process of professional development to assure competence and adherence to accepted practice standards

### **Foster Collaboration & Innovation**

- Work collaboratively with clients, caregivers and members of the professional team (interdisciplinary colleagues, administrators, practitioners)
- Use a variety of approaches to service delivery including direct care, consultation, and collaboration
- Advocate for individuals and/or groups who are in need of occupational therapy services by communicating effectively, orally and in writing, with relevant stakeholders

## Program Requirements for BS in Health Sciences/ MS in Occupational Therapy

### Core Curriculum

#### I. College Studies Courses (47-49 credits)

WRTG-101	Writing Seminar I	3
WRTIG-217	Writing Seminar II	3
BIOL-103/103L	Science I: Biology I/Lab	4
PHYS -101	Science II: General Physics	3
MATH 1XX	Finite Math or Pre-calculus or Intro to Calculus or Calculus I	3 or 4
MATH 1XX	Pre-calculus or Intro to Calculus or Calculus I or Free Elective	3 or 4
( )	Language or Area Studies I	3
( )	Language or Area Studies II	3
SOC 201 or 204	Social Sciences I	3
HIST-114	Historical Understanding: American Transitions	3
HUMN/LIT	Humanities I	3
ARTS/CULTURE	Arts & Culture	3
( )	Junior Seminar I: select JSLA 380, JSLA 391 or JSINT 384	3
( )	Junior Seminar II: select JSLA 380, JSLA 391 or JSINT 384	3
COLLST-499	Contemporary Perspectives	4

#### II. Physical Education (1 credit)

PE( )/SERV-101	Two PE Courses or 1 SERV	1
----------------	--------------------------	---

#### III. Health Science Core Courses (33 credits)

<b>Science</b>		
BIOL-104/104L	Biology II/Lab	4
BIOL-201/201L	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIOL-202/202L	Anatomy and Physiology II	4
<b>Psychology</b>		
PSYCH-101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYCH-201	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSYCH-213	Developmental Psychology	3
STAT-221	Psychological Application of Statistics I (or other statistics course)	3
<b>Pre-Professional</b>		
PAS-100	Topics in Professionalism ( <i>credit/no credit course</i> )	1
PAS-230	Clinical Interactions I	2
PAS-320	Clinical Interactions II	3
PAS-330	Medical Terminology and Documentation	3

#### IV. Health Science Electives (select 3) (9-11 credits)

BIOL-207/207L	Principles of Genetics/Lab	4
BIOL-209 or 315	Medical Botany or Immunology (Writing Intensive)	3
BIOL-221/221L	Microbiology/Lab	4
BIOL-413	Pathology	3
PSYCH-103	Physiological Psychology	3
PSYCH-211	Learning Theory	3
PSYCH-212	Cognitive Psychology	3
PSYCH-221	Personality Theory	3
PSYCH-222	Counseling Psychology	3
PSYCH-224	Psychology of Addiction	3
PSYCH-231	Psychological Assessment	3
PSYCH-232	Social Psychology	3
PSYCH-233	Interpersonal Relations and Small Group Dynamics	3
PSYCH-241	Psychopharmacology	3
PSYCH-242	Sensations & Perceptions	3

#### V. Free Electives (0-6 credits)

**VI. Occupational Therapy First Year Courses (fourth year [toward B.S.]) (24 credits)**

Students must complete all undergraduate major and college studies credits, earn overall 3.0 or higher GPA in undergraduate coursework, complete all OT Program prerequisite courses with minimum 3.0 GPA, and all OT Program admission steps prior to matriculating into graduate OT courses. Formal review of student's academic progress will occur at the end of the second and third years of undergraduate coursework. Students who do not meet OT Program academic standards will complete the B.S. in Health Sciences by taking additional electives, by advisement. The bachelor's degree requires a minimum of 120 credits.

