

Occupational Therapy

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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Dominican students learn how to help people achieve optimal independence.

Find Your Inspiration

Dominican University of California's Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) integrates theory with hands-on training preparing a new generation of students to assume critical roles in one of the fastest-growing healthcare professions in the country. The curriculum is focused on developing ethical, competent practitioners with the knowledge, skills and attitude needed to thrive in changing healthcare settings.

Imagine Career Possibilities

Our program prepares students for practice, leadership, education and research in the profession of occupational therapy. The field is dedicated to enabling people who have been challenged by injury, development, psychological impairment or aging, to engage in the “occupations” of daily-life activities. Healers and teachers, occupational therapists help people maximize their life potential by emphasizing health promotion and education.

The number of registered occupational therapists has more than doubled in the past decade. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the demand to rise 26% between 2008-2018. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates have the knowledge and training to pass the national registry examination, become licensed in California or any other state, and practice nationally and internationally.

Our alumni excel in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools, clinics and home healthcare settings. Innovators and entrepreneurs who enjoy the flexibility afforded by their profession, some graduates have created community programs and businesses, while others serve as consultants to government and industry. All enjoy diverse career opportunities that include practitioner, administrator, educator, consultant and researcher.

Envision the Process

The 80-unit, three-year program—including requisite fieldwork—features a curriculum that combines rigorous and comprehensive professional preparation with a focus on community practice. Students benefit from case studies and hands-on learning, which advance clinical reasoning and critical thinking skills, as well as from small classes, which promote close interaction between them and the faculty.

Fieldwork placements and community partnerships, which are interwoven throughout the program, provide an essential link between the academic program and clinical practice and enable students to apply their knowledge in a clinical setting. The fieldwork coordinator can place students in out-of-state and international settings, as well as in Bay Area sites.

Easy Access

Dominican University of California is conveniently located near the 101 freeway in central San Rafael and is easily reached by car or public transportation. Our beautiful campus is 12 miles north of San Francisco and just a short drive from Napa or the East Bay. Public transportation is readily accessible — the Larkspur Ferry Terminal is within three miles and the Golden Gate Bus Terminal is a mile from campus.

When driving on Highway 101, take the Central San Rafael exit, turn east on Mission Avenue, then left on Grand Avenue to Acacia Avenue (about one mile). Free parking is available at the University parking area at the corner of Grand and Acacia.

Features of the program include:

- Student-centered learning, with small classes and experienced faculty.
- More than 1,000 hours of supervised clinical training in diverse settings.
- Focus on community occupations and occupations throughout the lifespan.
- Consideration of cultural, social and political contexts of occupations.
- Excellent employment opportunities upon graduation.

Achieve Success

Graduates of Dominican's MSOT program:

- Possess knowledge based on a broad foundation in the liberal arts and sciences that supports an understanding of occupations across the lifespan, in varied settings and with diverse populations.
- Articulate an understanding of the history and philosophy of occupational therapy and the role of occupation in promoting health and preventing disease and disability.
- Understand and apply theories of human occupation as they relate to the profession of occupational therapy.
- Demonstrate the ability to use standardized and non-standardized assessment instruments and strategies to gain a comprehensive appreciation of client strengths and the need for occupational therapy services.
- Demonstrate the ability to design, deliver and evaluate evidence-based, occupation and client-centered interventions that promote optimal functioning for individuals and groups.
- Consider and value diverse social, educational, cultural and political systems that influence the occupational health of individuals and communities.
- Apply principles of management and leadership to develop skills in the design and delivery of occupational therapy services in a variety of institutional and community settings.
- Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply research to support an evidence based practice and to add to the knowledge base of the profession.
- Understand and demonstrate the ethics, values and responsibilities of the occupational therapy profession, including self-directed learning, involvement in professional associations and adherence to the OT Code of Ethics.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply previous knowledge to meet fieldwork requirements of the profession.



Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Dominican University of California's 3-year Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Program prepares students for work as licensed health professionals helping people achieve optimal independence after illness or injury. Graduates are eligible to sit for the national registry examination, become licensed in California or any other state, and practice nationally and internationally. Demand for OT professionals is projected to rise 26% between 2008-2018. The program is open to college graduates from all disciplines.

