

## Occupational Therapy

**Alma Abdel-Moty**, *Chairperson, Clinical Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator*

**Elise Bloch**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*

**Amy Paul-Ward**, *Assistant Professor*

**Jose Rafols**, *Visiting Assistant Professor*

**Pamela Shaffner**, *Clinical Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator*

**Agnes Sheffey**, *Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator*

## Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

The profession of Occupational Therapy (OT) is a health profession which prepares practitioners to develop and restore the functional performance abilities needed for individuals experiencing disease and disability to lead satisfying productive lives. Occupational therapy may be indicated for persons whose lives have been interrupted by disease or injury, or those who suffer from developmental delays, mental illness or problems associated with aging.

Occupational therapists assess individuals' abilities to carry out tasks and activities necessary to enable function for productive living. Working collaboratively with clients, considering their personal goals, lifestyles, and environments, the therapist develops intervention programs designed to help develop/restore the greatest possible functional capacity. During the treatment or rehabilitation process, the clients actively engage in directed programs of purposeful, meaningful activities designed to increase their levels of functioning. The occupational therapist works collaboratively with individuals, other health professionals, and health and community agency personnel. A successful therapist must be able to work with others, look at the totality of human performance, think creatively, problem solve, and direct the actions of others. Occupational therapists serve a wide variety of individuals in all age ranges and work in settings such as community agencies, sheltered workshops, hospitals, schools, skilled nursing centers, rehabilitation centers, and home health.

There are three ways to earn the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. They are as follows:

1. **Professional Masters** – this is a seven semester program designed for students with degrees in fields other than occupational therapy,
2. **BSHS OT Track/MS** – this four semester program is designed for graduates of the FIU BS in Health Sciences, Occupational Therapy Track, and
3. **MS** – this three semester MS degree is designed for therapists who achieved licensure in Occupational Therapy at the BS level.

As of January 2007 successful completion of a post baccalaureate degree program (MS) is required in order to qualify an individual to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification examination. Students should visit the Occupational Therapy Department website at <http://ot.fiu.edu> for current information.

## The Professional Masters

The Professional Masters consists of two parts:

1. 40 credit certificate courses preparing those students with a BS in another field of study, who have completed the necessary prerequisites, to develop skills in clinical practice, and clinical decision making,
2. 42 credit MS which adds clinical internship and the components needed for engagement in evidence based practice, leadership in professional practice, and research, all needed to meet the current demands on today's health care professionals.

The certificate courses are taken concurrently with the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Students apply for graduate admission to the Occupational Therapy department. Admission to the program is competitive.

The Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. AOTA's phone number is (301) 652-AOTA. Graduates of the program will be able to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapists administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). Most states require licensure in order to practice. Your eligibility for state licensure or certification may be at risk if you have been convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication which directly relates to the practice of occupational therapy or to the ability to practice occupational therapy. A plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this part. Applicants to the Occupational Therapy program are required to submit state and federal background checks at the time of admission into the program. Findings in background checks may affect a student's ability to participate in clinical experiences needed to complete the program, and to obtain licensure. If you have questions about background checks, contact the Associate Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at (305) 348-7741.

## Advising

Group advising sessions are held on a regular basis during the semester; the dates are posted on the departments website, <http://ot.fiu.edu>. If you have specific questions related to your application, the OT advisor will answer them during the session. All applicants who live in Miami-Fort Lauderdale area are expected to attend an advising session. Students who live outside the area can call the OT department at (305) 348-6068 and ask to speak with an advisor.

**Application Deadline** Applications are accepted starting January 15th for fall admission. Early decisions are made by March 1; however, applications are accepted until all positions are filled. Interested students are encouraged to apply early to secure acceptance. Class size is limited to 28. Classes start in the Fall.

## Prerequisites

1. Biology and lab  
or Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs

3-4  
6

(students who have completed Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs have met the prerequisites for Biology with lab, but not Anatomy)

2. Physiology (3 credits) or Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs	6
<i>(students who have completed Anatomy/Physiology I and II with labs have met the prerequisites for Physiology, but not Anatomy)</i>	
3. Theories of Personality	3
4. Abnormal Psychology	3
5. Human Growth and Development	3
6. Statistics (STA 6166 Statistical Methods I preferred)	3
7. Human Anatomy with lab <sup>1</sup>	4
8. Neuroscience <sup>1,2</sup>	4

<sup>1</sup>These courses must be numbered 3000 or above.