**Fall Semester (12 credits)**

OCC-610	Portfolio Seminar	1
OCC-611	Foundations for Practice	3
OCC-613	Functional Anatomy	4
OCC-621	Occupational Competence	3
OCC-625	Clinical Skills A	1

**Spring Semester (12 credits)**

OCC-615	Assistive Device Design	1
OCC-623	Applied Neuroanatomy	4
OCC-624	Dimensions of Human Movement	3
OCC-741	Interpersonal Relations & Dynamics of Collaboration	3
OCC-635	Clinical Skills B	1
OCC-735	Level I Fieldwork A	1

**Total Undergraduate Credits: 121-125 (B.S. awarded)**

**VII. Occupational Therapy Second Year Courses (toward M.S. degree) (33 credits)****Summer Semester (11 credits)**

OCC-626	Evidence-Based Practice	3
OCC-631	Conceptual Assumptions for OT Practice	3
OCC-745	Level I Fieldwork B	1
OCC-746	Psychosocial Interventions	4

**Fall Semester (11 credits)**

OCC-645	Clinical Skills C	1
OCC-736	Assessment & Intervention: Adults	4
OCC-755	Level I Fieldwork C	1
OCC-754	Environmental Dimensions of Occupation	3
OCC-766	Older Adults: Enabling Participation	2

**Spring Semester (11 credits)**

OCC-756	Assessment & Intervention: Children & Youth	4
OCC-751	Professional Issues & Trends	3
OCC-765	Level I Fieldwork D	1
OCC-757	Innovative Practice in OT	3

**VIII. Occupational Therapy Third Year Courses (14 credits)****Summer Semester (5 credits)**

OCC-760	Practice Platform Seminar	1
OCC-763	Clinical Mastery	2
OCC-764	Specialty Practice: Upper Extremity Rehabilitation	2

**Fall/Spring Semester (9 credits)**

OCC-771	Level II Fieldwork A	3
OCC-775	Clinical Reasoning I	1.5
OCC-781	Level II Fieldwork B	3
OCC-785	Clinical Reasoning II	1.5

**Total Graduate Credits: 47 (M.S. awarded)**

## Program Requirements BS in Psychology/ MS in Occupational Therapy

### I. College Studies Courses (47-49 credits)

WRTG-101	Writing Seminar I	3
WRTIG-217	Writing Seminar II	3
BIOL-103/103L	Science I: Biology I/Lab	4
PHYS -101	Science II: General Physics	3
MATH 1XX	Finite Math or Pre-calculus or Intro to Calculus or Calculus I	3 or 4
MATH 1XX	Pre-calculus or Intro to Calculus or Calculus I or Free Elective	3 or 4
( )	Language or Area Studies I	3
( )	Language or Area Studies II	3
SOC 201 or 204	Social Sciences I	3
HIST-114	Historical Understanding: American Transitions	3
HUMN/LIT	Humanities I	3
ARTS/CULTURE	Arts & Culture	3
( )	Junior Seminar I: select JSLA 380, JSLA 391 or JSINT 384	3
( )	Junior Seminar II: select JSLA 380, JSLA 391 or JSINT 384	3
COLLST-499	Contemporary Perspectives	4

### II. Physical Education (1 credit)

PE ( )/SERV-101	Two PE Courses or 1 SERV	1
-----------------	--------------------------	---

### III. Pre-Occupational Therapy Requirements (12 credits)

BIOL-104/104L	Biology II/Lab	4
BIOL-201/201L	Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIOL-202/202L	Anatomy and Physiology II	4

### IV. Psychology Core Courses (24 credits)

PSYCH-101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYCH-103	Physiological Psychology	3
PSYCH-201	Abnormal Psychology	3
STAT-221	Psychological Application of Statistics I	3
STAT-321	Psychological Application of Statistics II	3
PSYCH-322	Introduction to Experimental Psychology	3
PSYCH-391	Advanced Research in Psychology (Writing Intensive)	3
PSYCH-410	Senior Colloquium	3

