

**SJSU Master of Science**  
Application Cycle 2022-2023

Occupational Therapy Program

# San Jose State University

- ◆ Oldest public university in California: established 1857
- ◆ One of 23 California State University campuses
- ◆ Current enrollment is about 33,000
- ◆ Approximately 20% of students are graduate students
- ◆ OT program established 1943; MS program established in 1960
  - College of Health and Human Sciences
- ◆ Thousands of alums throughout US and the world

# Central Classroom Building

## The Occupational Therapy Department



# Martin Luther King Library



# SJSU OT Faculty

- ◆ 9 tenured/tenure track faculty
- ◆ 11 part time faculty / practitioners
- ◆ 8 highly esteemed emeritus faculty
- ◆ 10 faculty have PhDs in clinical psychology, education, human science, occupational science, health science
- ◆ 6 Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association
- ◆ Specialized practice certifications
- ◆ One Fulbright scholar
- ◆ Numerous books, chapters, articles and presentations, editorial boards, research grants

# Department Chair – Dr. Gigi Smith



# SJSU Master's Program

- ◆ 4 semester academic program
  - Includes an International Experience
- ◆ 2 fieldwork placements (12 weeks each-40 hours/wk)
- ◆ MS degree conferred after final fieldwork placement
- ◆ Eligible to sit for national registration examination ([www.NBCOT.org](http://www.NBCOT.org))
- ◆ SJSU OT programs have a high pass rate on registration exam



# The Curriculum

## ◆ Curriculum Core

Participation in meaningful occupation to promote health, well-being, and social inclusion across the lifespan

## ◆ Mission

The Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University is dedicated to preparing culturally diverse occupational therapy leaders who promote health and participation in life for individuals, organizations, and populations through engagement in occupation.



# Curriculum Design

- ◆ The curriculum is designed to enable students to acquire the knowledge and competencies necessary to become a qualified occupational therapist within four semesters of graduate academic study and six months of internship (fieldwork).
- ◆ The curriculum is centered on the principle that participation in meaningful occupation promotes health, well-being, and social inclusion across the lifespan.

# Curriculum 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.

# Curriculum Design

- ◆ Classes are small in order to foster an active learning environment that will encourage students to develop strong clinical reasoning and creative problem solving capabilities. Students refine skills in selecting, evaluating, and applying information in order to engage in evidence-based practice. Throughout the program, opportunities to interact with therapists and clients in clinical and community settings enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to practice.
- ◆ International Experience

# International Experience

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- ◆ The overall goal for the international experience is to gain cross-cultural insight into the political, social cultural and economic factors that influence the provision of occupational therapy services outside of the US.
- ◆ Time abroad ranges from 1-3 weeks during the Winter or Summer session
- ◆ Students register for 1-6 units of coursework
- ◆ These courses fulfill requirements for the degree

# Degree Roadmap

## ◆ Semester 1

- ◆ OCTH 211: Historical and Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy
- ◆ OCTH 221: Occupational Analysis
- ◆ OCTH 212: Occupation Through the Lifespan
- ◆ OCTH 213: Professional Development I
- ◆ OCTH 222: Functional Kinesiology OR OCTH 276: Seminar and Practicum IA

## ◆ Semester 2

- ◆ OCTH 245: Introduction to Research Methodology
- ◆ OCTH 216: Evaluation in Occupational Therapy
- ◆ OCTH 224: Occupational Therapy Practice in the Community I
- ◆ OCTH 222: Functional Kinesiology OR OCTH 276: Seminar and Practicum IA
- ◆ OCTH 226: Occupational Therapy with Children or OCTH 236: Occupational Therapy with Youth

# Degree Roadmap (cont.)

## ◆ Semester 3

- ◆ OCTH 275: Evidence-Based Practice in OT
- ◆ OCTH 233: Professional Development II
- ◆ OCTH 246: OT with Young Adults or OCTH 256: OT with Middle Aged Adults
- ◆ OCTH 226: OT with Children or OCTH 286: Seminar and Practicum IB (4 units) OR OCTH 234: OT Practice in the Community II

## ◆ Semester 4

- ◆ OCTH 295: Master's Project Capstone Course
- ◆ OCTH 246: OT with Young Adults or OCTH 256: OT with Middle Aged Adults
- ◆ OCTH 266 OT with Older Adults
- ◆ OCTH 286: Seminar and Practicum IB (4 units) OR OCTH 234: OT Practice in the Community II
- ◆ OCTH 210 Seminar for Occupational Therapists

# The Curriculum

- ❖ Following completion of the academic curriculum, students complete two 12-week, 40 hour per week fieldwork placements (OCTH 201A and OCTH 201B).



