OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

Department of Occupational Therapy

The Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies program offers a stimulating and challenging curriculum that blends professional coursework with a traditional liberal arts education. Students begin by learning the philosophy and founding principles of occupational therapy along with acquiring a thorough understanding of biological, psychological, and social aspects of human beings. In upper division coursework, students learn to apply this knowledge and develop occupational therapy clinical reasoning skills for evaluation of and intervention with persons across the lifespan. Between the junior and senior years, students with good academic standing are eligible to apply for admittance to the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. Acceptance and completion of the undergraduate program in Occupational Studies does not guarantee admission into the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. Only graduates of the Master of Occupational Therapy Program are eligible to sit for the national examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

A passing score on this examination allows the graduate to apply for a license to practice that is required by most states within the United States, including Massachusetts. For further information regarding certification contact: NBCOT; 800 Frederick Avenue, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877-4150, (301) 990-7979; www.nbcot.org.

The combined Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies and Master of Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. For further information regarding accreditation contact: ACOTE; 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814-3449; (301) 652-2682; www.acoteonline.org.

Program Application Process

Application to enter the Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies Program as a first-year student is made through the Admissions Office at the time of application to Worcester State University. Students are encouraged to apply early due to limited enrollment.

First-year students are admitted on the basis of SAT scores, high school rank, and coursework relevant to the major.

Any individual who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving an act likely to affect professional practice should meet with the Department Chair prior to applying to the program. Prior incidents may affect eligibility for fieldwork, certification, and employment. A CORI check and/or drug test is typically required prior to Fieldwork Level I and Level II placement.

Policies

• All undergraduate occupational therapy prerequisite and major courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.
• Courses must be taken in the prescribed sequence unless an exception is granted by the Department Chair.
• All undergraduate and graduate level coursework must be successfully completed before beginning Level II Fieldwork.
• The second Level II Fieldwork experience must be completed within 12 months of academic coursework.
• Eligibility to sit for the national certification examination requires successful completion of six-months of Level II Fieldwork.
• The Occupational Therapy Department has a student handbook that is updated yearly and contains department-specific policies. Each student is responsible for adhering to the policies. The Department reserves the right to modify policies and curriculum during a student’s enrollment. Sufficient notice of any changes will be provided to the students.
• Bachelor of Science Occupational Studies Program

Faculty

Tanya Biello, Instructor (2015), B.A., Eastern Connecticut State University; M.O.T., Worcester State University
Patricia A. Donovan, Department Chair, Associate Professor (2000), B.S. Framingham State College; M.S. Boston University; Ed.D. Argosy University
Joanne Gallagher Worthley, Professor (1996), B.S. Quinnipiac College; M.S. Florida International University; Ed.D. Johnson & Wales University
Cheryl B. Lucas, Assistant Professor (2015), B.S. Tufts University; M.S. Boston University; Ed.D. Johnson and Wales University

Courses

OT-101 Introduction of Occupational Studies of Wellness/Disability
Introduction to the profession: philosophy, wellness/illness/disability continuum with a focus on disability; occupational performance and activity; environments; professionalization; and clinical reasoning.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-102 Occupational Studies of Wellness/ Disability Groups
Continuing discussion of the profession through six themes: philosophy, wellness/illness/disability continuum with a focus on wellness; normal range of occupational performance and activity; professionalization; and clinical reasoning.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-193 First Year Seminar: Occupational Therapy
LASC Categories: FYS
Introductory level course covering topics of special interest to first-year students. Offered only as a First-Year Seminar.
Every year. 3 Credits

OT-203 Occupational Therapy Theories
Continuing discussion of the profession using the six themes this course will focus on; standards of practice, interdisciplinary relationships, certification, wellness/illness/disability continuum, occupational performance and activity; occupational performance environments; professionalization; and clinical reasoning with a focus on models of practice.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-211 Kinesiology Lab
LASC Categories: NLL
Prerequisites or Corequisite: BI-271
Lab experiences and discussions will integrate biological knowledge of movement with occupational therapy concepts of performance and function. This course will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to evaluate range of motion, muscle strength, and posture. Functional abilities needed in daily activities will be analyzed.
Fall and Spring and every year. 1 Credit
OT-301 Psychosocial Wellness/Disability
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-302 and OT-304
Themes of history of the profession, wellness/illness/disability continuum, occupational performance and context, professionalization, and clinical reasoning will be applied to psychosocial performance in life roles.
Fall and Spring and every year. 2 Credits