### V. Psychology Designated Electives (choose 2 from each of the following four areas) (24 credits)

<p><b>Experimental Psychology Distribution</b>  <u>(select PSYCH 213 and one more)</u>                      Forensic Psychology (PSYCH-210)                      Learning Theory (PSYCH-211)                      Cognitive Psychology (PSYCH-212)  <u>Developmental Psychology (PSYCH-213)</u>                      History of Psychology (PSYCH-214)</p>	<p><b>Clinical Psychology Distribution</b>                      Clinical Psychology (PSYCH-220)                      Personality Theory (PSYCH-221)                      Counseling Psychology (PSYCH-222)                      Marriage &amp; Family (PSYCH-223)                      Psychology of Addiction (PSYCH-224)</p>
<p><b>Social /Organizational Psychology Distribution</b>                      Industrial/Organizational Psychology (PSYCH-230)                      Assessment of Personnel (PSYCH-231)                      Social Psychology (PSYCH-232)                      Interpersonal Relations &amp; Small Grp Dynamics (PSYCH-233)</p>	<p><b>Biological Basis of Behavior Distribution</b>                      Comparative Psychology (PSYCH-240)                      Psychopharmacology (PSYCH-241)                      Sensation &amp; Perception (PSYCH-242)                      Human Sexuality (PSYCH-243)</p>

### VI. Occupational Therapy First Year Courses (fourth year [toward B.S.]) (25 credits)

Students must complete all undergraduate major and college studies credits, earn overall 3.0 or higher GPA in undergraduate coursework, complete all OT Program prerequisite courses with minimum 3.0 GPA, and all OT Program admission steps prior to matriculating into graduate OT courses. Formal review of student's academic progress will occur at the end of the second and third years of undergraduate coursework. Students who do not meet OT Program academic standards will complete the B.S. in Health Sciences by taking additional electives, by advisement. The bachelor's degree requires a minimum of 120 credits.

**Fall Semester (12 credits)**

OCC-610	Portfolio Seminar	1
OCC-611	Foundations for Practice	3
OCC-613	Functional Anatomy	4
OCC-621	Occupational Competence	3
OCC-625	Clinical Skills A	1

**Spring Semester (12 credits)**

OCC-615	Assistive Device Design	1
OCC-623	Applied Neuroanatomy	4
OCC-624	Dimensions of Human Movement	3
OCC-741	Interpersonal Relations & Dynamics of Collaboration	3
OCC-635	Clinical Skills B	1
OCC-735	Level I Fieldwork A	1

**Total Undergraduate Credits: 121-125 (B.S. awarded)**

**VII. Occupational Therapy Second Year Courses (toward M.S. degree) (33 credits)****Summer Semester (11 credits)**

OCC-626	Evidence-Based Practice	3
OCC-631	Conceptual Assumptions for OT Practice	3
OCC-745	Level I Fieldwork B	1
OCC-746	Psychosocial Interventions	4

**Fall Semester (11 credits)**

OCC-645	Clinical Skills C	1
OCC-736	Assessment & Intervention: Adults	4
OCC-755	Level I Fieldwork C	1
OCC-754	Environmental Dimensions of Occupation	3
OCC-766	Older Adults: Enabling Participation	2

**Spring Semester (11 credits)**

OCC-756	Assessment & Intervention: Children & Youth	4
OCC-751	Professional Issues & Trends	3
OCC-765	Level I Fieldwork D	1
OCC-757	Innovative Practice in OT	3

**VIII. Occupational Therapy Third Year Courses (14 credits)****Summer Semester (5 credits)**

OCC-760	Practice Platform Seminar	1
OCC-763	Clinical Mastery	2
OCC-764	Specialty Practice: Upper Extremity Rehabilitation	2

**Fall/Spring Semester (9 credits)**

OCC-771	Level II Fieldwork A	3
OCC-775	Clinical Reasoning I	1.5
OCC-781	Level II Fieldwork B	3
OCC-785	Clinical Reasoning II	1.5

**Total Graduate Credits: 47 (M.S. awarded)**

**PROGRAM ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

The Occupational Therapy Program admission criteria are designed to select candidates who are most likely to succeed both in an university academic environment as well as in OT professional practice. While the Program faculty is dedicated to assisting students in their professional education, the student also has responsibilities. Students enrolled in the program must demonstrate achievement in academic and clinical competencies necessary for professional practice, and meet academic standards consistent with graduate school criteria. Students must also demonstrate effective professional behavior as detailed in the *Professional Behavior Assessment Form* (see form uploaded to OT Student Center on BlackBoard, "Student Handbook"). In order to remain in good academic standing, students must meet the following standards. These academic standards are in addition to the university academic standards as described in the Graduate Catalog and on the Philadelphia University web site.