# Admission Criteria

- ◆ GPA of 3.0 or better in last 60 semester or last 90 quarter units of coursework.
- ◆ Completion of prerequisite courses with a B or better prior to entry into the program.
- ◆ 80 hours volunteer experience verified by “Evaluation of Volunteer Experience” form. 60 hours under the direct supervision of an OT/L and 20 hours in a community agency.

# Community Agency

- ◆ A non-therapy site
- ◆ Ideally serves underserved or disenfranchised individuals
- ◆ Examples: Homeless shelters, soup kitchens, food banks, outreach programs, crisis centers, etc.

# Admission Criteria (continued)

## **For 2022-2023 Application Cycle**

- ◆ GRE Verbal score of 153 & a combined score of 297 is preferred, but not required. An Analytic Writing score of 4.0 on the GRE is highly recommended (a minimum score of 4.0 is acceptable)

# Admission Criteria (continued)

- ◆ OTCAS application & personal statement –

# Criteria for Applying to the MSOT Program

- ◆ Must **complete** 4/8 prerequisite courses
- ◆ Must submit volunteer experience forms. Please complete 20 hours of community work and at least 20 hours with an OT at the time of application. All hours must be completed by the start of classes in the Fall. **\*\*The person who completes the volunteer form cannot also submit a letter of recommendation**
- ◆ Must complete the GRE

# Criteria for Applying to the MSOT Program (continued)

- ◆ Submission of three letters of recommendation attesting to academic ability, work performance record and personal attributes necessary for graduate study. **1 letter must be from an academic source**

\*Remember: Letters of recommendation cannot be from someone who has completed the volunteer form

# Prerequisite Courses

- ◆ Human Anatomy with lab\*
- ◆ Physiology with lab
- ◆ Neuroanatomy—Bio 109 @ SJSU is offered on campus Spring semester and online during Summer (OCTH 190)
- ◆ General (Intro) Psychology
- ◆ Abnormal Psychology
- ◆ Sociology OR Cultural Anthropology
- ◆ Statistics\*
- ◆ Skills Course

\* = Must have been taken in last 7 years



# Neuroanatomy requirement

- ◆ Please check the website - prerequisite courses. Click on link for accepted neuroanatomy courses. If the course you want to take is not on this list, please email the Graduate Assistant. You must send the course syllabus and course description so that the class can be reviewed.
- ◆ Do not assume that a course with the name “neuro” in it will be an accepted option for this prerequisite.

# Prerequisite Courses

- ◆ Please contact the Graduate Assistant if you wish to find out if a particular course you took meets the criteria for our prerequisites.  
**\*\*Include the course syllabus or description from the catalog**

# Admission Information

- ◆ Applications are accepted once per year beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Students are conditionally accepted on a rolling admission basis

# Application Process

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- ◆ OTCAS
- ◆ OT Department
- ◆ CalState Apply/GAPE
  - <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
- ◆ You must complete the required paperwork for each of these

# OTCAS-Occupational Therapy Common Application System

- ◆ The following documents are submitted through OTCAS
  - Application/Personal Statement
  - Official Transcripts
  - Letters of Recommendation

# Occupational Therapy Department- SJSU

- ◆ The following are submitted directly to the OT Department
  - A copy of your application/personal statement from OTCAS
  - Sealed Volunteer Evaluation forms with waivers
  - Unofficial GRE scores
  - Include the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 pages of your OTCAS application

# CSU Mentor/GAPE (Graduate Studies Admissions & Program Evaluations )

- ◆ The following are submitted via Cal State Apply (<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>)
  - Application to the University
  - Official Transcripts
  - Official GRE (4687) Opens October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - This is a separate process from your application to the program and to OTCAS



# Tips

- ◆ Investigate prerequisite courses at local colleges
- ◆ Begin the volunteer hours ASAP
- ◆ Start the application process with OTCAS before Oct 1<sup>st</sup> as it takes at least two weeks for them to verify your application. **OTCAS open July 21<sup>st</sup>.**
- ◆ Applications are reviewed beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> and admissions are on a rolling basis. Timing is important!
- ◆ Choose referees carefully for the LOR (1 academic source required)
- ◆ Prepare a thoughtful personal statement describing goals and objectives for pursuing a Master's degree in OT, include leadership experiences and future potential (on application form).