<sup>2</sup>If not taken as prerequisite, may be taken after admission to the master's program.

### Required Courses for Certification in OT on the way to the Master's degree: (40)

OTH 5011	Theories & Practice of O.T.	3
OTH 5162	Adaptation of Human Occupation	3
OTH 5202	Occupational Development: Infancy Throughout Adolescence	2
OTH 5202L	Occupational Development: Infancy Throughout Adolescence Lab	1
OTH 5303	Occupational Development: Adulthood and Aging	3
OTH 5414	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion	3
OTH 5414L	Analysis & Adaptation Human Motion Lab	1
OTH 5429	Biomechanical & Rehab App in OT	3
OTH 5429L	Biomechanical & Rehab App in OT Lab	1
HSC 4553	Fundamentals of Pathology	3
OTH 4504	Neuromotor Approaches in OT I	4
OTH 4426	Neuromotor Approaches in OT II	3
OTH 4426L	Neuromotor Approaches in OT II Lab	1
OTH 5324	Clinical Intervention for Persons with Neuropsychiatric & Cognitive Disorders	4
OTH 4761	Professional Issues OT	2
OTH 5751	Rehabilitation Seminar	3

### MS for Graduates of BSHS OT Track

Students are eligible for this program after completion of the BSHS OT track, a 5 semester limited access program, with a 3.0 GPA.

**Application Deadline** Students need to apply by March 1 of their senior year of the BSHS program. Admission is dependent on completion of the BSHS and a 3.0 GPA. The program for this track starts in Summer.

### Required Courses:\* (42 credits)

#### Occupational Therapy Core

OTH 6009	Current Issues and Theories of Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 6772	Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal (taken senior year of BSHS)	3
OTH 6215	Advanced Occupational Therapy Intervention Strategies	3
OTH 6706	Occupational Therapy Management	3

#### Research Core

OTH 5760	Current Research in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 5725	Infusing Occupation into Community Based Practice	3

OTH 5845	Level II Fieldwork	6
OTH 5846	Level II Fieldwork	6
OTH 6972	Master's Project	3
OTH 6973	Master's Project	3

### Clinical Specialty Component (9 credits)

Combination of Occupational Therapy and University electives in an identified area of clinical interest approved by the faculty.

\*An undergraduate student who maintains a minimum 3.25 GPA may take up to 12 graduate credits prior to the completion of the BSHS OT Track degree.

### Master of Science: fully on-line (36 credits)

This three semester MS degree is designed for therapists who achieved licensure in Occupational Therapy at the BS level. This program is 36 credit hours. Many of our students work full time and take 2 3-credit courses a semester and complete the program in two years. This curriculum can be taken fully on-line. Some students who live in the South Florida area select to take a combination of on-line and in-class courses. Students electing to take the program fully on-line are required to complete the Master's Project rather than the Thesis.

**Application Deadline** There is no deadline for the MS on line. Registered therapists can apply at any time and start any term.

### Required Courses: (36 credits)

#### Occupational Therapy Core

OTH 6009	Current Issues and Theories of Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 6772	Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal	3
OTH 6215	Advanced Occupational Therapy Intervention Strategies	3
OTH 6706	Occupational Therapy Management	3

#### Research Core

OTH 5760	Current Research in Occupational Therapy	3
OTH 5725	Infusing Occupation into Community Based Practice	3
OTH 6972	Master's Project	3
	<b>or</b>	
OTH 6970	Master's Thesis (option)	6

### Clinical Specialty Component

Combination of Occupational Therapy and University electives in an identified area of clinical interest approved by the faculty.

12

### Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the Master's degree program students must:

1. Hold a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. Have completed an accredited curriculum in Occupational Therapy. Students who have not completed an accredited curriculum in Occupational Therapy can be admitted to the Professional Master's program.
3. Have a minimum of 3.0 GPA average based on a 4.0 scale in upper division courses of the Bachelor's degree.
4. Have a basic statistics course (STA 6166 Statistical Methods I is preferred).

