

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Science, effective fall 2024.

Background

The Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Science (EACPHS) at Wayne State University (WSU) proposes to offer an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree. The Occupational Therapy program at WSU was founded in 1944 and is one of the first programs established in the country. We have successfully educated thousands of occupational therapists who continue to practice in the Detroit area as clinicians and leaders in the field. Several Occupational Therapy Programs in the state and across the country are following professional trends and transitioning from an entry level Master of Occupational Therapy to the OTD. There are currently 3 OTD programs offered in Michigan. The University of Michigan Flint (110 credits) was the first OTD in Michigan, graduating their first cohort in 2023, Concordia University (109 credits) and Western Michigan University (98 credits) both have newly established OTD programs. Each of these programs are 3 years in length.

The accreditation standards of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), (August 2023, ACOTE) and the USDE mandates that the required total time-to-degree including preprofessional and professional preparation equal 5 full-time equivalent academic years, but no more than 6 full-time years. The current MOT program exceeds the Standard by 6 months. To address the accreditation standard requirement, a plan of correction was submitted and accepted by ACOTE with a request for a progress report on or before June 2024. The proposed OTD clinical doctoral program (3-year, 103 credits) will comply with the ACOTE accreditation standard. The OTD program will provide a competitive, high-quality entry-level education for students who will graduate with excellent clinical, research, and leadership skills in occupational therapy.

Program Description

The main goal of the OTD program is to provide entry-level education to doctoral-prepared students consistent with ACOTE standards and state law. Provision of a 3-year, 10 semester curriculum includes didactic and laboratory coursework, fieldwork experiences, and a capstone project. The doctoral capstone is required by the Accreditation Council Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). The proposed program is ready to commence in Winter 2025 with a cohort of 15-25 students. The program will meet the needs of our students who are primarily from the Detroit metropolitan area, Windsor and surrounding areas in Canada. The curricular design of the OTD program is based on the philosophy that occupational therapy is a profession that views health very broadly, and values participation in daily activities or “occupations” as essential to human health and wellbeing. As a medical rehabilitation profession, we also believe occupational therapy is an essential resource for persons of all ages, but particularly for those living with chronic health conditions and disabilities that challenge their ability to be independent in daily life. We

believe that for our therapy to be effective we must be holistic, and client centered, with interventions that are evidenced-based. Our program therefore addresses common life occupations and the impact of potential or real changes in human functioning on those skills. Finally, our program recognizes that individuals live within larger socio-political and economic contexts, both locally and globally. These environmental contexts then help shape an individual's ability to participate in meaningful activities. Therefore, successful students will understand the environmental contexts that affect engagement and participation in daily life.

Admission Requirements

The Occupational Therapy Program at Wayne State University participates in the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service, known as OTCAS. Students applying through OTCAS should submit their application six weeks in advance of the deadlines listed, as it can take OTCAS several weeks to verify applications. Unverified OTCAS applications are considered incomplete and will not be reviewed. The Application Cycle is July - October for the class beginning the following January, admissions requirements include a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution before the start of WSU OT program in January. A 3.0 minimum GPA in the last 60 undergraduate credit hours and science prerequisites, 20 observation hours (within the last two years) with a registered occupational therapist (OTR) completed by the application deadline and two letters of recommendation. If coursework was completed at a non-US institution, students must obtain a course-by-course evaluation of their transcripts by World Education Services: www.wes.org. The results of the evaluation must be sent to Wayne State University.

Curriculum Requirements

The Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program (OTD) requires 103 credits of coursework. The credits are divided as follows: 83 credits comprise the core courses on foundational knowledge and hands-on preparation for clinical practice. Twelve credit hours is for Level II (6 months) where students hone their therapeutic skills in clinical settings. Eight hours is for the Capstone Experiential, the final component of the program (14 weeks) when students design and implement a doctoral level project in the community or clinic.

Graduation Requirements

The OTD program requires 103 credits, all of which are taken within the OTD program and must be completed in accordance with the university's and the college's academic regulations.

Program Administration

The program will be housed within EACPHS and administered by a dedicated Program Director. The Program Director will interact with the appropriate administrators for the pathway courses taught outside of EACPHS. The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs will provide overall leadership to the Academic Advisor while the Associate Dean of Health Sciences and Department Chair will work with the Program Director and the Program Curriculum Committee to provide curriculum development and assessment of the program.

Budget and Resource Requirements

At launch, the program will utilize current faculty and modify some existing faculty responsibilities to assume additional roles for the OTD Fieldwork Coordinator and Capstone

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Coordinator. Part-time faculty will cover courses where needed and appropriate. The Program Director will be responsible for the current MOT and the OTD. The program will request resources through existing channels within EACPHS to meet the program's need as it grows. The dean has committed college resources for part-time faculty and course development required for a successful launch.

Accreditation

ACOTE has set timelines for the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program at Wayne State University, which are detailed below.

Candidacy Application Due	April 15, 2024
ACOTE Candidacy Application Decision	August 2024
Students may be notified of acceptance into the Program	August 2024
First class starts	January 2025
Initial report of Self Study due	July 1, 2026
ACOTE Initial Review Decision	December 2026
Initial On-Site Evaluation	August-September 2027
ACOTE Accreditation Decision	December 2027

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Department of Health Care Sciences, the Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.