

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



HIGHLIGHTS

“Occupational therapy helps people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes.”

Occupational therapists ask, “What matters to you?” not, “What’s the matter with you?” American Occupational Therapy Association

SERVICES TYPICALLY INCLUDE

- ◇ Customized intervention programs to improve a person’s ability to perform daily activities
- ◇ Comprehensive home, school, and job site evaluations with recommendations for adaptations
- ◇ Assessments and intervention in various performance skills such as physical, cognitive, social, emotional skills
- ◇ Adaptive equipment recommendations and usage training
- ◇ Guidance, suggestions, and support to family members and caregivers

The SJSU program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

CAREER SETTINGS

- ◇ Pediatric Clinics and Schools
- ◇ Rehabilitation Facilities
- ◇ Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- ◇ Neonatal Intensive Care Units
- ◇ Community Mental Health Centers
- ◇ Adult Daycare Programs
- ◇ Community Programs and Home Health
- ◇ Job Training Centers
- ◇ Business and Industry

PROGRAMS OFFERED

MS, Occupational Therapy Prerequisites:

- ◇ Baccalaureate degree from an accredited College/ University
- ◇ 80 hours volunteer work; 60 hours under direct supervision of an OT/L and 20 hours in a community agency
- ◇ Human Anatomy and Physiology, Physics, Neuroanatomy, General Psychology Abnormal Psychology, Social Problems or Cultural Anthropology, Statistics, Skills Course
- ◇ Completion of all prerequisite courses with a grade of B or better prior to entry into the program
- ◇ GPA 3.0 or better in the last 60 semester hours or last 90 quarter units of undergraduate work
- ◇ Graduate Record Examination Verbal score of 153 and Analytic Writing score of 4.0 is preferred

OVERVIEW OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program is designed for students who have earned a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than occupational therapy. It enables the student to obtain the education and degrees necessary to be eligible to practice as an occupational therapist. Once the Master of Science degree in occupational therapy is completed including successful completion of the required 6 months of fieldwork, the student is eligible to sit for the national certification examination. Successful completion of the examination qualifies the candidate to apply for national certification and state licensure.

The Occupational Therapy Department will welcome the first cohort of students for the Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree in Spring of 2023. See website for more information on application deadline.

CURRICULUM

The graduate occupational therapy curriculum can be completed in 2 and ½ years which includes the mandatory 6 months of fieldwork internship.

The curriculum is composed of six clusters:

- ◇ Occupation—the core of the profession
- ◇ Foundations for occupational therapy practice
- ◇ Professional development
- ◇ Practice in the Community
- ◇ Research and knowledge development
- ◇ Practice of occupational therapy

STUDENT ORGANIZATION

- ◇ Pre-Occupational Therapy Club (on SJSU Campus)
- ◇ Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)
- ◇ Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) Occupational Therapy National Honor Society

SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS

- ◇ Mary Booth Scholarship
- ◇ Bonita Kraft Scholarship
- ◇ Wynn Schultz-Krohn Scholarship
- ◇ Fieldwork Loan

Examples of student baccalaureate degrees obtained prior to entering the MS in OT program:

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|---------------|---------------------|
| • Art | • Biology |
| • Business | • Child Development |
| • Dance | • Health Science |
| • Kinesiology | • Music |
| • Psychology | • Sociology |

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the National Board Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification examination and may preclude attainment of state licensure.

SJSU WEB LINKS

- SJSU Home page:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/>
- Applying to SJSU:** <https://www.calstate.edu/apply>
- Aid and Scholarship:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/faso>
- Housing:** <http://housing.sjsu.edu/>
- Request Information about SJSU:** <https://www.sjsu.edu/soar/>
- Schedule of Classes:** <https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/>
- SJSU Catalog:** <https://catalog.sjsu.edu/>
- Writing Skills Test:** <https://www.sjsu.edu/testing/>
- Accessible Education Center:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>

ACADEMIC UNIT

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The Occupational Therapy Program at San José State University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Educators (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The address is 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA, is 301-652-AOTA (2682) and its web address is www.acoteonline.org.

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