5. Provide three letters of reference, a curriculum vitae/resume, a summary statement of professional and educational goals and assessment of current professional activities. Graduates of the former FIU BS OT program do not need to submit this information.

6. Receive approval from the departmental graduate admissions committee.

7. International students are accepted subject to space and fiscal limitations. Students must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in occupational therapy from an institution recognized in their own country as preparing students for graduate level study; academic eligibility for further study in their own country. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.

8. Registered Occupational Therapists can apply for admission at any time during the academic year.

### Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy consists of 36\* credits including 6 hours of a master's research project (thesis option). Fifteen credits of core courses must be taken in the department plus a minimum of six credit hours of thesis or project.

A maximum of six credits of graduate course work may be transferred from other institutions, provided they meet university requirements, subject to the approval of the departmental graduate committee.

\*Students in Professional Masters complete certificate courses concurrently.

Students in the BSHS OT track and the Professional Masters, complete 12 credits of Level II fieldwork (6 months internship) during the MS sequence.

### Course Descriptions

#### Definition of Prefix

GEY - Gerontology

OTH - Occupational Therapy

F-Fall semester offering; S-Spring semester offering; SS-Summer semester offering.

**GEY 5005C Issues in Gerontology for Health Professions (3).** This course examines social, economic, and demographic issues challenging older adults and health care professionals providing services to this age group.

**GEY 5600 Physical Change and Healthy Aging (3).** Primary health care and wellness with discussion and assessment of normal physiological alterations and their relationship to common health concerns and medical problems of older adults.

**OTH 5002 Occupation and Health (3).** Concepts of purposeful activities, occupation, and health will be explored in relation to self and the OT profession.

**OTH 5011 Theories and Practice of Occupational Therapy (3).** The theoretical foundations of occupational therapy and issues affecting professional practice. (SS)

**OTH 5162 Adaptation of Human Occupation (3).** Through development of an understanding of the components and nuances of human occupation, students

will develop skills needed to promote optimal performance through simulation and adaptation of life tasks. (SS)

**OTH 5195 Occupational Therapy Job Modification (3).** Analysis and adaptation of client's workplace for the disabled. Prerequisites: Admission to program or permission of the instructor (occasional elective).

**OTH 5202 Occupational Development: Infancy Throughout Adolescence (2).** Occupation during infancy, childhood, and adolescence. Includes social, cultural, and environmental factors on occupational competence. (F)

**OTH 5202L Occupational Development: Infancy Through Adolescence Lab (1).** Laboratory to accompany OTH 5202, Occupational Development Throughout the Life Span. Corequisite: OTH 5202.

**OTH 5203 Occupational Development: Adulthood and Aging (3).** Exploration of occupational development from young adulthood through the geriatric years.

**OTH 5213 Pediatric Seminar: School Based Occupational Therapy (3).** Course designed to provide students with necessary skills and specific knowledge to practice occupational therapy effectively in the educational setting. One week fieldwork. Interdisciplinary classes with physical therapy. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**OTH 5214 Occupational Therapist Role in Family Centered Care (3).** Course designed to orient O.T. students to family-centered care issues, such as legislation, cultural issues, family systems and empowerment strategies, in order to prepare them for clinical practice. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**OTH 5280 Role of Environment in Occupational Therapy (3).** Assessing the influence of environmental factors on OT practice in specific field settings. Prerequisite: Admission to program.

**OTH 5324 Clinical Intervention for Persons with Neuropsychiatric & Cognitive Disorders (4).** Develops clinical reasoning abilities in the selection of assessment and treatment strategies for individuals with cognitive and neuropsychiatric disorders. (S)

**OTH 5326 Psychiatric O.T.: Contemporary Theory and Practice (3).** Examination of contemporary knowledge relevant to the theory and practice of O.T. in psychiatry. Prerequisites: Admission to Program or permission of the instructor.

**OTH 5345 Occupational Therapy Program Development in Psychiatry (3).** Seminar discussion and practical experience in OT programming in psychiatry. Prerequisites: Admission to program or permission of the instructor.

**OTH 5360 Social Justice Issues for Health Professionals (3).** An examination of relevant social justice related theories for health professionals leading to an understanding of how therapists can empower persons with disabilities to navigate the health system.