Program Features

- Focus on occupation throughout the lifespan
- Consideration of cultural, social, and political contexts of occupation
- Student-centered learning, small classes, experienced faculty
- Over 1,000 hours of supervised clinical training in hospital and community settings
- Unique community-based programs and learning laboratories
- Excellent employment opportunities upon graduation

Program Format

The MSOT program is a full-time, 80-unit program designed to lead the student from breadth to depth, from theory to practice, and from classroom to clinic. The curriculum applies an occupational performance perspective to teach the skills of functional assessment, in-depth performance evaluation, and treatment planning and intervention within a holistic, client and community-centered context.

Each fall students are admitted into a cohort that works together through the course of the program. Options for part-time attendance are considered on a case-by-case basis by the program chair.

At an initial orientation session, students are introduced to the policies and procedures of the program, including health record requirements. Fieldwork placements are throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area and may also include distance and international placements at the student's request.

All MSOT candidates complete a faculty directed, group master's thesis and a community program development project as a culmination of their academic program.

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Explore the challenges and rewards of this degree program.

For more information, or to arrange for a visit, contact the Office of Admissions.

Toll Free: 888-323-6763 or 415-485-3280

E-mail: graduateprograms@dominican.edu

Online: www.dominican.edu/gradprograms

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Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Prerequisites

All courses must be taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning. In addition, students must receive a grade of “C” or better. Courses may be taken for upper or lower division credit. It is acceptable to have your bachelor’s degree or prerequisites in progress at the time of application.

Human Anatomy with lab 1 (4 units)

Human Physiology with lab 1 (4 units)

Introduction to Psychology (3 units)

Abnormal Psychology or Psychopathology (3 units)

Lifespan Human Development or Developmental Psychology (3 units)

Introductory General Physics for Non-Math Majors (3 units; no lab required)

Three Dimensional Art 2 (i.e. ceramics) (3 units)

Statistics (math or psychology) (3 units)

Medical Terminology 3 (1-2 units)

Total Prerequisites 28-31 units

1 must be taken within the last 5 years

2 portfolio option available

3 pass or place out option as a certificate of completion from an online course or at a college/university.

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Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Curriculum

Year One - Fall

OT 5011 Conditions in OT (3 units)
BIO 5800/5805 Neuroanatomy and Physiology (3 units)
OT 5012 Foundations of OT (4 units)
OT 5015 Psychosocial Aspects of Occupation I (3 units)
13 units total

Year One - Spring

OT 5105 Research in the Health Professions (3 units)
OT 5016 Occupations of Children and Adolescents I (3 units)
OT 5115 Psychosocial Aspects of Occupation II (5 units)
OT 5014 Human Movement Analysis (3 units)
14 units total

Summer

OT 5102 Culture and Human Occupations (3 units)
PHIL 3109 Ethics in Health Care (3 units)
6 units total

Year Two - Fall

OT 5110 OT Thesis Proposal (3 units)
OT 5116 Occupations of Children and Adolescents II (5 units)
OT 5017 Occupations of Adults and Seniors I (3 units)
OT 52XX OT Special Topics* (1 unit)
12 units total

Year Two - Spring

OT 5101 Health Policy, Leadership and Management in OT (3 units)
OT 5104 Educational Principles and Practice in OT (3 units)
OT 5117 Occupations of Adults and Seniors II (5 units)
OT 5110 OT Thesis Completion (3 units)
14 units total

Summer

OT 5130 Level II Fieldwork (6 units)
6 units total

Year Three - Fall

OT 5103 OT Program Development (3 units)
OT 5111 OT Thesis Presentation (2 units)
OT 5107 Professional Development Seminar (3 units)
OT 52xx OT Special Topics* (1 unit)
9 units total

Spring

OT 5131 or OT 5132 Level II Fieldwork (6 units)
6 units total

Total: 80 units

Recommended: Third Level II Fieldwork in Specialty Practice
i.e., Pediatrics, Hand Therapy, Ergonomics Administration,
Research or Program Development

* Special Topics may be taken at any time in the program

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