OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM DETAILS

Length
The Occupational Therapy Graduate Program is eight semesters (30 months) long of full time study which includes 3 summers. There are extensive clinical experiences woven throughout academic coursework. The last 2 semesters of the program are spent in full-time fieldwork placements. If students take the non-thesis option, they are projected to graduate in December 2011. Students taking the thesis option are projected to graduate in June 2012.

Thesis Option
A thesis option is available for students wishing to pursue independent research. Students must declare their intention to complete the thesis option by the end of the first year in the program. Students pursuing the thesis option would delay enrollment in O-T 795: Level II Fieldwork until completion of the thesis.

Occupational Therapy Hands-On Experiences
Hands-on experiences in the Occupational Therapy Program provide students with opportunities to apply knowledge and skills learned in the academic environment to real life situations in community programs, hospitals and clinics. These experiences help the student develop professional behaviors and skills needed for competent, scholarly clinical practice. These hands-on experiences are a vital part of occupational therapy education.

Out of Classroom Experiences
Out of Classroom experiences are threaded throughout the curriculum and are designed to meet particular course objectives. These experiences frequently, but not always, take the place during scheduled laboratory times within the semester. Outside classroom experiences may include activities such as service learning projects, beginning hands-on clinical assignments, observation, interviewing and independent data gathering assignments. Out of Classroom experiences are developed by the course instructor and may or may not be supervised by occupational therapy faculty. Details including attendance, expectations, and grading are detailed in each course syllabus.

Level I Fieldwork Experiences
Level 1 fieldwork helps the students continue to develop solid professional behaviors and become familiar with the roles and responsibilities of occupational therapists. Level 1 fieldwork has specific course objectives and assignments which enable the student to apply the information learned in class to real-life therapeutic settings. Three Level I fieldwork experiences are offered: mental health, physical disabilities, and pediatrics. Students will be placed in a variety of settings and may or may not have occupational therapists as supervisors. Some of these fieldwork experiences are a week long. Missed classes in other courses are rescheduled to allow this week-long experience. In the event that student is placed outside of La Crosse for a Level 1 Fieldwork, travel and housing expense are the student’s responsibility. Each Level 1 Fieldwork is accompanied by a fieldwork seminar course which helps student integrate course material with clinical practice. Details of the objectives, course assignments, and grading will be detailed in the course syllabus.
**Pediatrics and Adult Lab Experiences**

These two laboratory experiences occur in the last year of the curriculum and offer the students additional hands-on experiences with clients prior level II fieldwork. Students are expected to practice all of the steps of the occupational therapy process including evaluation planning, evaluation, intervention planning, implementing interventions, home programs, and documentation. Students will also be expected to use knowledge of client-centered, occupation based, and evidence based evaluations and interventions during these experiences. These lab experiences offer the students an opportunity to apply and practice the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom with clients under faculty supervision.

**Level II Fieldwork Experiences**

The Level II Fieldwork experience is a full time six month fieldwork experience which follows the successful completion of the academic program. This fieldwork is generally completed within two separate twelve week experiences. Students are expected to actively participate in the entire scope of occupational therapy practice and master entry level skills upon completion of each twelve week experience. Scope of occupational therapy practice includes: fundamentals of practice, basic tenets, evaluation and screening, treatment intervention, management of occupational therapy services, communication and professional behaviors. Students will be responsible for own travel and housing expenses during Level II fieldwork. Details regarding Level II fieldwork will be provided throughout the curriculum. Since fieldwork is such a vital part of the occupational therapy curriculum, each Level II fieldwork is an academic course with objectives, assignments, course expectations, and grading.

**Fieldwork Expenses**

Students in the program should expect to incur additional expenses for travel and housing during clinical fieldwork. Some clinical fieldwork sites are outside of the La Crosse area and students are expected to provide their own transportation to these sites. In addition, students are required to purchase the appropriate attire for each FW experience. This includes both level 1 and level 2 fieldwork placements. Level I and Level II Fieldwork are courses and the students will be charged tuition.

