

## **Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program – Program Guide**

### **A.T. Still University**

Home of the world's first osteopathic medical school, established in 1892, A.T. Still University is a multidisciplinary healthcare education and training university founded on whole person care. ATSU comprises the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM), the Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS), the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH), the online School of Health Management (SHM), and the School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (SOMA).

### **Arizona School of Health Sciences**

The Arizona School of Health Sciences located in Mesa, Arizona, offers doctoral and Master of Science degrees in a wide range of healthcare disciplines and strives to advance healthcare by educating compassionate, competent healthcare professionals. The school's interdisciplinary and technology emphasis, with incorporation of a philosophy of wholeness and treatment of body, mind, and spirit, creates an excellent professional educational environment.

### **Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD)**

The Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program is an online, post-professional degree program for occupational therapists wishing to develop and enhance skills in program development and evaluation, leadership, advocacy, and health promotion and wellness. The mission of the OTD Program is to enable occupational therapists to develop roles and skills beyond that of the therapist-clinician, to educate them to become practitioner-scholars who can translate knowledge (including cross-disciplinary theories and research) into practice and who are capable of serving as agents of change in new and expanded arenas. The primary focus of the curriculum is on program development and evaluation and the role of occupational therapy in prevention and in the promotion of health and wellness. In addition to coursework, program requirements include completion of a doctoral project and submission of a professional portfolio representing the attainment of core competencies.

### **The Curriculum**

The program requires a minimum of 48 quarter credit hours beyond the Master's degree. Developed for the practicing occupational therapist, the program is designed to be completed in two years based upon a part-time plan of study and includes the following coursework requirements:

1. Occupational Therapy Doctoral Seminars (24 credits required)
2. Electives (8 credits required)
3. Doctoral Project (16 credits)

## Requirements for Admission

1. A Master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited college or university. Applicants who have graduated from a non-US college or university must submit acceptable evidence of U.S. degree/course equivalency and must have foreign transcripts evaluated by an evaluation service specializing in foreign transcript evaluation. The evaluation must state that the transcript(s) reflect equivalency of a U.S. degree.
2. Initial certification as an Occupational Therapist from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). 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 and have earned an OT degree from an OT Program recognized by the World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT).
3. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for all prior undergraduate and graduate level coursework and degrees completed; minimum Occupational Therapy Program GPA of 3.25 (on a 4.00 scale.)
4. An up-to-date Resume or Curriculum Vitae.
5. A "Letter of Intent" providing a description of why the ATSU OTD Program was chosen by the applicant and how the program aligns with the applicant's intended career goals. The Letter of Intent should be a minimum of 2 double-spaced pages and maximum of 4 pages in length and preferably will include a one paragraph description of a prevention/health promotion program the applicant might be interested in developing for a particular population.
6. Two letters of Reference – one from someone who can attest to the applicant's ability to be successful in doctoral level academic work (i.e., a former faculty member, academic advisor, or employer) and a second one from a reference who can attest to the quality of applicant's professional work as an occupational therapist.
7. Interview (conducted via phone) to identify the goodness-of-fit of the Program for the applicant.
8. Completion of all prerequisite coursework prior to program matriculation.
9. Official sealed transcripts from all institutions attended.
10. All students 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 two options. Option 1: English is your first language. Option 2: Submission of acceptable scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Acceptable minimal scores for ASHS applications are: Paper based total score = 550 (Minimum of 57 on Reading Skills section; Minimum of 61 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 22 on Reading Skills section; Minimum of 24 on Writing Skills section)

## Application Information

For additional information, contact the Occupation Therapy program manager, Linda Nishijima:

480.219.6070

[OTDinquiry@atsu.edu](mailto:OTDinquiry@atsu.edu)

## Tuition and Expenses

Application Fee: \$70

Tuition: \$485 per credit hour (2013-2014 school year)\*

Note: All fees and tuition are subject to change.

The OTD program is on a quarter credit-hour system. There are 40 credits of core coursework and 8 credits of elective coursework required (48 total credit hours for completion of the OTD program).

\*ATSU alumni receive a 20 percent tuition discount.

**Financial Assistance**

Financial support, including private and federal loans, is available for students accepted into the Advanced Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at the Arizona School of Health Sciences through the Student Financial Assistance Office. This office assists students in developing a comprehensive financial assistance package based on individual needs.

**Accreditation**

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences is accredited through the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602, phone 800.621.7440.

Degree-granting authority for ASHS has been given by the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education, 1400 West Washington Rd., Room 260, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Phone 602.542.5709.

