

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.
3. Students will evaluate and document client occupational performance and participation.
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.graduate.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-regs/>)

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-regs/grad/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-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

Other information

All graduates of an occupational therapy program are required to take the national certification examination to become a registered occupational therapist and use the credentials OTR. The national certifying organization for occupational therapy is the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. Other licensure or certification requirements have been established by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. Most licensure requirements include board certification as a registered occupational therapist. Some licensure or certification agencies consider individuals convicted of a felony ineligible for licensure or certification. For specific information, prospective students should contact the licensure or certification agency for occupational therapy.

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

Admission requirements

Degree:	Semester(s) of entry:	Deadline dates:	Test requirements:
O.T.D.	Summer	Dec 1 (OTCAS and VCU graduate applications)	GRE

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 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
 - iv. A "value-added" essay (no more than 1000 words) submitted as a PDF file to otentrylevel@vcu.edu
 - v. Evidence of completion of a minimum of 30 observation hours in one or more settings under the supervision of a licensed OTR or COTA
 - vi. Three letters of recommendation (One letter from an occupational therapist is preferred, but it is not essential.)
 - vii. 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

The VCU entry-level occupational therapy doctorate is a 104 credit program that spans three years (nine semesters). Applicants apply for the program between July and Dec. 1 of the year preceding enrollment. Orientation and summer semester classes begin the first week of June. The first semester is a seven-credit part-time semester and the second summer semester is a five-credit part-time semester. All other semesters, including the last year of two semesters of Level II fieldwork and the final semester of doctoral practicum are full-time semesters. Five courses in the curriculum (OCCT 780, OCCT 781, OCCT 782, OCCT 783 and OCCT 784) taken during the second summer and the second and third spring semesters will be taught in a hybrid format, which will require some on-campus hours with the remainder taught using the

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.

Course	Title	Hours
IPEC 501	Foundations of Interprofessional Practice	1
OCCT 580	Introduction to the Profession of Occupational Therapy	2
OCCT 589	Advanced Functional Anatomy	5
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
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
OCCT 692	Assistive Technologies for Occupational Engagement	2
OCCT 693	Occupational Synthesis and Adaptations	2
OCCT 713	Adult Occupational Performance II	4
OCCT 714	Pediatric Occupational Performance II	4
OCCT 715	Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy	1
OCCT 716	Evidence-based Practice in Occupational Therapy	3
OCCT 717	Level I Fieldwork in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy	3
OCCT 720	Policy, Advocacy and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice	3
OCCT 721	Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy	3
OCCT 759	Fieldwork Education Seminar	2
OCCT 760	Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy	9
OCCT 761	Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy	9
OCCT 780	OTD Leadership Seminar	3

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
Total Hours		104

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

Sample plan of study

Year one

Summer semester		Hours
OCCT 580	Introduction to the Profession of Occupational Therapy	2
OCCT 589	Advanced Functional Anatomy	5
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		Hours
OCCT 693	Occupational Synthesis and Adaptations	2
OCCT 780	OTD Leadership Seminar	3
Term Hours:		5

Fall semester

OCCT 713	Adult Occupational Performance II	4
OCCT 714	Pediatric Occupational Performance II	4
OCCT 715	Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy	1
OCCT 716	Evidence-based Practice in Occupational Therapy	3
OCCT 781	Program Development and Evaluation	3
Term Hours:		15

Spring semester

OCCT 692	Assistive Technologies for Occupational Engagement	2
OCCT 717	Level I Fieldwork in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy	3
OCCT 720	Policy, Advocacy and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice	3
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		Hours
OCCT 760	Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy	9
Term Hours:		9

Fall semester

OCCT 761	Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy	9
Term Hours:		9

Spring semester

OCCT 783	Doctoral Practicum	10
OCCT 784	Practicum Evaluation and Dissemination	1
Term Hours:		11
Total Hours:		104

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

Contact

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