**Practical/Competency Examinations**

Practical/competency examinations using volunteer patients, instructors, student lab assistants, or clients in clinical settings will occur during the curriculum. Students are expected to attend these examinations on time, dressed professionally, and conduct themselves in a professional manner. Universal precautions and clinic maintenance are expected during the examination.

**Textbook Costs**

Textbook lists will be prepared by the Occupational Therapy Program and distributed to students in ample time for purchase either from the UW-L Bookstore or private sources. This list will change from year to year as new texts become available. Although the cost of books is high, keep in mind that you are building your professional library during your educational years. Please budget for increasing costs of texts throughout the program. Fieldwork in Year Three requires use of all the books previously purchased and no new additional required texts.
Special Course Fees

Special course fees are attached to various courses throughout the curriculum. These fees are used for supplies that students need to complete the learning activities in the course. The special course fees (subject to change if costs rise) that are anticipated through the curriculum are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Total for Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 1</td>
<td>OT 520</td>
<td>Malpractice Insurance</td>
<td>$43.50</td>
<td>$43.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(covers all three years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer III</td>
<td>OT 795</td>
<td>Criminal Background Check</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Fall and Spring</td>
<td>Materials &amp; Resources Fee</td>
<td>$88.48</td>
<td>$129.13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Supervision</td>
<td>$40.65</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photocopying Expenses

There may be costs associated with copies for coursework or library materials. Students are expected to follow all copyright laws.

Printing Expenses

There is a cost associated for printing in all ITS Facilities. The charge to students is 6 cents a page for black and white printing and 90 cents a page for color printing. Printing is not available in the HSC. Further information is provided at [http://uwlax.edu/its/classrooms-labs/Printing.htm](http://uwlax.edu/its/classrooms-labs/Printing.htm)

NBCOT Exam

Students graduating from the program are eligible to sit for the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of the exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). Most states require a license to practice occupational therapy. State licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination and additional open-book testing on the state law. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification exam or to obtain state licensure.

As of this printing of the handbook, the fee for taking the national certification examination starts at $500 (current as of 9/2012). Each state that you request a score report sent to is an additional $40. A price increase should be expected by 2014 when you are ready to take the examination. The exam is available on-line whenever you are ready to take it at pro-metric learning sites all around the country. More information about the examination and study tools available can be found at [www.nbcot.org](http://www.nbcot.org)

University of Wisconsin System Authorization

The Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy Program was authorized by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents in 2004.
Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, PO Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. Phone: (301)652-2682 www.aota.org

Occupational Therapy educational programs are periodically reaccredited to maintain the quality of the program. The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Occupational Therapy Program successfully completed the last accreditation self-study and on-site visit in 2008. The program remains accredited.

Lodging a Formal Complaint against the Program

Any person can file a signed complaint about the Occupational Therapy Program with the Program Director, the Department of Health Professions or the University. The complaint must be in writing and identify the complainant. The written complaint must clearly describe the specific nature of the complaint, provide supporting data, and specify the requested response to the complaint.

Complaints against the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Occupational Therapy Program may be submitted directly to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)., To receive formal consideration, all complaints must be submitted in writing to the ACOTE Chairperson, c/o the AOTA Accreditation Department, at the following address:

ACOTE Chairperson
c/o the AOTA Accreditation Department
4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814-3425

Letters of complaint against educational programs must:

a. describe the nature of the complaint and the related accreditation Standards or accreditation policies or procedures that the complainant believes are not being met by the program;

b. document that the complainant has made reasonable efforts to resolve the complaint, or alternatively that such efforts would be unavailing; and

c. be signed by the complainant. (The confidentiality of the complaining party is protected by AOTA Accreditation staff unless release of identity has been authorized, or disclosure is required by legal action.)

The full policy is on the AOTA Web site at the following link:

http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/Policies/Procedures/38176.aspx