OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORATE (O.T.D.), POST-PROFESSIONAL

Note: As part of the transition from the entry-level program from the M.S.O.T. to the O.T.D. degree, the Department of Occupational Therapy has suspended admissions to the post-professional O.T.D. until summer 2016. The post-professional O.T.D. curriculum is being adjusted to bring that program in sync with the entry-level O.T.D. The department’s goal is to provide the best overall program at both levels. Plans continue to evolve, so please be in touch if you are interested in a post-professional O.T.D. Prospective students can visit the department’s website (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/postprofessional-otd) or call directly at (804) 828-2220.

Program goal
The primary mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is the preparation of excellent, innovative, adaptable and responsible occupational therapists as professional leaders for the state, the nation and the world. Our mission represents an integration of the missions of occupational therapists as professional leaders for the state, the nation and the world. Our mission represents an integration of the missions of the university and the School of Allied Health Professions. In pursuit of this mission, the department:

1. Prepares students to become client-centered practitioners who utilize up-to-date evidence, theory and technology to facilitate their clients’ health and well-being through the use of occupation
2. Seeds the development of new occupational therapy leaders in research, teaching and service through educational, community and research expectations and opportunities
3. Fosters student commitment to scientific inquiry and professional competence and promotes personal growth, balance and dedication to lifelong learning and service
4. Promotes faculty excellence, collaboration and leadership in teaching, scholarship, research and service that models integrity, competence and evidence-based practice
5. Collaborates with the community through education, consultation and the development of strong linkages with practitioners, clinical educators and the community
6. Interacts dynamically with the OT profession and stakeholders, contributing proactively to the evolution and recognition of the profession and the use of occupation to meet society’s needs for health and quality life

Student learning outcomes
1. The student will articulate knowledge of leadership theories and models, critically analyze current leadership abilities and apply leadership skill in professional contexts.
2. The student will identify and use professional, data-driven evidence to support professional programs and initiatives through proposal writing for grant funding and program development.
3. The student will demonstrate advanced skill in developing and implementing new programs/projects designed to advance the field of occupational therapy.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.grad.vcu.edu) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg)

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/candidacy)

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/candidacy)

Other information
Student manuals are distributed to new students every August at the on-campus meeting.

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**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O.T.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>GRE (if applying with a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements), applicants must meet the following minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s or master’s degree in occupational therapy from an accredited college or university
2. Cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0 from prior course work
3. Current (within 5 years) GRE scores if applying with a bachelor’s degree. (The GRE is not required if applying with a master’s degree.)
4. Official transcripts in sealed envelopes and signed by university official across seal
5. A leadership essay describing how earning an O.T.D. and completing a capstone leadership project will enhance personal career goals and how the applicant may use advanced leadership skills developed in this program to advance the profession of occupational therapy
6. Curriculum vitae or resume that details professional leadership experience
7. Three letters of recommendation

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**Degree requirements**

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate is a part-time, distance education, post-professional program for students with an occupational therapy degree. It combines Web-based instruction with on-campus meetings twice a year, in August and January. The program follows the traditional fall and spring semester schedule. Summer courses are required for students entering with a bachelor’s degree and are optional for students entering with a master’s degree. The curriculum consists of leadership, research/scientific foundation and theory practice foundation core courses, along with electives for concentrated study.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info), students must complete all university and School of Allied Health Professions requirements. Students must successfully complete all credit hours appropriate to the curriculum into which students enter. The curriculum for an occupational therapist entering with a master’s degree from VCU requires a minimum of 21 credit hours. The curriculum for an occupational therapist entering with a master’s degree from another university or college requires a minimum of 32 credit hours. The curriculum for an occupational therapist entering with a baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 47 credit hours of courses.

**Curriculum requirements**

### Students entering with an M.S. from VCU

#### Research and scientific foundations core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 735</td>
<td>Evidence Bases for Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Leadership core

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 736</td>
<td>Developing Fundable Projects</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 739</td>
<td>Program Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 740</td>
<td>Concepts in Disability Leadership for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 741</td>
<td>Leadership Applications for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 742</td>
<td>Practicum in Leadership for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 743</td>
<td>Synthesis and Evaluation of Capstone Leadership Project</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 21

### Students entering with an M.S. from another university/college

#### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 671</td>
<td>Advanced Theory in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 673</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery and Occupational Therapy Practice Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Processes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 735</td>
<td>Evidence Bases for Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
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Electives
Select three of the following: 1

GRTY 510  Aging
GRTY 604  Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology
GRTY 606  Aging and Human Values
OCCT 690  Occupational Therapy Seminar
OCCT 697  Independent Study
SEDP 532  Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder
SEDP 634  Assessment, Curriculum and Teaching Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder
SEDP 635  Supporting Behavior and Social Skills for Autism Spectrum Disorder
SEDP 638  Instructional Design and Field Experience for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Total Hours 47

1 Electives must be at the graduate level, consistent with the student’s overall leadership direction and approved by the director of post-professional education. They may be taken at VCU or at another university or college. Some options at VCU include those listed below. Please check Online@VCU for additional opportunities.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 47