## ATSU-ASHS OTD Curriculum and Academic Plan

Fall Quarter I	Winter Quarter I	Spring Quarter I	Summer Quarter I
<p>OTDP 9300: OTD Seminar I - The Role of OT in Health Promotion &amp; Wellness (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9910: OT Doctoral Project I: (Practice-based Scholarship: Conceptual and Theoretical Frameworks) (2 credits)</p>	<p>OTDP 9400: OTD Seminar II: Program Development &amp; Evaluation, Part I (Needs assessment and program planning) (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9920: OT Doctoral Project II: (Practice-based Scholarship: Literature Review) (2 credits)</p>	<p>OTDP 9500: OTD Seminar III: Program Development &amp; Evaluation, Part II (Outcomes Assessment) (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9930: OT Doctoral Project III: (Proposal Development) (2 credits)</p>	<p>Elective A (OTDP 9010: Disability Studies) (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>And/or</p> <hr/> <p>Elective B (OTDP 9020: Organizational Behavior) (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9940: OT Doctoral Project IV: (Proposal Defense &amp; IRB Application) (2 credits)</p>
Fall Quarter II	Winter Quarter II	Spring Quarter II	Summer Quarter II
<p>OTDP 9600: OTD Seminar IV: Strategic and Financial Planning (4 Credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9950: OT Doctoral Project IV (Implementation I) (2 credits)</p>	<p>OTDP 9700: OTD Seminar V: Leadership &amp; Advocacy (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9960: OT Doctoral Project V (Implementation II) (2 credits)</p>	<p>OTDP 9800: OTD Seminar VI: Professional Writing/ Dissemination of Practice-Based Scholarship) (4 Credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9970: OT Doctoral Project IV (Evaluation &amp; Documentation) (2 credits)</p>	<p>Elective C (OTDP 9030: Policy Analysis) (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>And/or</p> <hr/> <p>Elective D (OTDP 9040: The Scholarship of Teaching &amp; Learning) (4 credits)</p> <hr/> <p>OTDP 9980: OT Doctoral Project Defense &amp; Culminating Experience (2 credits)</p>

**Doctorate in  
Occupational Therapy (OTD)  
Curriculum Guide**

**DEGREE OVERVIEW**

The Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) is a post-professional online course of study designed to enable duly certified occupational therapists to develop roles and skills beyond that of the therapist-clinician into that of a practitioner-scholar. The program of study includes emphasis on the role of occupational therapy in the promotion of health and wellness, and on program design, development and evaluation.

The vision for this OTD Program is to educate occupational therapists who will:

- Be leaders and innovators in their profession
- Contribute to the occupational therapy body of knowledge
- Disseminate occupational therapy knowledge within the profession, to other professions, disciplines or areas of study, and to the general public
- Be able to plan, implement, and evaluate occupation based health promotion and wellness programs for individuals, groups, and populations
- Be able to analyze and select best practice and translate that into their practice
- Understand and affect healthcare policy and its implementation

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The OTD Program requires a minimum of 48 *quarter* credit hours beyond the Masters degree and is designed to be completed within a 24 month time frame through a part-time course of study.\* Specifically targeted for licensed occupational therapists with Masters Degrees, the online, post-professional doctoral level curriculum includes:

1. OTD Seminars (24 credits required)
2. Electives (8 credits required)
3. Doctoral Project Coursework Sequence (minimum of 16 credits required)

(\*see pre-requisite coursework and eligibility criteria at end of this document)

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORAL SEMINARS** (24 credits required)

The doctoral level seminars in occupational therapy are core courses designed to provide the OTD student with a firm foundation in the role of occupational therapy in the area of prevention and health promotion and wellness and aim to develop skills in needs assessment, program planning, design, development and evaluation of occupation based programs, leadership and advocacy, and writing for publication. The following six, 4 quarter credit hour courses are all required and are designed to be *taken successively with a cohort group that enters once each year:*

### **OTDP 9300: OTD Seminar I -- The Role of OT in Health Promotion & Wellness**

This course will explore the myriad of opportunities for OT's to influence the health and/or wellbeing of individuals and populations. Students will examine topics within public health and epidemiology while furthering their knowledge of OT's capacity to prevent disease, disability and activity limitations, and to promote health and participation. Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to identify a target population and/or an agency or community partner that could benefit from an occupation based health promotion and/or wellness initiative, and should have a proposed program idea that could be explored for further development. Includes a focus on literature from positive psychology and exploration of the relevancy of this body of work for occupational therapy practitioner-scholars. Co-requisite: OTDP 9910. (4 credits)

### **OTDP 9400: OTD Seminar II - Program Development and Evaluation, Part I**

First course in a series of two on this topic, during this seminar, students will be exposed to different methods of conducting a needs assessment and how to use the information obtained from a needs assessment to plan for and develop a program for a specific targeted population. By the end of the course students will be expected to complete a needs assessment and plan a program relevant to meeting an identified need at their practice site or with a community partner. Pre-requisite: OTDP 9300. Co-requisite: OTDP 9920. (4 credits)