**Retention and Progression**

1. Grade Point Average

- a. A minimum overall 3.0 grade point average (GPA) in Occupational Therapy coursework must be maintained each semester. A semester GPA below 3.0 will result in probation for the following semester.
- b. If the semester GPA is below 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, the student will be suspended from the full-time program.
- c. A student must attain a minimum overall 3.0 GPA prior to enrolling in Level II fieldwork courses.
- d. A student must achieve a minimum overall 3.0 GPA to be eligible to graduate.
- e. A student may not receive more than two grades below B- while in the OT Program.
- f. If a grade of "F" is obtained in a non-fieldwork course, the student will be dismissed from the program.
- g. If there is more than 12 months of inactivity in coursework, or there is more than 12 months since completion of the last Level II fieldwork, students will be required to repeat all of the assessment and intervention courses, or demonstrate academic and clinical competency in each of these courses, via examination, to be eligible to graduate.

2. Competency Grading

- a. Each student is expected to pass every competency on the first attempt with a minimum passing grade of 80%. If unsuccessful, the student will be allowed one retake of the competency; the highest grade that can be earned will be 80%.
- b. Students must earn a competency grade average of 80% or higher within each course. Students who are unable to earn the minimum 80% average must enter into a remediation program defined by the course faculty.
- c. Each student is expected to demonstrate proficiency in all safety items in order to successfully pass the competency.

3. Fieldwork

- a. Students must receive satisfactory reports and evaluations from all fieldwork educators to receive fieldwork credit ("CR").
- b. If a grade of "NC" (no credit) is obtained in a fieldwork, faculty determines whether the student is permitted to repeat the fieldwork or be dismissed. If permission to repeat the fieldwork is granted, the student must develop a written plan of self-correction prior to being placed in another fieldwork. A fieldwork may be repeated only once, and the student must achieve a "CR" (credit) grade on the second attempt. If a student receives a grade of "NC" in two fieldwork courses, the student will be dismissed from the program.
- c. Students receiving a "NC" grade, including "W" (withdrawal) in fieldwork will be placed on probation. The student must re-register and repeat the fieldwork in order to progress in the program. Repetition of a fieldwork could delay graduation. Withdrawal for medical or personal reasons, approved by program faculty, will not result in probation.
- d. A student must earn a grade of "CR" in all fieldwork in order to graduate.

## Probation

The student's cumulative academic record is reviewed at the end of each semester, including summer, to evaluate academic standing and satisfactory progress toward degree requirements. The Program Director will notify the student when problems in academic performance may jeopardize a student's good standing.

Academic probation is a means of emphatically informing students that their records are unsatisfactory, while there is still time to remedy the situation. Students will be placed on academic probation when their records indicate that normal progress toward a degree is in jeopardy. Students on probation should meet with their advisors to discuss a plan for improving their academic performance. They should also consider reducing the number of hours of employment whenever possible and/or limit participation in any other activity that interferes with the performance of their academic work.

Students whose academic records include one or more of the following will be placed on academic probation by the Program Director:

- a. A student who has a cumulative grade point average below 3.0.
- b. A student who has received grades below "B-" in two courses.
- c. A student who receives a grade of "C+" or "C" in any course. Probation for two consecutive semesters will result in suspension. Probation for three semesters will result in dismissal.
- d. A student who receives verbal or written reports from fieldwork educators indicating non-adherence to site regulations, site schedule, ethical standards of conduct, or engagement in behavior that puts patient/ client safety at risk.
- e. A student who violates the OT Program's *Standards of Professional Behavior* or *AOTA Code of Ethics*.

