Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD)
To be offered by Indiana University at Indianapolis

Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) Description*

1. Objectives: The Indiana University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is requesting approval to offer a Post-professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD). The Occupational Therapy profession and the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) have endorsed OTD as a viable degree option for occupational therapists, faculty, and program directors. Implementation of this advanced professional degree program will position the Department of Occupational Therapy to use its strong national reputation as a leader in occupational therapy education to address the critical shortage of doctorally prepared occupational therapists who will have the knowledge to teach in postsecondary institutions and assume advanced practitioner, senior-level management, and clinical research positions in a changing healthcare environment.

2. Clientele to be served: The proposed degree program is intended to offer licensed occupational therapists holding an entry-level master’s degree in occupational therapy an opportunity to receive a post-professional doctorate degree in occupational therapy. Applicants with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy and no master’s degree will be advised to complete the Master of Science in Health Sciences.

3. Curriculum: The OTD is a clinical doctorate program and as such its curricular focus is on clinical skills rather than research. Graduates of the program will be expected to have the knowledge and skills to locate, understand, and use evidence-based methods in providing clinical services. Students enrolled in the program will be required to complete 30 credit hours of advanced courses, capstone project, and practicum.

4. Distribution of the credit hours is as follows:
   a. Advanced core courses (18 credits)
      i. Professional Doctoral Seminars (three at one credit hour each) 3 cr.
      ii. Advancements in Occupational Science 3 cr.
      iii. Leadership and Administration in Occupational Therapy 3 cr.
      iv. Teaching in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences 3 cr.
      v. Applied Translational Research in Occupational Therapy 3 cr.
      vi. Evidence-Based Practice in Occupational Therapy 3 cr.
   b. Concentration area courses (12)
      i. Advanced Practice Practicum (in OT Practice, Education, or Leadership and Administration) 4 cr.
      ii. Advanced Practice Capstone Project Proposal 4 cr.
      iii. Advanced Practice Capstone Project Completion and Presentation 4 cr.

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* Students will be required to complete a minimum of 240 hours practicum experience which includes a project related to the area of concentration.
5. Prerequisites: Students must have current license to practice and have an earned master-level occupational therapy degree in order to be admitted to the program.

6. Unique features of the curriculum:
   a. The curriculum design intentionally links coursework to potential professional certifications from a variety of professional organizations including: the American Occupational Therapy Association’s (AOTA) Board and Specialty Certifications, the Commission for Case Manager Certification, and the Hand Therapy Certification Commission. The American Occupational Therapy Association’s Board and Specialty Certifications include:
      i. Board certifications
         1. Gerontology
         2. Mental Health
         3. Pediatrics
         4. Physical Rehabilitation
      ii. Specialty certification
         1. Driving and Community Mobility
         2. Environmental Modification
         3. Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing
         4. Low Vision
         5. School Systems
   b. Evidence-based practice forms the basis of the Advanced Practice Core courses. Students will be grounded in the skills required to find and use evidence for their interventions and practice. The curriculum includes a 3 credit course, (i.e., Evidence-Based Practice in Occupational Therapy), which will ground students’ understanding of the need for and practice based on evidence. In addition, capstone projects from the OTD Proposal and Completion courses will be based on evidence.

7. Employment possibilities:
   a. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupation Outlook Handbook 2010-2011 Edition, the demand for occupational therapists is expected to increase by 33 percent between 2010 and 2020. This trend is expected to continue because of the growing aging population, longer life expectancies, and emerging treatments and technologies. Occupational therapy educational programs will not be able to meet the demand for licensed OT without an adequate supply of qualified faculty.
   b. The American Occupational Therapy Association has stipulated that all full-time faculty members must hold a doctorate degree (AOTA 2007). The critical shortage of doctoral degree credentialed faculty has handicapped the ability of programs to meet this stipulation. According to a 2010-2011 AOTA report, only 69% of full-time core faculty;
49% of part-time core faculty; and 21% of adjunct faculty are doctorally-prepared (Harvison, 2011).

c. Graduates of the proposed program will have the knowledge and skills to secure teaching positions in occupational therapy programs and advanced clinical practice positions health care systems.

8. Admission requirements: Admission into the Post-professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program will be based on the following:
   a. Interview
   b. Curriculum vitae,
   c. Statement of professional and educational goals,
   d. Writing sample taken at the interview,
   e. Official transcripts from all degrees received,
   f. Minimum of 3.2/4.0 cumulative grade point average for the master’s degree,
   g. Licensed or eligible for licensure as an occupational therapist in the state of IN,
   h. Minimum scores for applicants whose native language is not English will meet the policies and procedures of Indiana University,
   i. Names of three professional references,
   j. Membership in the AOTA and state of Indiana association,
   k. Admission will also follow the policies and procedures of Indiana University and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

9. Prerequisite or co-requisite coursework and/or degrees.
   a. Licensed occupational therapists academically prepared at the master’s level. (If they don’t have a master’s, the MS in Health Sciences will be recommended.)

10. Transfer of previous coursework.
   a. Students may transfer up to nine credit hours from IU or another institution. Acceptability of the courses or certification credit will be determined by the OTD student’s doctoral advisor and must follow the policies and procedures of Indiana University and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

11. Selection criteria: Enrollments will be determined by the Department of Occupational Therapy based on the following selection criteria:
   a. Leadership potential: Assessed by evaluation of resume, personal statement, and interview.
   b. Ability for engaging in advanced graduate work assessed by evaluation of letters of recommendation and grade point average in prior graduate work.
   c. Learning goals and objectives assessed by evaluation of personal statement.

*Includes information not required in the IUPUI Program Proposal format.