OT-302 Psychosocial Therapeutic Approaches
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-301 and OT-304
Themes of history of the profession, wellness/illness/disability continuum, occupational performance and context, professionalization, and clinical reasoning will be applied to practice models when addressing psychosocial health, illness, and disability.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-304 Psychosocial Therapeutic Approaches Lab
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-301 and OT-302
Directed observation and participation in the clinical application of theories and methods of occupational therapy intervention with psychosocial disorders. Includes observation in various sites off-campus.
Fall and Spring and every year. 2 Credits

OT-312 Physiological Wellness/Disability
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-313 and OT-318 as co-requisites
Historical themes of the profession, wellness/illness/disability continuum, occupation and context as it applies to physiological performance in life roles.
Spring only and every year. 2 Credits

OT-313 Physiological Therapeutic Approaches
Occupational performance and context, professionalism, and clinical reasoning will be applied to practice models when addressing physiological health and illness.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-317 Research I
Prerequisites: MA-150 or PS-275
Course will examine qualitative and quantitative research related to Occupational Therapy. The focus will be on reading and designing research.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-318 Physiological Therapeutic Approaches Lab
Directed observation and participation in the clinical application of theories and methods of occupational therapy intervention with physiological disorders. Includes Fieldwork I.
Fall and Spring and every year. 2 Credits

OT-400 Special Topics in Occupational Therapy
Selected areas of interest to students and instructor. Topic, prerequisites and instructor are announced in advance.
Other or on demand. 3 Credits

OT-401 Occupational Performance and Context for Elders
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-402, OT-403 and OT-404
The wellness/illness/disability continuum will be applied to occupational performance in life roles for the geriatric population.
Fall and Spring and every year. 2 Credits

OT-402 Therapeutic Approaches for Elders
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-401 and OT-403
Occupational therapy strategies for elders across the wellness/illness/disability continuum with emphasis on occupational performance/context and clinical reasoning.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-403 Therapeutic Approaches Lab for Elders
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-401 and OT-402
Experiential learning with assessments and intervention approaches for elders. Includes Fieldwork I experience in various sites off campus.
Fall and Spring and every year. 2 Credits

OT-404 Assistive Technology I
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-401, OT-402 and OT-403
Assistive technology related to the needs of the geriatric population will be explored.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-407 Research II
Prerequisites: OT-317
Course will continue to examine qualitative and quantitative research related to OT. The focus will be on analyzing data and writing research reports. Standardized tests and program evaluation are also discussed.
Every year. 3 Credits

OT-411 Occupational Therapy International Service Learning Experience
Selected areas of interest to students and instructor.
Other or on demand. 2 Credits

OT-421 Occupational Performance and Context for Children/Adolescents
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-423, OT-424 and OT-427
Themes of history of the profession, wellness/illness/disability continuum, occupational performance and context, professionalization, and clinical reasoning will be applied to performance in life roles related to the pediatric population.
Fall and Spring and every year. 2 Credits

OT-423 Therapeutic Approaches Lab for Children/Adolescents
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-421
Directed observation and participation in the clinical application of theories and methods of occupational therapy intervention with the pediatric population. Includes observation in various sites off-campus.
Fall and Spring and every year. 2 Credits

OT-424 Assistive Technology II
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-421
Assistive technology related to the occupational performance and treatment in pediatric practice.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-426 Organizational and Professional Issues I
LASC Categories: CAP
Prerequisites or Corequisite: OT-421
Introduction to principles of organization, administration, and management applied to the delivery of occupational therapy services in various practice settings, work relationships, ethical issues, and laws influencing practice will also be discussed.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits

OT-427 Therapeutic Approaches for Children/Adolescents
Themes of history of the profession, wellness/illness/disability continuum, occupational performance and context professionalization, and clinical reasoning will be applied to practice models when addressing health, illness, and disability in the pediatric population.
Fall and Spring and every year. 3 Credits