

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: ENTRY LEVEL, OTD

Admissions to the Occupational Therapy: Entry Level OTD have been suspended as of fall 2025 and will be discontinued as of fall 2026. If you have any questions, please contact the department.

This is a named option within the Occupational Therapy, OTD (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/kinesiology/occupational-therapy-otd/>).

The Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) is a three-year, full time program. Our cohort is an intimate 32 students who receive the individualized advising and support they need to develop into successful clinicians and leaders. The program includes the fundamentals of occupational therapy best practice with values emphasizing the importance of occupation, cultural responsiveness, ethical practice, interprofessional collaboration, and social justice. Our courses are organized into four main threads:

- Practice - Occupation-centered and evidence-based
- Research - Critical application and participation in clinically relevant research
- Leadership - Respectful advocacy, influence and transformation
- Wellness - Promoting health in self and others

ADMISSIONS

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Students interested in Occupational Therapy, should apply to the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/kinesiology/occupational-therapy-otd/>) Program.

FUNDING

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GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

[The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School.](#) Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Students enrolled in this program are not eligible to receive tuition remission from graduate assistantship appointments at this institution.

Our 75 years of generous alumni have provided a number of private scholarships for our students which support tuition, research, travel, and other opportunities. Please explore our website for the most current

scholarship options available. <https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/elotd/>

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirementstext>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiestext>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	97 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	85 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	All credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	Students must earn a grade of C or better in ANATOMY 622 to continue in the program.

Assessments and Examinations	Capstone project proposal and final product must be reviewed and approved by a capstone committee per Graduate School policy.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.
Graduate School Breadth Requirement	Breadth is provided via interprofessional training (doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate waived).

REQUIRED COURSES

The Entry-Level, Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) has a prescribed curriculum of 97 credits total.

Code	Title	Credits
Occupational-Centered Practice Thread		
OCC THER 630	Clinical and Functional Anatomy for Occupational Therapists	6
OCC THER 640	Applied Neuroanatomy for Allied Health Professionals	3
OCC THER 650	Enabling Occupations: Introduction	2
OCC THER 651	Clinical Conditions I	1
OCC THER 652	Clinical Conditions II	1
OCC THER 662	Level II Fieldwork A	6
OCC THER 664	Level II Fieldwork B	6
OCC THER 722	Enabling Occupations 1: Adult Focus	4
OCC THER 723	Enabling Occupations 2: Adult Focus	4
OCC THER 724	Enabling Occupations 3: Mental Health Across the Life Span	3
OCC THER 725	Enabling Occupations 4: Pediatrics	5
OCC THER 726	Level 1 Fieldwork A: Adult Physical Disabilities	1
OCC THER 727	Level 1 Fieldwork B: Community-Based Mental Health	1
OCC THER 728	Level 1 Fieldwork C: Pediatrics	1
OCC THER 821	Case Synthesis I	1
Evidence-Based Research Thread		
OCC THER 770	Evidence Based Practice Lab Practicum	2
OCC THER 770	Evidence Based Practice Lab Practicum	2
OCC THER 770	Evidence Based Practice Lab Practicum	2
OCC THER 771	Evidence Based Practice 1: Basics	3
OCC THER 772	Evidence Based Practice 2: Research Design, Methods, and Analysis	3
OCC THER 773	Evidence Based Practice 3: Research Translation	3
OCC THER 880	Introduction to Capstone	1
OCC THER 881	Capstone Project I	3
OCC THER 882	Capstone Project II	3
Leadership and Professional Skills Thread		
OCC THER 710	Professional and Leadership Skills 1: Foundations	2

OCC THER 711	Professional and Leadership Skills 2: Effective Interprofessional Relationships	2
OCC THER 712	Professional and Leadership Skills 3: Management	2
OCC THER 811	Applied Leadership and Management in OT	3
OCC THER 814	Communicating OT to Interprofessional Audiences	2
OCC THER 822	Case Synthesis 2	2
OCC THER 883	Doctoral Experiential Component	6

Wellness Thread

OCC THER 731	Living Well: Wellness Promotion for Graduate Students	1
OCC THER 732	Living Well: Designing Occupation-based Wellness Promotion	2
OCC THER 733	Promoting Health and Wellness for Populations	3
OCC THER 734	Living Well: Occupation-Based Interventions Promoting Health and Wellness	2
OCC THER 812	Current Trends Shaping Occupational Therapy Practice	3