## Suspension

- a. Suspension means that the student may not progress in the full time program. A program of remediation will occur during a pre-determined time period. The student must successfully complete remediation activities in order to re-enter the program. Students who are unsuccessful with remediation activities will be dismissed.
- b. Since the program is a lock-step curriculum, courses that were not successfully completed cannot be repeated until the following year. A second suspension results in dismissal.
- c. Repeated violations of the OT Program's *Standards of Professional Behavior* or *AOTA Code of Ethics* are also grounds for suspension.

**Dismissal** -- students whose academic records include one or combination of the following will be dismissed:

- a. Student fails to meet minimum academic standards listed above.
- b. Student receives a grade of "F" in a non-fieldwork course.
- c. Student fails or receives "NC" in two fieldwork experiences.
- d. Student has two suspensions.
- e. Student has three probations.
- f. Student displays egregious conduct that violates professional and/or legal standards, and/or University regulations regarding academic and professional conduct, and/or Program standards regarding professional behaviors.

Students who are dismissed from the OT Program for academic conduct or any other reason are not typically readmitted. In special circumstances, dismissed students may be considered for re-entry. A student who is academically dismissed from the OT Program may apply for readmission only after a period of at least one year. To be considered for re-entry students must have developed and implemented an action plan that would facilitate successful academic performance. Refer to the re-entry policy, below, for further information.

Students who withdraw from the OT Program may have their records reviewed for possible readmission by program faculty. Readmission will be determined by the faculty based on this review and any additional criteria required at the discretion of the faculty. Refer to the University catalog for further information regarding procedures.

Dismissal actions may be appealed following University guidelines (refer to Catalog accessed at <http://www.philau.edu/academics/catalogs.html>).

## CERTIFICATION FOR LEVEL II FIELDWORK

Students must have demonstrated: 1) the ability to meet the academic and program standards outlined in the *OT Student Handbook*, and 2) effective interpersonal communication, professional behavior, and judgment necessary for the field setting to be recommended by the faculty for fieldwork.

- By the terms of the University's contractual agreement with fieldwork sites, only students who have satisfactorily completed the requisite professional courses and demonstrate safety and proficiency in all competencies will be placed in fieldwork.
- Faculty will formally review all students' progress at the end of the spring semester of the second year of professional coursework (or equivalent) to ensure that students are demonstrating mastery of material and are ready for Level II fieldwork. This appraisal includes a review of students' grades, clinical skills, and professional behavior. Faculty retains the final decision to approve students for fieldwork placements.
- Students who frequently display unprofessional behavior and/or judgment, or who are unable to address professional behavior concerns that have been identified by faculty, will be required to appear before a sub-group of the OT Program faculty that includes at a minimum the fieldwork coordinator, program director, and faculty advisor. This faculty group may impose sanctions which can include probation, suspension or dismissal from the program, and/or delay the student from engaging in the fieldwork portion of the curriculum.
- Students must successfully complete Level II fieldwork within 15 months beyond the date of completion of the final didactic semester or repeat selected course(s), and/or demonstrate academic and clinical competency in selected course(s) prior to beginning fieldwork experiences.
- Failure to complete a fieldwork or having to be removed from a placement may result in a student's dismissal from the program. Students who need to repeat more than one Level II fieldwork due to unsatisfactory performance will be dismissed from the program.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following is consistent with the Philadelphia University Graduate Education Policy for graduation, and includes specific references to the additional Occupational Therapy program requirements. (See also Graduate Studies Catalogue.)

- Students must fulfill the 72 credit hour requirements for the Occupational Therapy graduate program. Credit hour requirements include all didactic and Level II Fieldwork A and B related coursework.
- A candidate for graduation must have earned at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and no more than two grades below B- to be certified for graduation.
- Students must complete all requirements for the Master's Portfolio.
- Students must submit an *Application for Graduation* prior to the semester in which they plan to graduate. This form is available on-line in WebAdvisor. Students will be billed for graduation fees.
- Students must earn a minimum percentile score on a comprehensive examination in order to be cleared for graduation (e.g. the Occupational Therapy Knowledge Exam [OTKE] or other comparable practice examination developed by NBCOT). Students who do not earn a minimum score as identified by OT faculty must register for a 1-credit remediation course prior to retaking the comprehensive exam. Students must show performance improvement on the exam to receive credit for the remediation course and to be cleared for graduation.