**OTH 5405C Analysis of Therapeutic Procedures in Physical Disabilities (3).** A lecture/lab course designed to introduce advanced students to theory based assessment problem identification and treatment for the physically disabled adult.

**OTH 5406 Sensory Problems and Therapeutic Implications (3).** An in-depth study of sensory problems and the implications for therapy. A variety of patient populations and clinical applications will be discussed. Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor (occasional elective).

**OTH 5407 Theoretical Perspectives of Pain (3).** Theoretical perspectives of pain: etiology, assessment, management and effects. Prerequisites: Admission to the program or permission of the instructor (occasional elective).

**OTH 5414 Analysis & Adaptation in Human Motion (3).** Presents anatomical, physiological, and biomechanical principles of human motion & biomechanical frame of reference in adaption with biomechanical problems. (F)

**OTH 5414L Analysis & Adaptation in Human Motion Lab (1).** Laboratory to accompany OTH 5414, Analysis & Adaptation of Human Motion in OT. (F)

**OTH 5427 Neurorehabilitation Approaches in OT (3).** OT evaluation procedures and treatment planning for patients with CNS dysfunction. Prerequisites: PHT 4160 or equivalent. Corequisite: OTH 5427L.

**OTH 5427L Neurorehabilitation Approaches in OT Lab (1).** Laboratory to accompany OTH 5427, Neurorehabilitation Approaches in OT. Prerequisites: PHT 4160 or equivalent. Corequisite: OTH 5427.

**OTH 5429 Biomechanics & Rehabilitative Approaches in OT (3).** Biomechanics and rehabilitative frames of reference as they focus on body parts and occupational performance.

**OTH 5429L Biomechanics & Rehabilitative Approaches in OT Lab (1).** Lab to accompany OTH 5429 Biomechanics & Rehabilitative Approaches.

**OTH 5440 Treatment Approaches for the Neurologically Impaired (3).** In depth instruction in approaches to the neurologically impaired patient. Emphasis will be on dysfunction due to stroke or head injury. Prerequisites: OTH 4422 or equivalent.

**OTH 5503 Current Occupational Therapy Practice in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (3).** Theoretical framework and guidelines for assessment and intervention in a neonatal intensive care unit. Prerequisite: Majors only.

**OTH 5505 Pediatric Health and Dysfunction in Occupational Therapy (3).** Investigation of pediatric health and dysfunction issues encountered by Occupational Therapists. Corequisite: OTH 5505L.

**OTH 5505L Pediatric Health and Dysfunction in OT Lab (1).** Laboratory to accompany OTH 5505, Pediatric Health and Dysfunction in Occupational Therapy. Corequisite: OTH 5505.

**OTH 5600 Study of Gerontology as Related to Occupational Therapy (3).** An overview of current issues in the practice of occupational therapy for the aged.

**OTH 5603 Role of Occupational Therapist in Family Centered Care of Elderly (3).** Issues related to caregiving of elder and caregivers including autonomy, cultural

influences and family systems. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**OTH 5610 Foundations in Gerontology for Health Professions (3).** Implication for health professions of the biological, cross-cultural, physiological, psychological, social, and societal contexts of aging.

**OTH 5613 Interdisciplinary Approach to Aging (3).** Issues related to roles of specific health team members and application of interdisciplinary approach to care of the elderly. Prerequisites: Aging course or work experience with elderly, permission of the instructor.

**OTH 5630 OT Assessment of the Elderly (3).** Study of assessment techniques appropriate for OT evaluation of the elderly. Prerequisite: Admission to program.

**OTH 5725 Infusing Occupation into Community Based Practice (3).** The evaluation and promotion of community based programming to serve non-traditional client populations.

**OTH 5751 Rehabilitation Seminar in Occupational Therapy (3).** A seminar designed to gain an understanding of OT clinical practice areas in rehabilitation. Various clinicians will present their perspectives of organizational structure, populations served, evaluation and treatment approaches. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**OTH 5760 Current Research in Occupational Therapy (3).** Review of statistical concepts and research procedures in the clinical setting, with in-depth study of the current status of research in occupational therapy. (S)

**OTH 5764 Research in a Clinical Speciality (3).** Participation in ongoing research of faculty members in clinical speciality area. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. (SS)

**OTH 5765 Research in Clinical Practice (3).** Students identify a research topic and questions based on observation of clinical problems during field visits.