Total Credits **97**

Sample 3-Year Schedule

Code	Title	Credits
Summer 1		
Students must complete 9 credits from following courses.		
ANATOMY 622	Human Anatomy for Physical and Occupational Therapy Students	6
OCC THER 650	Enabling Occupations: Introduction	2
OCC THER 731	Living Well: Wellness Promotion for Graduate Students	1
Fall 1		
Students must complete 15 credits from the following courses.		
OCC THER 640	Applied Neuroanatomy for Allied Health Professionals	3
OCC THER 651	Clinical Conditions I	1
OCC THER 710	Professional and Leadership Skills 1: Foundations	2
OCC THER 722	Enabling Occupations 1: Adult Focus	4
OCC THER 770	Evidence Based Practice Lab Practicum	2
OCC THER 771	Evidence Based Practice 1: Basics	3
Spring 1		
Students must complete 14 credits from the following courses.		
OCC THER 711	Professional and Leadership Skills 2: Effective Interprofessional Relationships	2
OCC THER 723	Enabling Occupations 2: Adult Focus	4
OCC THER 726	Level 1 Fieldwork A: Adult Physical Disabilities	1

OCC THER 732	Living Well: Designing Occupation-based Wellness Promotion	2
OCC THER 770	Evidence Based Practice Lab Practicum	2
OCC THER 772	Evidence Based Practice 2: Research Design, Methods, and Analysis	3

Summer 2

Students must complete 10 credits from the following courses.

OCC THER 652	Clinical Conditions II	1
OCC THER 724	Enabling Occupations 3: Mental Health Across the Life Span	3
OCC THER 727	Level 1 Fieldwork B: Community-Based Mental Health	1
OCC THER 733	Promoting Health and Wellness for Populations	3
OCC THER 814	Communicating OT to Interprofessional Audiences	2

Fall 2

Students must complete 15 credits from the following courses.

OCC THER 725	Enabling Occupations 4: Pediatrics	5
OCC THER 728	Level 1 Fieldwork C: Pediatrics	1
OCC THER 770	Evidence Based Practice Lab Practicum	2
OCC THER 773	Evidence Based Practice 3: Research Translation	3
OCC THER 811	Applied Leadership and Management in OT	3
OCC THER 821	Case Synthesis 1	1

Spring 2

Students must complete 7 credits from the following courses.

OCC THER 662	Level II Fieldwork A	6
OCC THER 880	Introduction to Capstone	1

Summer 3

Students must complete 6 credits from the following courses. Students have the option to complete 2 optional elective credits.

OCC THER 664	Level II Fieldwork B	6
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Fall 3

Students must complete 12 credits from courses below.

OCC THER 734	Living Well: Occupation-Based Interventions Promoting Health and Wellness	2
or KINES 785	Human Occupation and Health	
OCC THER 712	Professional and Leadership Skills 3: Management	2
OCC THER 812	Current Trends Shaping Occupational Therapy Practice	3
OCC THER 822	Case Synthesis 2	2
OCC THER 881	Capstone Project 1	3

Spring 3

Students must complete 9 credits from the following courses.

OCC THER 882	Capstone Project II	3
OCC THER 883	Doctoral Experiential Component	6

Total Credits **97**

Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval. Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

With program approval, students may transfer up to 12 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework should be less than five years old to be considered, additional justification and/or documentation are needed for coursework taken between five and ten years. Coursework more than ten years old will not be considered.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

No undergraduate coursework may transfer for Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) requirements.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

With program approval, students may transfer no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW-Madison University Special student. These credits are considered part of the total allowable credits available for a student to transfer. Coursework should be less than five years old to be considered; additional justification and/or documentation is needed for work taken between five and ten years. Coursework more than ten years old will not be considered.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Every graduate student is required to have an advisor to meet UW information management needs, and accordingly, and of its own volition, the department assigns an advisor to each student. The advisor is a graduate or clinical faculty member.

To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the Graduate School expects them to meet with their advisor on a regular basis. The Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program Coordinator will advise students in the early stages of their studies until a permanent advisor is assigned. The advisor may also serve on the student's capstone project committee.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

School of Education Grievance Policy and Procedures

The following School of Education Student Grievance Policy and associated procedures are designed for use in response to individual student grievances regarding faculty or staff in the School of Education.

Any individual student who feels they have been treated unfairly by a School of Education faculty or staff member has the right to file a grievance about the treatment and receive a timely response addressing their concerns. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these grievance procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies. The grievance may concern classroom treatment, mentoring or advising, program admission or continuation, course grades (study abroad grade complaints are handled through International Academic Programs (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/>)), or issues not covered by other campus policies or grievance procedures.

For grievances regarding discrimination based on protected bases (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/>) (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, etc.), contact the Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/>).