**Occupational Therapy Academic Standards Statement**  
(return this form to the Occupational Therapy Program)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**E- mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To: Program in Occupational Therapy**

I wish to apply to the Occupational Therapy Program. I am aware of the criteria I must meet each year in order to maintain my status in the Program.

I understand I must maintain a minimum overall 3.0 grade point average and may not receive more than two grades below "B-" to meet OT Program and graduate school academic standards. To assure competence for clinical practice I understand I may be required to repeat a course or complete other remedial work for any course where I earn a grade lower than "B". I agree to these requirements and understand that failure to do so could result in my dismissal from the program.

I understand that I must demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills and judgment to remain in good standing and in order to participate in the fieldwork education component of the program. I agree to maintain these standards at all times. I understand that faculty retains the final decision to approve students for fieldwork placements.

The occupational therapy education process includes multiple fieldwork experiences for which there are health and legal clearances required including: yearly physical examinations, immunizations, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation certification (CPR), criminal background check, and child abuse clearance, as well as active health insurance coverage. In addition many settings require students to be fingerprinted, undergo a drug screening, and/or gain clearance from the PA Sex Offender Registry. Students are responsible for the arrangements and costs of these processes, as well as for transportation and costs associated with fieldwork experiences. Information regarding how to meet these requirements is provided by the program.

I understand that I must be continuously matriculated in the program. In the event a leave of absence is required, this must be requested and approved by Occupational Therapy Program faculty in order for the student to maintain a place in the program and eventually be eligible to graduate. A formal leave of absence must also be filed through appropriate University offices (see catalogue for more information).

I understand that it is my responsibility to review the additions and amendments to the Occupational Therapy Student Handbook on an annual basis while a member of the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Clinical Observation Hours**  
(return this form to the Occupational Therapy Program)

The Philadelphia University Program in Occupational Therapy requires that each of our Occupational Therapy prospective students observe or assist as a clinical volunteer under the direction of an Occupational Therapist for a minimum of **20 hours**. We believe that this time helps provide prospective students with a realistic view of the clinical aspects of therapy that are essential to their academic success. Please have this form completed by an occupational therapist and submit it with your admission materials. Multiple copies of this form can be made if observation hours will be completed at more than one site. Thank you.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Clinical Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Spent at your Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity?    Observation:        \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Assistance:        \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Please assess the student in each of the following areas by circling the corresponding rating for each category:

**1/ Below Average;    2/ Average;    3/ Above Average;    4/ Superior**

Accepts direction	1	2	3	4
Carries out instruction	1	2	3	4
Communicates appropriately	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates interest/motivation	1	2	3	4
Uses appropriate judgment	1	2	3	4
Is reliable/dependable	1	2	3	4
Attends to appearance, hygiene	1	2	3	4

*Additional Comments:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Institution/Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Therapist's Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Philadelphia University Occupational Therapy Program**  
**4201 Henry Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19144-5497 • 215.951.2911**

**Occupational Therapy Program Prerequisite Record**  
 (return this form to the Occupational Therapy Program at Philadelphia University)

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate anticipated entry date to the Occupational Therapy Program (Fall 20xx): \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Prerequisite Record**

For each of the program's prerequisite courses or activities listed below, indicate the timeframe during which they have been completed, are in progress, or the anticipated date of completion. For completed coursework, indicate the grade received.