### **OTDP 9500: OTD Seminar III - Program Development and Evaluation, Part II**

Second course in a series of two on this topic, during this seminar students will be introduced to and explore different methods of program evaluation and outcomes assessment. As part of the seminar, they will be expected to complete an IRB application to assess outcomes associated with a program they will develop. Pre-requisite: OTDP 9400. Co-requisite: OTDP 9930. (4 credits)

### **OTDP 9600: OTD Seminar IV – Strategic and Financial Planning**

During this seminar, students will learn about the combined strategic and financial planning that is necessary to sustain a program's feasibility and long term viability. Through case study examples, students will examine the relationship between organizational and programmatic priorities and the allocation and deployment of resources. By the end of the course students will be able to create a business unit plan that includes a market analysis, budget (start-up and/or operational, as well as human resource and facility planning), financial projections, and measurement of performance in relation to expenditures. (4 credits)

### **OTDP 9700: OTD Seminar V – Opportunities, Roles & Responsibilities in Leadership and Advocacy Arenas**

This course will explore avenues of leadership for the practicing occupational therapist, as well as teach advocacy skills needed to represent individual, community and population based concerns. Students will be exposed to verbal and written advocacy strategies necessary to influence current policy/legislation or that can be used for the development of new policies. At the end of the course students will demonstrate their ability to be a change agent in at least one of the following new roles: manager, supervisor, care coordinator, program developer, entrepreneur, consultant, advocate, mediator, policy infuser, liaison, community partner/organizer, or committee chair or officer in a professional organization or community group. In order to complete the OTD program, the student will be required to demonstrate one additional leadership role. (4 credits)

### **OTDP 9800: OTD Seminar VI – Professional Writing and Dissemination of Practice-Based Scholarship**

Conducted using a writing workshop format, this course will focus on how to write a scholarly article from beginning to end, how to find appropriate publication avenues for scholarly writing and conference forums for dissemination of practice-based scholarship, how to prepare proposals for a presenting at conferences, and how to prepare presentations and posters. By the end of this course, students will be expected to submit a written article using author's guidelines from a peer-reviewed journal and a proposal for presenting at a suitable conference venue using "Call For Papers" guidelines. (4 credits)

### **ELECTIVES** (8 credits required)

Students will be required to take 8 credits of electives in subject areas of interest to them and related to the overall intent and design of the OTD Program. Students will be able to select from the following course offerings, at least one of which will be scheduled for each summer. In addition, students may elect to pursue selected course offerings from ATSU School of Health Management Programs and/or the ATSU-ASHS Doctor of Health Sciences Program subject to respective program director permission as well as OTD Program advisor approval. Should the electives available at ATSU not match a student's needs and interests, a student may elect to take and transfer up to 8 credits of graduate level coursework from another regionally accredited institution, but is required to consult with his/her OTD Program advisor and obtain approval prior to pursuing this option.

### **OTDP 9010: Disabilities Studies**

This course will focus on the experience of living with a disability from the perspective of those with disabilities. Includes reading of works written or otherwise authored by persons with disabilities and provides a historical perspective on the disability and independent living movements in the U.S. and internationally. The use of person-first language, the World Health Organization Classification of International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, principles of universal design, models of empowerment, strengths development, the value of collaboration, and promoting health and wellness within the disability community will be some of the topics addressed during this course. (4 credits) **Note: Open to all ATSU students.**

### **OTDP 9020: Organizational Behavior**

Survey of theories about how individuals and groups act in organizations and the applicability of these to maximize activity participation, promote targeted behavior change and health related outcomes. Includes an examination of a strengths-based approach to leadership and management and a focus on identifying aspects of an organization's culture and how such cultural dimensions of organizations can influence leadership, communication, and group dynamics. (4 credits)

**OTDP 9030: Policy Analysis**

An introduction to policy analysis including the application of analytical techniques through case study examples, with a particular focus on selected health policies. (4 credits)

**OTDP 9040: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**

Introduction to scholarly inquiry and dissemination aimed at promoting effective practices in teaching and learning. (4 credits)

**DOCTORAL PROJECT COURSE SEQUENCE** (16 credits required)

The OTD Program requires the completion of a Doctoral Project which entails an integral and interwoven set of learning experiences designed to promote students' development and refinement of skills in program design, development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of this work. The required course sequence includes eight (8) two (2) credit courses that are taken over the duration of the student's progression through the OTD Program.\* The student must complete all the assigned tasks of each course to enroll in each subsequent course in the series.\*\* Optimally, a student will proceed through the Doctoral Project sequence of eight courses with the peer cohort group the student started the OTD Program with so as to benefit from the peer support and review process that will be built into the design of each of the courses in this sequence.