For grievances or concerns regarding sexual harassment or sexual violence (including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation), contact the Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) within the Office of Compliance.

For grievances that involve the behavior of a student, contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards in the Dean of Students Office at <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>.

For grievances about, or directed at, faculty or staff in a School of Education department, unit, or program, students should follow these steps:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to first talk with the person against whom the concern is directed. Many issues can be settled informally at this level. If students are unable to resolve concerns directly or without additional support, step 2 or 3 should be pursued.
2. If unresolved after taking or considering step 1:
 - a. If the concern is directed against a teaching assistant (TA), and the student is not satisfied, the student should contact the TA's supervisor, who is usually the course professor. The course professor will attempt to resolve the concern informally.
 - b. If the concern involves a non-TA instructor, staff member, professor, academic department, or School of Education office or unit, the student should contact the chair of the department or the director of the office or unit, or their designee. The chair or director, or their designee, will attempt to resolve the concern informally. If the concern is about the department chair or office/unit director, the student should consult the School of Education Senior Associate Dean for guidance.
3. If the concern remains unresolved after step 2, the student may submit a formal grievance to the chair or director in writing within 30 business days¹ of the alleged unfair treatment. To the fullest extent possible, a formal written grievance shall contain a clear and concise statement of the issue(s) involved and the relief sought.
4. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will notify the person at whom the grievance is directed with a copy of the

written grievance. The person at whom the complaint is directed may submit a written response, which would be shared with the student.

5. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will refer the matter to a department, office, or unit committee comprised of at least two members. The committee may be an existing committee or one constituted for this purpose. The committee, or delegates from the committee, may meet with the parties involved and/or review any material either party shares with the committee.
6. The committee will provide a written description of the facts of the grievance and communicate recommendations to the department chair or office/unit head regarding how the grievance should be handled.
7. The chair or director will offer to meet with the student who made the grievance and also will provide a written decision to the student, including a description of any related action taken by the committee, within 30 business days of receiving the formal grievance.

¹ For the purpose of this policy, business days refers to those days when the University Offices are open and shall not include weekends, university holidays, spring recess, or the period from the last day of exams of fall semester instruction to the first day of spring semester instruction. All time limits may be modified by mutual consent of the parties involved.

If the grievance concerns an undergraduate course grade, the decision of the department chair after reviewing the committee's recommendations is final.

Other types of grievances may be appealed using the following procedures:

1. Both the student who filed the grievance or the person at whom the grievance was directed, if unsatisfied with the decision of the department, office or unit, have five (5) business days from receipt of the decision to contact the Senior Associate Dean, indicating the intention to appeal.
2. A written appeal must be filed with the Senior Associate Dean within 10 business days of the time the appealing party was notified of the initial resolution of the complaint.
3. On receipt of a written appeal, the Senior Associate Dean will convene a sub-committee of the School of Education's Academic Planning Council. This subcommittee may ask for additional information from the parties involved and/or may hold a meeting at which both parties will be asked to speak separately (i.e., not in the room at the same time).
4. The subcommittee will then make a written recommendation to the Dean of the School of Education, or their designee, who will render a decision. The dean or designee's written decision shall be made within 30 business days from the date when the written appeal was filed with the Senior Associate Dean. For undergraduate students, the dean or designee's decision is final.

Further appealing a School of Education decision – *graduate students only*

Graduate students have the option to appeal decisions by the School of Education dean or designee by using the process detailed on the Graduate School's website (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>).

Questions about these procedures can be directed to the School of Education Dean's Office, 377 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, 608-262-1763.

Resources

- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for discrimination based on protected classes, including misconduct) 179A Bascom Hall, 608-262-2378
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts between students, or academic integrity violations) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>) (for students who experience or observe bias or hate incidents) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for graduate students who need informal advice at any level of review; for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions, see Graduate Assistant Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/>)) 217 Bascom Hall, 608-262-2433
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for UW-Madison employees, including graduate students) 523-524 Lowell Center, 608-265-9992
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving graduate assistants and other employees) 256 Lowell Hall, 608-263-2987
- Office of Human Resources (<https://kb.wisc.edu/ohr/policies/search.php?cat=4506>) for policies and procedures to address workplace conflict) 21 N Park Street Suite 5101, 608-265-2257
- Office of Student Assistance and Support (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (OSAS) (for any students needing advice or support) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- School of Education, Office of Student Services (<https://education.wisc.edu/about/student-services/>) (for students, particularly undergraduates, in the School of Education) 139 Education Building, 608-262-1651
- School of Education, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (<https://education.wisc.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/>) (OEDI) 145 Education Building, 608-262-8427

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.