# For More Information:

- ◆ **Email us at:** [gradadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu](mailto:gradadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu)
- ◆ Graduate assistant
  - Emily Boykin
  - E-mail: [gradadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu](mailto:gradadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu)

# Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)

- ◆ If you are interested in the OTD program please visit our website

<https://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/programs/otd.php>

- ◆ Or email us at

[otdadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu](mailto:otdadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu)



**Thank You!**

The background image shows a large, light-colored university building with a prominent tower on the left side. The tower has a small arched window at the top and a balcony with a white railing. The building has multiple windows and a tiled roof. In the foreground, there are green bushes and a garden bed with various plants. The sky is clear and blue.

# Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) San José State University

Gigi Smith, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Chair & Professor Occupational Therapy

Graduate & Undergraduate Coordinator/Advisor

# San Jose State University

Oldest public university in California: established 1857

One of 23 California State University campuses

Current enrollment is about 34,000

- SJSU offers 141 Baccalaureate degrees, 99 Master's degrees, and 3 Doctoral degrees

OT program established 1943; MSOT program established in 1960, OTD program inaugural class Spring 2023

**College of Health and Human Sciences**

\* Thousands of alums throughout US and the world

# Inaugural class 2023

San Jose State University is the **first public university** in California to offer the entry level OTD!!!





# Accreditation

ACOTE: The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

May, 2021: SJSU obtained WSCUC approval to offer an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree.

August of 2022: SJSU OTD Program was granted “Candidacy Status”

The Program anticipates attaining its full accreditation in May 2025

# Central Classroom Building

## The Occupational Therapy Department



# SJSU OT Faculty

10 tenured/tenure track faculty

10 part time faculty / practitioners

7 highly esteemed emeritus faculty

10 faculty have PhDs in clinical psychology, education, human science, occupational science, health science

6 Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association

Specialized practice certifications

One Fulbright scholar

Numerous books, chapters, articles and presentations, editorial boards, research grants

# Occupational Therapy

Two points of entry into the profession:

- Master's degree

- Doctorate degree

Degree Programs:

- Entry level Master's degree

- Entry level Doctorate (OTD) degree

- Post-professional OTD degree

# SJSU Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Program

3 year full-time (9 semester) year-round program

- Includes an International Experience
- 2 fieldwork placements (12 weeks each-40 hours/wk)
- Doctoral Capstone Experience (14 weeks)
- Doctoral Capstone Project (112 units)

Eligible to sit for national registration examination ([www.NBCOT.org](http://www.NBCOT.org))

SJSU OT programs have a high pass rate on registration exam

# Cost

Tuition: \$8598 (plus fees) per term (semester) for nine terms over the course of three years

Fees: Determined by the University

Scholarships are available to students based on financial need ([www.sjsu.edu/bursar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/bursar/))

# The Curriculum

## Curriculum Core

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## Mission

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# Curriculum 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.



# Curriculum Design

Classes are small in order to foster an active learning environment that will encourage students to develop strong clinical reasoning and creative problem solving capabilities. Students refine skills in selecting, evaluating, and applying information in order to engage in evidence-based practice. Throughout the program, opportunities to interact with therapists and clients in clinical and community settings enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to practice.

# Degree Roadmap-Year 1

## YEAR 1

### Spring 2023 (Total units: 15)

OCTH 211: Foundations of Occupational Therapy  
(3 units)

OCTH 212: Occupation Across the Lifespan  
(3 units)

OCTH 245: Introduction to Research Methodology in Occupational Therapy  
(3 units)

OCTH 221: Occupational Analysis  
(3 units)

OCTH 222: Kinesiology  
(3 units)

### Summer 2023 (10 weeks) Total Units: 10

OCTH 206: Clinical Practice Skills for Occupational Therapy  
(3 units)

OCTH 505: OTD Exploration I  
(1 unit)

OCTH 516: Evaluations and Assessments in Occupational Therapy  
(3 units)

OCTH 276: Practicum and Seminar I  
(3 units)

### Fall 2023 (Total Units: 16)

OCTH 555: Qualitative Research Methods in Occupational Therapy  
(3 units)

OCTH 524: Occupational Therapy Practice in the Community  
(2 units)

OCTH 526: Occupational Therapy with Children  
(3 units)

OCTH 536: Occupational Therapy with Youth  
(3 units)

OCTH 515: OTD Exploration II  
(2 units)

OCTH 533: Professional Development: Leadership in Occupational Therapy  
(3 units)

# Degree Roadmap-Year 2

## YEAR 2

### Spring 2024 (Total units: 16)

OCTH 546: Occupational Therapy with Young Adults (3 units)

OCTH 556: Occupational Therapy with Middle Aged Adults (3 units)

OCTH 565: Quantitative Research Methods in Occupational Therapy (3 units)

OCTH 534: Community and Population Health (3 units)

OCTH 286: Practicum and Seminar 1B (4 units)

