

# Old Dominion University Occupational Therapy Program



**Old Dominion University Occupational Therapy Program** is a comprehensive educational pathway designed to prepare students for a rewarding career in occupational therapy. With an emphasis on hands-on experience, research, and community engagement, ODU's program stands out as a premier choice for aspiring occupational therapists. This article delves into the program's curriculum, admission requirements, career opportunities, and the unique benefits of studying at Old Dominion University.

## Program Overview

The Occupational Therapy Program at Old Dominion University is housed within the College of Health Sciences. The curriculum is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the needs of diverse populations in various settings. The program prepares students for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) examination, which is essential for licensure.

## Accreditation

ODU's Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). This accreditation ensures that the program meets high educational standards and adequately prepares students for professional practice.

# Curriculum Structure

The Occupational Therapy curriculum at ODU is structured to provide a well-rounded education. It includes core courses, practical experiences, and specialized electives. The program typically spans over two to three years, depending on the student's enrollment status.

## Core Courses

The core courses in the Occupational Therapy Program cover essential topics that lay the foundation for students' understanding of the field. Key areas of study include:

- Human Development: Understanding the physical, emotional, and cognitive changes throughout the lifespan.
- Occupational Therapy Theory: Comprehensive study of various theories and models that guide practice.
- Clinical Skills: Training in assessment techniques, intervention strategies, and therapeutic practices.
- Research Methods: Instruction on how to conduct and evaluate research relevant to occupational therapy.

## Fieldwork Opportunities

Fieldwork is an integral part of the ODU Occupational Therapy Program. Students are required to complete a specified number of supervised clinical hours in various settings, allowing them to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. The fieldwork experiences include:

- Level I Fieldwork: Provides exposure to different practice areas and settings, focusing on observation and participation.
- Level II Fieldwork: Involves more intensive hands-on training, requiring students to take on more responsibilities under the supervision of licensed occupational therapists.

## Admission Requirements

Gaining admission to the ODU Occupational Therapy Program is competitive. Prospective students need to meet several requirements to be considered for acceptance.

## Prerequisites

Before applying, students must complete specific prerequisite courses. These typically include:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Statistics

## Application Process

The application process for ODU's Occupational Therapy Program involves several steps:

1. Submit an Application: Complete the ODU Graduate School application, including personal statements and letters of recommendation.
2. Transcripts: Provide official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
3. Interview: Selected candidates may be invited for an interview as part of the evaluation process.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Old Dominion University Occupational Therapy Program are well-prepared for a variety of career paths. The skills and knowledge gained during the program enable them to work in numerous settings, including:

- Hospitals: Providing rehabilitation services to patients recovering from surgery, injury, or illness.
- Schools: Supporting children with disabilities to help them succeed academically and socially.
- Community Health Organizations: Engaging in public health initiatives and promoting wellness in various populations.
- Private Practice: Opening their own clinics to provide personalized therapy services.

## Job Outlook

The job outlook for occupational therapists is promising. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for occupational therapists is projected to grow significantly in the coming years, driven by an aging population and increased awareness of the benefits of occupational therapy.

# Benefits of Studying at Old Dominion University

Choosing Old Dominion University for your occupational therapy education comes with several unique benefits.

## Experienced Faculty

The faculty members at ODU are highly experienced and dedicated to student success. They bring a wealth of knowledge from their clinical practices and research, providing students with valuable insights and mentorship.

## Research Opportunities

ODU encourages students to engage in research projects, allowing them to contribute to the advancement of the occupational therapy field. Students can collaborate with faculty on research initiatives, gaining experience that enhances their resumes.

## Community Involvement

The program emphasizes the importance of community involvement. Students often participate in service-learning projects, connecting with local organizations and providing support to underserved populations. This engagement fosters a sense of social responsibility and prepares students to make a positive impact in their communities.

## Conclusion

The **Old Dominion University Occupational Therapy Program** offers a robust educational experience for those seeking to enter the field of occupational therapy. With its strong curriculum, dedicated faculty, and extensive fieldwork opportunities, ODU prepares students to become competent and compassionate occupational therapists. For individuals passionate about helping others and making a difference in people's lives, ODU's program serves as an excellent foundation for a fulfilling career in occupational therapy.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the admission requirements for the Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University?**

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, complete prerequisite coursework, submit GRE scores, provide letters of recommendation, and write a personal statement.

## **Is the Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University accredited?**

Yes, the Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

## **What is the duration of the Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University?**

The Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University typically takes 2.5 years to complete, including both coursework and fieldwork.

## **What types of fieldwork opportunities are available in the Occupational Therapy program?**

Students have access to a variety of fieldwork placements, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools, and community health settings.

## **Does Old Dominion University offer a part-time option for the Occupational Therapy program?**

Currently, the Occupational Therapy program is designed as a full-time program; part-time options are not typically available.

## **What is the pass rate for the NBCOT exam for graduates of Old Dominion University's Occupational Therapy program?**

The pass rate for the NBCOT exam has been consistently high, often above the national average, but it's best to check the latest statistics on the university's website.

## **Are there opportunities for research within the Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University?**

Yes, students can engage in research projects with faculty members in various areas of occupational therapy practice and theory.

## What is the focus of the curriculum in the Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University?

The curriculum emphasizes evidence-based practice, clinical skills, and the biopsychosocial model of health, preparing students for diverse practice settings.

## How does Old Dominion University support students in finding fieldwork placements?

The university has established partnerships with numerous healthcare facilities and organizations, providing dedicated support and resources to help students secure placements.

## What are the career prospects for graduates of the Occupational Therapy program at Old Dominion University?

Graduates are well-prepared for various roles in healthcare, education, and community settings, with strong job placement rates and a growing demand for occupational therapists.

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