OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORATE (O.T.D.)

Program accreditation
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association

The VCU Occupational Therapy Doctorate program prepares students for entry-level practice. Graduates are equipped with knowledge to be outstanding leaders that utilize a client-centered approach, make decisions based on the best evidence, and create new knowledge and apply that knowledge to practice. The program provides an in-depth exposure to interprofessional and collaborative care and provides opportunities for program and professional development. The entry-level O.T.D. program prepares students to work in a wide range of occupational therapy practice settings as well as emerging areas of practice. Graduates will be eligible to apply for licensure to practice in any state upon successful completion of the national board examination.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will apply occupational therapy theory and practice skills in occupational engagement, therapeutic use of self, activity analysis, clinical reasoning and ethical decision making.
2. Students will communicate and work effectively with clients and members of the interprofessional team and articulate the role and value of occupational therapy.
4. Students will design and implement occupation-based, client-centered, evidence-based interventions that improve client participation in activities, occupations, roles and routines.
5. Students will analyze current policy issues and the social, economic, political, geographic and demographic factors that influence the various contexts for practice of occupational therapy.
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to translate evidence to advance occupational therapy practice.
7. Students will analyze and synthesize relevant scientific literature and apply results to improve occupational therapy practice and patient care outcomes in a culturally sensitive manner.
8. Students will participate in professional development, leadership and advocacy opportunities.

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.gra.../ 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/)
Admission requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
2. A minimum grade-point average in all college courses of 3.0 (based on a 4.0 system) or a 2.7 overall GPA for applicants whose undergraduate degree was earned five or more years prior
3. A minimum grade-point average in prerequisite courses of 3.25 without rounding
4. The Graduate Record Exam with a 4.0 minimum analytical writing score
5. An Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service application (https://portal.otcas.org/) including these items:
   a. A personal statement that addresses:
      i. How the applicant's personal, educational and professional background will help achieve these goals
      ii. How a master's degree in OT relates to immediate and long-term professional goals
      iii. Why applicant is selecting OT as a career
   b. A "value-added" essay (no more than 1000 words) submitted as a PDF file to otentrylevel@vcu.edu
   c. Evidence of completion of a minimum of 30 observation hours in one or more settings under the supervision of a licensed OTR or COTA
   d. Three letters of recommendation (One letter from an occupational therapist is preferred, but it is not essential.)
   e. Ten prerequisite (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/entry-level-otd/prerequisite-courses/) courses (30-32 semester credit hours)
6. Courses on kinesiology and medical terminology — strongly recommended, but not required
7. For non-native English-speaking applicants, regardless of immigration status, a Test of English as a Foreign Language iBT score of greater than 102, a TOEFL CBT score of greater than 253, a TOEFL PBT score of greater than 610 or an International English Language Testing System score of greater than 6.5

Blackboard course management system. Students will be required to have a computer or tablet with access to the Internet.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), students must complete all College of Health Professions requirements and successfully complete 104 credit hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 501</td>
<td>Foundations of Interprofessional Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 580</td>
<td>Introduction to the Profession of Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 589</td>
<td>Advanced Functional Anatomy</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 590</td>
<td>Functional Movement Analysis in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>OCCT 591</td>
<td>Neuroscience Applications to Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>OCCT 592</td>
<td>Introduction to Injury, Illness and Disability</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 593</td>
<td>Analysis of Human Occupation</td>
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<td>OCCT 594</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 613</td>
<td>Adult Occupational Performance I</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 614</td>
<td>Pediatric Occupational Performance I</td>
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<td>OCCT 615</td>
<td>Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OCCT 616</td>
<td>Research Process in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OCCT 617</td>
<td>Therapeutic Process in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OCCT 689</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Assessment and Evaluation</td>
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<td>OCCT 692</td>
<td>Assistive Technologies for Occupational Engagement</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>OCCT 693</td>
<td>Occupational Synthesis and Adaptations</td>
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<td>OCCT 713</td>
<td>Adult Occupational Performance II</td>
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<td>OCCT 714</td>
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<td>OCCT 716</td>
<td>Evidence-based Practice in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OCCT 717</td>
<td>Level I Fieldwork in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 720</td>
<td>Policy, Advocacy and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 721</td>
<td>Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 759</td>
<td>Fieldwork Education Seminar</td>
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<td>OCCT 760</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OCCT 780</td>
<td>OTD Leadership Seminar</td>
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</table>
### OCCT 782: Professional Development Portfolio 2

### OCCT 781: Program Development and Evaluation 3

### OCCT 783: Doctoral Practicum 10

### OCCT 784: Practicum Evaluation and Dissemination 1

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#### Total Hours: 104

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 104.

### Sample plan of study

#### Year one

**Summer semester**

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<td>Advanced Functional Anatomy</td>
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</table>

**Term Hours:** 7

**Fall**

- IPEC 501 Foundations of Interprofessional Practice 1
- OCCT 590 Functional Movement Analysis in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 591 Neuroscience Applications to Occupational Therapy 4
- OCCT 592 Introduction to Injury, Illness and Disability 3
- OCCT 593 Analysis of Human Occupation 1
- OCCT 594 Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy 4

**Term Hours:** 16

**Spring**

- OCCT 613 Adult Occupational Performance I 3
- OCCT 614 Pediatric Occupational Performance I 4
- OCCT 615 Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy 1
- OCCT 616 Research Process in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 617 Therapeutic Process in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 689 Occupational Therapy Assessment and Evaluation 3

**Term Hours:** 17

#### Year two

**Summer semester**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 720</td>
<td>Policy, Advocacy and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
| OCCT 721    | Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy 3
| OCCT 759    | Fieldwork Education Seminar 2
| OCCT 782    | Professional Development Portfolio 2 |

**Term Hours:** 15

#### Year three

**Summer semester**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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| OCCT 760    | Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy 9
| OCCT 761    | Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy 9

**Term Hours:** 9

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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</table>
| OCCT 783    | Doctoral Practicum 10
| OCCT 784    | Practicum Evaluation and Dissemination 1

**Term Hours:** 11

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
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</table>
| OCCT 721    | Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy 3
| OCCT 759    | Fieldwork Education Seminar 2
| OCCT 782    | Professional Development Portfolio 2 |

**Term Hours:** 15

**Total Hours:** 104

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 104.

### Contact

Audrey E. Kane, Ph.D., OTR/L  
Assistant professor and director of admissions and recruitment  
otentrylevel@vcu.edu  
(804) 828-2219

### Additional contacts

Rebekah Allen  
Program manager  
rhallen@vcu.edu  
(804) 828-2219

Carole Ivey, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA  
Associate professor and chair, Department of Occupational Therapy  
civey@vcu.edu

**Program website:** occu.chp.vcu.edu (https://occu.chp.vcu.edu)