

Curriculum Overview and Outline

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The College of Health Sciences at Des Moines University offers an entry-level doctoral program of study in occupational therapy. The program includes 33 months of academic and professional study leading to a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree. This includes 2 years (22 months) of didactic coursework, 24 weeks of Level II Fieldwork, and a 14-week doctoral capstone experience.

The OTD program prepares students with the knowledge, skills, and experience to provide occupational therapy services that improve engagement in everyday activities and promote enjoyment of life to its fullest. Our students develop the expertise to become caring and competent providers in diverse local and global communities. The curriculum prepares students to be reflective practitioners who facilitate health promotion, prevention, and wellness through occupation- and evidence-based practice, professional reasoning, scholarship, interprofessional collaboration, and innovation.

MISSION

To support the health, wellbeing, and occupational engagement of people, communities, and populations by preparing compassionate and competent leaders in occupational therapy

VISION

We envision the DMU OTD program will be national leaders in occupational therapy education by engaging in scholarship, serving the local and global community, and creating therapists who are competent, collaborative, and innovative.

VALUES

To fulfill its mission and advance toward its vision, the DMU OTD program seeks to prepare occupational therapists who value:

- Evidence-based and competent expertise in occupation;
- Reflection, collaboration, compassion, and professionalism;
- Inclusion, diversity, culturally responsiveness, and justice;
- Ethical and intentional decision making;
- Lifelong learning; and
- Holistic wellness, social responsibility, and health equity.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates of DMU's Doctor of Occupational Therapy program will:

1. Achieve entry-level competence as an occupational therapist.
 - 1.1. Demonstrate entry-level competence in all parts of the OT Process: Evaluation, Intervention, and Outcomes
 - 1.2. Demonstrate the ability to support health and participation in all stages of life through engagement in occupation
2. Uphold the ethical standards, values, and attitudes of the occupational therapy profession, including promotion of occupational justice, cultural humility, and equitable care.
 - 2.1. Explain and apply the concepts of occupational justice, cultural humility, and equitable care
 - 2.2. Apply the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics to a practice situation

- 2.3. Adhere to the Occupational Therapy Code of ethics and all federal, state, and facility regulations
3. Articulate and apply the occupational therapy domain and process through theoretically informed and evidence-based evaluations and interventions to achieve expected outcomes as related to culturally relevant occupations.
 - 3.1. Describe the aspects of the occupational therapy domain: Occupations, contexts, performance patterns, performance skills, and client factors.
 - 3.2. Demonstrate the ability to create an occupational profile which informs creation of a culturally relevant plan of care.
 - 3.3. Demonstrate use of theory and evidence in evaluation and intervention to achieve expected outcomes.
4. Effectively communicate and collaborate intra- and interprofessionally with all who provide services and programs for persons, groups, communities, and populations.
 - 4.1. Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with, assign appropriate tasks to, and supervise the occupational therapy assistant while remaining responsible for all aspects of treatment.
 - 4.2. Communicate with clients, families, communities, and other professionals in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team-based and collaborative care approach
 - 4.3. Perform effectively on an interprofessional team to plan, deliver, and evaluate care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.
5. Lead, educate, and advocate regarding the distinct value of occupational therapy, access to occupational therapy services, and for the recipients of those services.
 - 5.1. Identify social, political, economic, and healthcare trends at local, national, and global levels which impact occupational therapy practice.
 - 5.2. Articulate the values, beliefs, and distinct perspective of the occupational therapy profession; occupation as a method and desired outcome of occupational therapy; and the role of occupational therapy practitioners to clients and other relevant parties clearly, confidently, and accurately.
 - 5.3. Advocate for occupational therapy services by influencing policy, practice, and education.
6. Consume and contribute to research supporting occupational therapy in order to promote evidence-based professional practice and lifelong learning.
 - 6.1. Design and implement a research study to address a clinical question.
 - 6.2. Critically appraise and analyze research evidence to inform practice decisions.
7. Synthesize in-depth knowledge in a practice area through the development and completion of a doctoral capstone in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice skills, research skills, administration, leadership, program and policy development, advocacy, education, and theory development.
 - 7.1. Develop and complete a doctoral capstone experience (DCE) which focuses on advanced clinical practice skills, research, administration, leadership, program and policy development, advocacy, education, and theory development.
 - 7.2. Create a doctoral capstone project which evidences mobilization of the DCE and integration of learning.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, students must have a minimum of 60 semester hours (2.5 years FTE) of undergraduate work at a regionally accredited college or university prior to the start of orientation.

The courses below are required for admission; students may apply while coursework is in progress. Coursework completion is required prior to matriculation, and pending coursework during the application cycle is acceptable. A prerequisite GPA and cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are recommended to be considered for admission. The following course work must be completed prior to matriculation; grades below a C- will not be accepted.

Subject	Required Course(s) or Semester Hours
Human Anatomy ^{1,2}	4 semester hours
Human Physiology ^{1,2}	4 semester hours
Psychology	9 semester hours <i>Must include coursework in introductory, abnormal, and developmental psychology</i>
Social Science or Humanities	3 semester hours <i>May include sociology, anthropology, philosophy, economics, or other</i>
English Composition	6 semester hours <i>Must include college-level English writing, grammar, and composition</i>
Statistics	3 semester hours
Medical Terminology	1 course <i>Or Certificate of Completion via DMU's online Medical Terminology course</i>

¹ with lab

² or a two-course sequence in anatomy and physiology with lab

Other recommended course work includes biology, human development/human behavior, physics, kinesiology, research methods, philosophy, ethics, and speech/communication.

A personal statement is required along with three letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be from a college professor/instructor who can attest to academic ability to enter a rigorous professional program. A letter recommendation from a licensed occupational therapist is highly desired.

Applicants are encouraged to observe occupational therapists, but a minimum number of hours is not required for application. The most competitive applicants will have observed several hours in a variety of occupational therapy settings, including in practice areas of children and youth, work and industry, rehabilitation, health and wellness, mental health, productive aging, or another specific area.

Accepted students will be required to complete a criminal background check, which may include a drug screen, prior to matriculation into the program. DMU students are required to complete annual criminal background checks, which may include drug screening, while enrolled at DMU. Depending on fieldwork

site placement, additional requirements may need to be met or updated. Students must also complete a physical examination and an immunization report prior to orientation. Proof of health insurance coverage which meets minimum requirements as specified within the Academic Catalog must be provided at orientation.

Additional information regarding program requirements can be found on the OTD Program website.

PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS

Application to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is accepted through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS).

Detailed information regarding the process can be found on the OTD Program website.

Once your application file is complete with OTCAS, it will be sent to DMU. Applicants will be contacted by email if they are selected for an interview. An interview is required for admission and is conducted using the Kira Talent Virtual Interview Assessment, a competency-based, holistic, asynchronous assessment. Follow-up interviews may be required. Applicants will receive a response to their application status after the interview process.

The OTD program does not accept transfer credits or provide credit for prior experiences.

PROGRAM PATHWAYS

In an effort to appeal to and meet the needs of a more diverse group of learners, applicants to DMU's OTD program can choose one of two pathways to earning their Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree. Both pathways are a part of the same student cohort and follow the same fulltime schedule. Students from both pathways will come together for weekly laboratory sessions.

- Traditional Campus Pathway
 - Students who choose the traditional campus pathway will engage in most class and laboratory sessions face-to-face on the DMU campus.
- Hybrid Pathway
 - Students who choose the hybrid pathway will engage in class sessions virtually (synchronously or asynchronously) and will attend laboratory sessions face-to-face on the DMU campus. Laboratory sessions will generally occur 2 consecutive days per week.