### Summer 2024 (10 weeks)

#### Session 1 – 5 wks. (Total Units: 3)

OCTH 210 ITL: Seminar in Occupational Therapy International Experience (3 units)  
**OR**  
OCTH 210: Seminar in Occupational Therapy (3 units)

#### Session 2 – 5 wks. (Total Units: 5)

OCTH 525: OTD Exploration III (3 units)

OCTH 575: Advanced Research Methods (2 units)

### Fall 2024 (Total units: 15)

OCTH 576: Seminar in Professional Practice (3 units)

OCTH 543: Professional Development – Teaching, Learning and Service (3 units)

OCTH 585: Evidence Based Practice in Occupational Therapy (3 units)

OCTH 566: Occupational Therapy with Older Adults (3 units)

OCTH 586: Advanced Occupational Therapy Practice in Mental Health (3 units)

# Degree Roadmap-Year 3

## YEAR 3

### Spring 2025 (Total units: 12)

OCTH 201 A: Fieldwork Experience  
(6 units)

OCTH 201 B: Advanced Fieldwork Experience  
(6 units)

### Summer 2025 (5 weeks) Total units: 6

OCTH 553: Professional Development: Management in Occupational Therapy  
(3 units)

OCTH 591 A: OTD Capstone Experience I  
(3 units)

### Fall 2025 (Total units: 14)

OCTH 591 B: OTD Capstone Experience II  
(11 units)

OCTH 595: Doctoral Capstone Project  
(3 units)

# Admission Criteria

- GPA of 3.0 or better in last 60 semester or last 90 quarter units.
- Completion of prerequisite courses with a B or better prior to entry into the program.
- 80 hours volunteer experience verified by “Evaluation of Volunteer Experience” form. 60 hours under the direct supervision of an OT/L and 20 hours in a community agency.

# Admission Criteria (continued)

- GRE

The following are preferred, but not required:

GRE Verbal score of 153 and an Analytic Writing score of 4.0 on the GRE is highly recommended

GRE scores, GPA for prerequisite courses and for the last 60 units of coursework, will be considered in applicant ranking

- OTCAS application & Personal Statement

# Admission Criteria (continued)

- Submission of three letters of recommendation attesting to academic ability, work performance record and personal attributes necessary for graduate study. **1 letter must be from an academic source** (professor)

\*Remember: Letters of recommendation cannot be from someone who has completed the volunteer form

# Admission Criteria Checklist

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in last 60 semester or last 90 quarter units of coursework
- Completion of prerequisite courses with a B or better prior to entry into the program
- 80 hours volunteer experience
- GRE
- OTCAS application & Personal Statement
- Letters of Recommendation (OTCAS)
- GAPE application



# Minimum requirement for OTD Application Submission

- Must complete at least 4 out of 8 of prerequisite courses with a B grade or better
- At least half of the volunteer hours must be completed at the time of application. Volunteer experience evaluation forms must be submitted.  
The person who completes the volunteer form **cannot** also submit a letter of recommendation
- Complete the GRE and submit scores
- Personal statement

**All prerequisites and volunteer hours must be completed before the start of classes in the Spring.**

# Prerequisite Courses

Human Anatomy with lab\*

Physiology with lab

Neuroanatomy—Bio 109 @ SJSU is offered on campus  
Spring semester and online during Summer (OCTH 190)

General (Intro) Psychology

Abnormal Psychology (Adult Psychopathology)

Sociology OR Cultural Anthropology (General course)

Statistics\*

Skills Course

\* = Must have been taken in last 7 years

# Prerequisite Courses

Please contact us if you wish to find out if a particular course you took meets the criteria for our prerequisites.

**\*\*Include the course syllabus or description from the catalog**

# Admission Information

Applications are accepted once per year beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>

Students are conditionally accepted on a rolling admission basis

# Application Process

OTCAS

OT Department

CalState Apply/GAPE

<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>

You must complete the required paperwork for each of these

# OTCAS-Occupational Therapy Common Application System

The following documents are submitted through OTCAS

- Application/Personal Statement
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# Occupational Therapy Department- SJSU

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- Sealed Volunteer Evaluation forms with waivers
- Unofficial GRE scores

# CSU Mentor/GAPE (Graduate Studies Admissions & Program Evaluations )

The following are submitted via Cal State Apply  
(<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>) Opens August 1st

Application to the University

Official Transcripts

Official GRE (4687)

This is a separate process from your application to the program and to the University (GAPE)



For More Information:

Email us at:

[otdadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu](mailto:otdadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu)

[gigi.smith@sjsu.edu](mailto:gigi.smith@sjsu.edu)