

**Advanced Master of Science in  
Occupational Therapy Studies (AMOT)  
Program Guide**

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The Advanced Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Studies is a post-professional degree for practicing occupational therapists holding a bachelor's degree but wishing to enhance their clinical skills and professional status. This distance education program will allow the occupational therapist to build upon existing experience, strengthen academic foundations, improve critical reasoning skills, and increase the ability to practice in varied clinical and administrative settings.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Admission criteria include:

- No GRE Required
- A bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university, or be qualified to practice in a country recognized by the World Federation of Occupational Therapy.
- Initial certification as an Occupational Therapist from the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy. International applicants are eligible to apply, but must show proof of certification or eligibility to practice as an occupational therapist that is equivalent to OT certification and licensure in the United States.
- Minimum overall undergraduate 2.75 GPA and a minimum Occupational Therapy program 2.75 GPA on a 4.00 scale
- Official sealed transcripts from all institutions attended.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate proficiency in English when applying to the Arizona School of Health Sciences, A.T. Still University. Written and spoken proficiency in the English language may be demonstrated by one of the following options:

Option 1 - English is your first language.

Option 2 - Graduated from a regionally accredited four year university or college in the United States (minimum BA or BS).

Option 3 - You are demonstrating your English proficiency by submitting acceptable scores from International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Acceptable minimal scores for ASHS applications are:

IELTS: 6.5 -- More information can be found at: [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

TOEFL:

Paper based total score = 550

Minimum of 56 on Reading Skills section

Minimum of 61 - 62 on Writing Skills section

Computer based total score = 213

Minimum of 22 on Reading Skills section

Minimum of 26 on Writing Skills section

Internet based total score = 80

Minimum of 21 on Reading Skills section

Minimum of 24 on Writing Skills section

The TOEFL is administered by TOEFL/TSE Services, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, NJ, 08541-6151, USA 609. 771.7100. Information is available at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org). A.T. Still University's institutional code is 0339. Please be sure to include this information when you submit your application packet. TOEFL Educational Testing Services P.O. Box 6151 Princeton, NJ 08541-6151 609.771.7100

## **PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The program requires a minimum of 42 quarter credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. The program is designed to meet the needs of working therapists and on average can be completed in two years. The program of study is divided into four areas:

1. Professional Practice (9 credits required)
2. Critical Inquiry (12 credits required)
3. Electives (12 credits)
4. Capstone Experience (9 credits)

### **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE** (9 credits required)

The Professional Practice core courses provide the student with a firm foundation in the practice of Occupational Therapy and the issues and concerns of a graduate health profession. The following courses are required:

#### **OT 802 Advanced Theory and Philosophy in Occupational Therapy**

This course is a review, discussion, and analysis of the current theoretical and philosophical basis for occupational therapy practice. (3 credits)

#### **OT 803 Trends in Occupational Therapy**

Current practice issues and trends within the occupational therapy profession are studied. (3 credits)

### **HP 814 Issues in Diverse Populations and Settings**

The role of culture in health care will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on learning to recognize and negotiate cultural differences and assessing intercultural interactions and interventions in their own practice. (3 credits)

### **CRITICAL INQUIRY** (12 credits required)

The Critical Inquiry courses provide the student with formal skills in critical inquiry and decision-making. Students learn to use the research literature and technology resources to establish interventions based on scientific-evidence and best professional practices.

### **OT 807 Research Methodology**

A survey of basic quantitative and qualitative research designs and methods used in research relevant to the practice of occupational therapy. Emphasis is placed on learning how to critically evaluate research and become a better consumer of it. (3 credits)

### **OT 808 Statistics**

Through this course students become acquainted with, and develop a better understanding of, the statistical methods and techniques most commonly utilized in health care and education research. Interpretation of results of statistical analyses and assessment of the appropriateness of test selection are presented. (3 credits)

### **OT 811 Evidence-Based Practice I for OT Clinicians**

First course in a series of two on the topic of evidence-based practice (EBP). This first EBP course provides an introduction to the concept of EBP, discusses the fundamental need to structure EBP within the framework of Occupational Therapy practice, and introduces students to the key underlying components and stages of EBP. The course provides students with the opportunity to, not only gain theoretical knowledge about the stages, but also engenders skills that will allow them to begin to implement these in their practice. (3 credits)

### **OT 812 Evidence-Based Practice II for OT Clinicians**

This course is the second in the series of two evidence-based practice (EBP) courses. Building on the EBP skills learned during OT 811, this course follows an evidence-based journal club format, involving small group work in a specific clinical area, offering students the opportunity to further enhance their EBP skills through implementation of the EBP process in additional exploration of clinical questions. Emphasis is also placed on reflecting upon and examining how the clinical reasoning processes underlying EBP influence one's clinical decision-making and practice. (3 credits)

### **CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE** (9 credits)

The capstone project is an integrating and culminating experience that allows the student to explore an area of professional interest. Under supervision of AMOT faculty, students develop a project that demonstrates scholarship and furthers the profession's body of knowledge.

