

The Ohio State University Occupational Therapy Doctorate

Vision

To be a global leader in advancing participation in everyday living through education, scholarship, and practice.

Mission

To advance inclusive, equitable, and evidence-based occupational therapy practice through innovations in education, research, advocacy, and service.

Philosophy

The Ohio State University Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OSU OTD) embodies our beliefs about the diversity of the human experience, the distinct impact of occupation on health and well-being, and the role of education in the development of compassionate and ethical occupational therapists. We aspire to develop excellent entry-level occupational therapists who can effectively translate knowledge to practice; who provide ethical, culturally responsive care; who lead, advocate, collaborate and communicate with respect and empathy; and who champion the voices, rights, and needs of others.

We believe occupation is fundamental to health, participation in everyday life, and is the bedrock of our practice, research, and education. We assert that participation in meaningful occupations that meet the needs and align with the values of individuals, communities, and populations is a human right. We believe that an individual's context, culture, identities, access, and needs influence their occupational selection, participation, and performance. We also believe that meaning, choice, and justice are essential qualities of human occupation and should be central to our work and interactions with those we serve. Thus, we feel that impactful occupational therapy occurs when there is a deep understanding of an individual's unique circumstances and how they need and want to live their lives. As a program, we understand the importance of creating a curriculum and a learning environment that articulates these values and allows learners to grow in them.

The OSU OTD program believes that learners learn in multiple ways and are shaped by personal backgrounds and contexts. We strive to create a learning environment that is accessible, flexible, and supports a diverse community of learners and instructors. It is the responsibility of educators, students, and the program culture to create a learner-centered environment that fosters a sense of belonging and safety, embraces change and collaboration, supports curiosity and self-direction, and practices forgiveness. We lift up diverse ideas, experiences, and identities and believe they deepen the educational experience and shape us as therapists.

We believe that learning in an OTD program should be developmental, such that foundational knowledge and skills accelerate and develop over time through a systematic process of increasing complexity, specificity, and integration. We also believe the curriculum should embrace science, responsiveness, critical thinking, and compassion. The OSU OTD program understands that learning occurs through multi-modal approaches: it involves guided practice, reflection, active engagement, experiential learning, and constructive feedback. We believe that learning new skills and knowledge are optimized when challenges, mistakes, feedback, and growth occur in a supportive and safe environment. Our learning approaches support finding a "just-right" challenge, promote self-direction, and inspire lifelong learning. Learning at the graduate level emphasizes self-direction and the use of metacognitive strategies, inter-professional training, and a focus on supporting the individual needs of our learners. All humans have the capacity to learn: it is our job to find ways to facilitate it.

OTD Curricular Goals

Excellence in Clinical Practice

The OTD program educates the next generation of occupational therapy practitioners to deliver and advocate for occupation-centered, evidence-based, compassionate, equitable, just, and culturally-responsive care to individuals and populations.

Effective Translation of Knowledge to Practice

The OTD program educates students to appraise and synthesize research evidence; implement evidence-based assessments and interventions, measure outcomes, and adjust evidence-based practices; understand the intersection of research, client characteristics, organizational characteristics, and clinical expertise.

Professional Development and Leadership in Practice

The OTD program educates the next generation of OT leaders to implement quality, ethical, and equitable OT services and demonstrate excellence in professional behaviors, interprofessional collaboration, and lifelong learning.

Embedded Competencies

- Occupation
- Evidence
- Justice
- Interprofessional Education
- DEI
- Justice
- Disability
- Accessibility