	<i><b>Semester/Year Completed</b></i>	<i><b>Grade Received</b></i>	<i><b>Semester/Year in Progress</b></i>	<i><b>Anticipated Completion Date</b></i>
Bachelor's Degree				
Developmental Psychology (Lifespan)				
Abnormal Psychology				
Sociology/ Anthropology/ Culture I				
Sociology/ Anthropology/ Culture II				
Statistics				
Anatomy & Physiology I with lab				
Anatomy & Physiology II with lab				
Science (Physics recommended)				
20 Hours Clinical Observation (recommended)				

Additional Comments:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Philadelphia University Occupational Therapy Program**  
 School House Lane & Henry Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19144-5497 • 215.951.2911

**Master of Science in Occupational Therapy**

Philadelphia University's Master of Science in Occupational Therapy features an innovative approach to instructional design and delivery. The majority of coursework is offered in a unique format where students engage in bi-weekly on-campus weekend sessions supplemented by off-campus on-line programming. Some courses may require additional days on campus or travel to clinical facilities (to be determined each semester). The 72-credit program can be completed in 28 months.

<b>Curriculum by Semester</b>	<b>Cr</b>	<b>Class Schedule</b>
<b>Semester 1: August and Fall</b> OCC 612 Foundations for Practice Seminar (August) OCC 610 Portfolio Seminar OCC 611 Foundations for Practice OCC 613 Functional Anatomy OCC 621 Occupational Competence OCC 625 Clinical Skills A	1 1 3 4 3 <u>1</u> 13	<b>8 weekends</b> (plus final exam weekend) Friday: 9:30-6:00; Saturday 8:30-6:00 Generally two on-campus sessions per month
<b>Semester 2: Spring</b> OCC 615 Assistive Device Design OCC 623 Applied Neuroanatomy OCC 635 Clinical Skills B OCC 624 Dimensions of Human Movement OCC 631 Conceptual Assumptions for OT Practice	1 4 1 3 <u>3</u> 12	<b>8 weekends</b> (plus final exam weekend) Friday: 9:30-6:00; Saturday 8:30-6:00 Generally two on-campus sessions per month
<b>Semester 3: Summer</b> OCC 645 Clinical Skills C OCC 735 Level I Fieldwork A OCC 736 Assessment & Intervention: Adults OCC 741 Interpers Rel & Dynamics of Collaboration	1 1 4 <u>3</u> 9	<b>*8 weekends</b> (plus final exam weekend) Friday: 9:30-6:00; Saturday 8:30-6:00 Generally two on-campus sessions per month  *40 hours of fieldwork during semester scheduled by student in collaboration with field site
<b>Semester 4: Fall</b> OCC 745 Level I Fieldwork B OCC 746 Psychosocial Interventions OCC 756 Assessment & Intervention: Children & Youth OCC 754 Environmental Dimensions of Occupation	1 4 4 <u>3</u> 12	<b>*8 weekends</b> (plus final exam weekend) Friday: 9:30-6:00; Saturday 8:30-6:00 Generally two on-campus sessions per month  *40 hours of fieldwork during semester scheduled by student in collaboration with field site
<b>Semester 5: Spring</b> OCC 626 Evidence-Based Practice OCC 766 Older Adults: Enabling Participation OCC 751 Professional Issues & Trends OCC 755 Level I Fieldwork C OCC 757 Innovative Practice in OT	3 2 3 1 <u>3</u> 12	<b>*8 weekends</b> (plus final exam weekend) Friday: 9:30-6:00; Saturday 8:30-6:00 Generally two on-campus sessions per month  *40 hours of fieldwork during semester scheduled by student in collaboration with field site
<b>Semester 6: Summer</b> OCC 760 Practice Platform Seminar OCC 763 Clinical Mastery OCC 764 Specialty Practice	1 2 <u>2</u> 5	<b>May-June intensive</b> (multiple days on-campus, including some weekdays and weekends, generally 8:30-6:00)
<b>Semester 7and/or 8: Fall and/or Spring</b> OCC 771 Level II Fieldwork A (July-Sept or Oct-Dec) OCC 775 Clinical Reasoning I (July-Sept or Oct-Dec) OCC 781 Level II Fieldwork B (Oct-Dec or Jan-Mar) OCC 785 Clinical Reasoning II (Oct-Dec or Jan-Mar)	3 1.5 3 <u>1.5</u> 9	<b>July-December or October-March</b> Two 12-week full-time fieldwork placements off-site, and on-line clinical reasoning courses
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>72</b>	