**OTH 5805 Service Learning in Health (3).** Student's learning is centered on a community service experience which meets specific principles of service learning. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate study in OT. (Other graduate students or graduate certificate students in aging admitted by permission of the instructor.)

**OTH 5840 Fieldwork Level I (3).** Practicum fieldwork experience in an approved setting.

**OTH 5845 Fieldwork Level II (6-12).** Three-month internship in an approved setting. Prerequisite: Completion of didactic coursework.

**OTH 5846 Fieldwork Level II (6-12).** Three-month internship in an approved setting. Prerequisite: Completion of didactic coursework.

**OTH 5849 Fieldwork Experience (1-20).** Internship in a specialized treatment setting. Prerequisite: Completion of didactic coursework.

**OTH 5905 Independent Study (Variable Credit).** (F,S,SS)

**OTH 5934 Evaluation and Treatment of Hand Dysfunction (3).** Seminar in current issues related to the

assessment and treatment of common injuries of the hand (occasional elective).

**OTH 5938 O.T. Theoretical Perspectives in Health Therapy (3).** This seminar course is designed to examine the OT's role in the prevention of both physical and mental diseases. It will demonstrate and discuss how OT foundational under-pinnings provide the tools therapists need to guide patients and clients toward lifestyle behaviors which can prevent or delay disease onset and foster functional adaptation. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**OTH 6009 Current Issues and Theories of Occupational Therapy (3).** Exploration of current issues and theories in occupational therapy leading to development of student's theoretical reference for practice. Prerequisite: Admission to the program.

**OTH 6106 The Role of Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology (3).** This course provides the student with in-depth information about assessment for AT and recommendation of appropriate equipment.

**OTH 6215 Advanced OT Intervention Strategies (3).** Principles and characteristics of treatment regimens designed to enhance the study of treatment effectiveness. Emphasis on application of activity appropriate for student's clinical concentration. Prerequisite: Admission to program. (F)

**OTH 6265 Measurement and Assessment in Occupational Therapy (3).** Measurement concepts and practices used in occupational therapy evaluation. Prerequisites: Admission to program or permission of the instructor.

**OTH 6507 Occupational Therapy for Occupationally Dysfunctional Children & Adolescents.** Exploration of factors leading to successful adaptation to occupational roles, are explored with particular emphasis on the relationship between these factors and Occupational Therapy theory. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**OTH 6538 Advanced Methods in Pediatric Assessment (3).** Advanced applications of theory and research in the area of pediatric occupational therapy assessment. Skills in neonatal, neurodevelopmental, occupational behavior, and computer-assisted methods.

**OTH 6542 Role of the Occupational Therapist in the School System: A Consultation Model (3).** Course introduces consultation as a viable service provision option to enable occupational therapists to create more effective living and learning environments on behalf of children. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**OTH 6548 Advanced Methods in Pediatric Occupational Therapy (3).** Advanced application of theory and research in occupational therapy. Includes neurodevelopmental treatment approaches, neonates through adolescents. Prerequisite: OTH 6538.

**OTH 6706 Occupational Therapy Management (3).** Study of administrative issues in OT in relation to licensing, certification, documentation, supervision, and professional roles.

**OTH 6772 Evidence Based Practice and Critical Appraisal (3).** An in-depth investigation of the tools and

resources for systematically locating and reviewing research evidence.

**OTH 6937 ADA Workplace Accommodations of Persons with Disabilities (3).** Interdisciplinary course designed to bring together students of both rehabilitation and business/management disciplines to develop strategies to implement the Title I-Workplace provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA).

**OTH 6948 Continuing Clinical Competence for Occupational Therapists (3).** Design, execution, and presentation of a major Occupational Therapy project.

**OTH 6970 Master's Thesis (1-6).** Supervised research on a research project submitted in partial fulfillment of Master's degree requirement. Prerequisite: Permission of major professor. (F,S,SS)

**OTH 6972 Master's Project Development (3).** Development and planning of Master's Project.

**OTH 6973 Master's Project Implementation (3).** Implementation and completion of the Master's Project. Prerequisite: OTH 6972.