**OTDP 9910: OT Doctoral Project I**

Introduction to and comparison of forms of scholarship with particular emphasis on practice-based scholarship. Students will be expected to identify a theoretical body of work or conceptual framework and examine how this work applies to some aspect of their present or future practice area of interest. Co-requisite: OTDP 9300. (2 credits)

**OTDP 9920: OT Doctoral Project II**

Building upon OT 9910, students will identify a project idea and conduct a review of literature incorporating works from within and outside the body of OT literature. During this second course in the OTD Project sequence, students collaborate with the course instructor to identify an OTD project advisor (who must be selected from a designated list of OT Department Faculty) and a project mentor from outside the OT Department (might come from other departments or schools within the university or from the community). Pre-requisite: OTDP 9910. Co-requisite: OTDP 9400. (2 credits)

**OTDP 9930: OT Doctoral Project III**

Students work with their project advisors and project mentors to develop a full proposal treatment for the project idea approved by their primary OTD Project advisors. Pre-requisite: OTDP 9920. Co-requisite: OTDP 9500. (2 credits)

**OTDP 9940: OT Doctoral Project IV**

Upon completion of their OTD Project proposals, students submit and defend their proposal to their OTD Project Committee (consisting of their OT 9910 course instructor, their primary project advisor and their project mentor). Following Committee approval, students complete and submit an IRB application to the ATSU-Mesa IRB committee as appropriate. Pre-requisite: OT 9930 and OTDP 9500.\*\* (2 credits)

**OTDP 9950: OT Doctoral Project V**

Following their successful proposal defense and IRB submission, students enter the implementation phase of their OTD Projects, identifying at the beginning of the quarter the end point they intend to achieve. Students are required to provide progress reports to and receive feedback from their Project Advisors and Mentors at least 2-3 times during the quarter. Pre-requisite: OTDP 9940.\*\* (2 credits)



### **OTDP 9960: OT Doctoral Project VI**

Students continue with and complete the implementation phase of their OTD Projects. Students are required to provide progress reports to and receive feedback from their Project Advisors and Mentors at least 2-3 times during the quarter. Pre-requisite: OTDP 9950. (2 credits)

### **OTDP 9970: OT Doctoral Project VII**

Students will complete their program evaluations and document their results, completing at least a full first draft of an article for future publication as per author guidelines for a peer reviewed (online or print) journal and a proposal for a conference submission. Pre-requisite: OTDP 9960. Co-requisite or pre-requisite: OTDP 9800 (2 credits)

### **OTDP 9980: OT Doctoral Project VIII**

Upon completion of their coursework and all their OTD Project requirements, students formally petition to present and defend their projects to their Project Committee members and an additional outside reviewer. Upon their successful defense, they will be invited to present their projects to their peers in an online or in person conference forum.\*\* (2 credits)

\*\*Should a student in the OTD Program be unable to complete the requirements for OTDP 9940 or OTDP 9980 by the end of the quarter in which it is taken, the student will be given an incomplete for the course, will have one additional quarter to complete the associated tasks required, and will also be required to register for the following coursework. (Note: the specific number of additional credits required will be determined on a case-by-case basis, upon the recommendation of the student's doctoral project advisor and/or committee.)

### **OTDP 9941: OT Doctoral Project Proposal Completion**

Additional research and study required to complete and defend the OTD Project Proposal and/or obtain IRB approval. (1-4 credits; amount of credits to be determined by Project Advisor and/or Doctoral Committee) Note: In the event a student receives an "Incomplete Pass" grade for OTDP 9940 and is required to register for OTDP 9941 for 1-4 credits, the student will be allowed to continue on into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the OTD Project sequence at the discretion of the student's Project Advisor and/or Committee.

### **OTDP 9981: OT Doctoral Project Completion**

Additional research and study required to complete and defend the OTD Project. (1-4 credits; amount of credits to be determined by Project Advisor and/or Doctoral Committee)

#### \*Pre-requisite course work and eligibility criteria for the OTD Program:

1. Completion of an entry-level OT program with NBCOT certification (or completion of WFOT recognized OT Program (at the time of graduation) and international equivalent of NBCOT certification and/or licensure to practice OT)
2. Completion of Master's Degree or higher (or international equivalent)
3. For applicants graduating from Master's Degree Programs other than the ATSU-ASHS OT or AMOT Programs, completion of the following *graduate* level courses (or the equivalent) with a grade of B (3.00) or better on a 4.00 scale:
  - Evidence Based Practice (minimum of 3 quarter credit hours; e.g. OT 811)
  - Research Designs & Methods (minimum of 3 quarter credit hours; e.g. OT 807 or HS 522)
  - Statistics (minimum of 3 quarter credit hours; e.g. OT 808 or HS 532)