### **OT 880 AMOT Program Capstone Experience, Part I**

First course in a series of three for the AMOT Program capstone experience. During the first half of this course, students identify, develop, and articulate their ideas for their capstone terminal projects. During the second half of the course, students identify, locate, and review literature and other sources of information pertinent to their projects (that will provide a foundation for proceeding with the work they propose to do as their actual capstone project). (3 credits)

### **OT 881 AMOT Program Capstone Experience, Part II**

Second course in a series of three for the AMOT Program capstone experience. During this second part of the course sequence, students develop proposals for their capstone projects. Students also serve as advisors and reviewers of their peers' project proposals. (3 credits)

### **OT 882 AMOT Program Capstone Experience, Part III**

Third course in a series of three for the AMOT Program capstone experience. During this third part of the course sequence, students implement their capstone projects, document their project experiences, produce final "products" or "artifacts" associated with their projects, write a paper about their project using *OT Practice* Author Guidelines and consider potential venues for future dissemination and publication. (3 credits)

## **ELECTIVES** (12 credits)

Electives may be chosen from the courses listed below (when offered).

### **OT 833 Holistic School-Based Practice**

This course holistically addresses OT practice in school systems settings. Topics include, but are not limited to, IDEA, ADA 504, psychosocial intervention, and transition planning. (3 credits)

### **OT 842 Advances in Sensory Integration Theory and Practice**

Focus of study will be the theoretical foundation, research, and current treatment methods of Sensory Integration Theory and Practice. (3 credits)

### **OT 843 Early Intervention: Working With Children 0-3 and Their Families**

Overview of federal legislation involving the role of OT in early intervention will be discussed. Study will focus on OT programming in natural environments, family-centered practice, goal writing for the IFSP, and transition planning to preschool. (3 credits)

### **OT 844 Critical Thinking in Pediatric Intervention**

This course will explore in depth the foundation, research efficacy, similarities, and differences among the theoretical frameworks commonly employed by occupational and physical therapists working with children in a variety of contexts. Students will evaluate best practice in clinical application with a variety of diagnoses. (3 credits)

**OT 845 Application of Technology to OT Practice**

Current technology utilized for occupational therapy practice and treatment of dysfunction. Use of computers, switches, software programs, adaptive equipment, diagnostic, medical, and environmental controls are explored. (3 credits)

**OT 847 Issues in Geriatric Practice**

This course holistically addresses issues and intervention practices with geriatric populations. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to, occupations of the elderly, adaptations for healthy living, and mental health issues. (3 credits)

**OT 850 Independent Study**

Independent investigation of a topic of interest. Approval of independent study option is by the faculty and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy. (1-4 credits)

**OT 875 Special Topics in OT**

This course covers special topics that arise in the OT Profession. The topics of the course will change, pending the quarter that it offers. The topic is announced four weeks prior to the course beginning. (3 credits)

**PT 806 Pharmacology**

This course covers the administration, physiologic response, and adverse effects of drugs under normal and pathophysiologic conditions. Topics focus on the influence of drugs on therapy patient/client management. (3 credits) (with PT Department permission)

**HP 815 Health and Wellness**

This course includes discussion on the theories of health and wellness, including motivational theory, locus of control, public health initiatives, and psycho-social, spiritual, and cultural considerations. Health risks, screening, and assessment considering epidemiological principles are emphasized. Risk reduction strategies for primary and secondary prevention, including programs for special populations are covered. (2 credits)

**HP 834 Delivery Systems, Legislation and Regulation**

This course includes discussion of delivery systems, legislation, and regulation, including measuring access to and outcomes of different healthcare delivery models, public health policy, political systems, reimbursement models, ethical issues, and advocacy to improve healthcare policy. (2 credits)

**HP 835 Reimbursement Systems, Issues and Strategies**

This course includes a review of different reimbursement systems in healthcare to include Medicare, Medicaid, fee-for-service, capitation, workers' compensation and contractual care. Issues in reimbursement and strategies for overcoming challenges of reimbursement in rehabilitation will be covered. (2 credits)

**HP 836 Business Planning**

This course includes discussions on business planning, including strategic planning, financial management, personnel management, and physical resource management as it relates to the healthcare industry. (2 credits)

In addition students in the AMOT program may be able to use their elective credits to take courses in the College of Graduate Health Studies. See College of Graduate Health Studies for additional elective offerings.