



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (MSOT)

Occupational Therapy

The practice of occupational therapy means the therapeutic use of everyday life activities (occupations), with individuals or groups, for the purpose of participation in roles and situations in home, school, workplace, community and other settings. Occupational therapy services are provided to those who have or are at risk of developing an illness, injury, disease, disorder, condition, impairment, disability, activity limitation, or other participation restriction. Occupational therapy addresses the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory and other related aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to support engagement in everyday life activities that affect health, wellbeing, and quality of life (AOTA, 2004).

Occupational Therapy Career Options

The need for occupational therapists in the United States is urgent. Current U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicates the nation-wide shortage of Occupational Therapy personnel through 2020 to be between 34-37%. Because the demand for occupational therapy services out-distances the supply of qualified personnel in Occupational Therapy, the employment picture is excellent. New CSUDH Occupational Therapy graduates typically have in excess of four employment offers at graduation and frequently a sign-on bonus is included as an employment incentive. Career opportunities exist in many areas of practice. The most popular practice areas are: Pediatrics in the Schools System, Acute and Long term Rehabilitation, Community Mental Health and In-Patient Behavior Health, Health Promotion and Illness Prevention and Geriatric Rehabilitation. Salary range varies with the type of practice setting. New graduates from the CSUDH Program enter practice at an annual salary of approximately \$60,000-\$80,000 with excellent benefits and working conditions.

CSUDH MSOT Program Faculty

Terry Peralta-Catipon, Chair and Program Director Ph.D, OTR/L, University of Southern California	
Diane Mayfield, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator Ed.D., OTR/L, University of Southern California	Mary Groves, Assistant Professor MS, OTR/L, Loma Linda University
Claudia G. Peyton, Associate Professor PhD,OTR/L, FAOTA, University of Nebraska Lincoln	Mary Johnston, Adjunct Professor MA, OTR/L ,University of Southern California
Eric Hwang, Associate Professor PhD,OTR/L, State University of New York Buffalo	Joan Surfus, Adjunct Professor BS OT, OTR/L, Western Michigan
Yan-Hua Huang, Associate Professor Ph.D., OTR/L, University of Southern California	April Rhodes, Adjunct Professor MS, OTR/L, University of Southern California
Marilyn Noriega, Adjunct Professor MA, OTR/L, University of Southern California	Paul Penoliar, Adjunct Professor BSOT, OTR/L,University of Southern California
Kathleen Shanfield, Adjunct Professor MA, OTR/L, University of Southern California	Leo Lee, Adjunct Professor OTD,OTR/L,University of Southern California
Jess Holguin, Adjunct Professor OTD, OTR/L, University of Southern California	Lora Woo, Adjunct Professor OTD, OTR/L, University of Southern California

CSUDH MSOT Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD, 20824-1220. The AOTA telephone number is: (301) 652 AOTA. Since Jan. 1, 2007, Occupational Therapy educational programs are only accredited at the post-baccalaureate degree level.

MSOT Admission Requirements

Applicants must apply to both CSU Dominguez Hills Graduate Studies Office and the MSOT Program. Applications are available online: Graduate Studies application is available at www.csumentor.edu and MSOT Program Application is available at www.csudh.edu/hhs/ot/. Applications to the program are accepted one time each year. Students planning to seek admission should submit a complete application packet including all supporting materials to the OT office no later than **September 15** preceding a spring semester admission to the program. Applications received after **September 15** will be considered only if class space is available.

Students must have completed a Bachelor of Arts or Sciences degree from an accredited college or university. The degree must be completed at the time of admission to the program but may be in progress during the application process. In addition, applicants must have completed the following pre-requisite courses within the last ten years: Anatomy with laboratory (3 credits), Physiology with laboratory (3 credits), Developmental Psychology, Across the Human Life Span (3 credits), Abnormal Personality or Abnormal Psychology (3 credits), and Statistics (3 credits). Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in bachelor's degree and pre-requisite coursework. To ensure a general understanding of the practice of occupational therapy, applicants are required to have completed 80 hours of documented volunteer or observation experience under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist. Students should have basic computer skills including word processing and file management abilities. Three letters of recommendation are required; one must be from the occupational therapist who supervised the volunteer hours and the other two from professionals that can attest to the student's ability to complete graduate coursework. To meet the University writing proficiency standards for graduate admission, applicants are required to achieve a minimum Analytic Writing score of 4 on the GRE. Also required is a combined minimum cumulative Verbal and Quantitative GRE Score of 800, if the exam was taken prior to August 1, 2011. For GRE taken after August 1, 2011, the required minimum scores are 140 on the Quantitative Reasoning and 146 on the Verbal Reasoning sections. The GRE needs to be taken within the last 5 years. Attendance to an OT information session is required prior to submission of an application packet and a personal interview with members of the Occupational Therapy Program Admissions Committee may be scheduled. Accepted students will need to complete the CSUDH medical history questionnaire and physical examination with proof of required immunizations.

Note: We may be able to consider an applicant if one of either the cumulative Verbal and Quantitative score on the GRE or cumulative GPA in bachelor's degree and pre-requisite coursework fall slightly below the minimum grade requirement.

Note: Successful completion of the course OTR 495: Introduction to the Scope of Practice and Conceptual Foundations of Occupational Therapy could waive the required 80-hour volunteer experience and letter from the supervising OTR.

Note: Interested applicants who feel that they will not be able to attend an OT information session need to contact the MSOT Program Director: tperalta@csudh.edu.

Graduation requirements: Successful completion of all required didactic and clinical work and Comprehensive Examination within five years of admission to the MSOT Program.

Certification: Graduates of the MSOT Program are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapists administered by the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this examination, the graduate will be an Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR).

Licensure: Graduates wishing to practice in the state of California must apply for a state license. State licensure is based on successful completion of the NBCOT Certification Examination.

Felony conviction and the National Board Examination: A student having record of a felony conviction is advised to submit necessary documents to the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) for a background review prior to application. This is recommended because a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the certification examination administered by the NBCOT or to attain state licensure. NBCOT's certification examination application contains character review with questions that must be answered by all exam candidates applying for the certification examination. Applicants who answer "yes" to any of these questions must submit an explanation and official documentation regarding their background to NBCOT's Regulatory Affairs Department at the time of application to take the examination. This information will be reviewed by the NBCOT on an individual basis prior to determining exam eligibility. An individual who is considering entering an Occupational Therapy educational program or has already entered an educational program can have his or her background reviewed prior to actually applying for the exam by requesting an early determination review. The fee for this review is \$100. If you have additional questions or would like additional information, you may contact the Credentialing Services at NBCOT, located at 800 S. Frederick Avenue, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877; (301) 990-7979. Contact character.review@nbcot.org.

Department of Occupational Therapy

Website: <http://www.csudh.edu/cps/hhs/ot/>

Address (where application packets are submitted to):

CSU Dominguez Hills
College of Professional Studies
Department of Occupational Therapy, WH-A320
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, CA 90747

Contacts:

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OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Phone: 310-243-3300 University Main Number

Website: www.csudh.edu

MyCSUDH is your one-stop shop for campus resources. CSU Dominguez Hills' applicants, students, faculty, and staff may access MyCSUDH for admissions, registration, financial aid, ToroPay, advising, human resources, and much more from anywhere in the world (24/7), except during maintenance periods. <https://my.csudh.edu>

College of Professional Studies: Deans Office	(310) 243-2046	Welch Hall A-310
Student Services Center	(310) 243-2120	Welch Hall C-300
Admissions & Records Office	(310) 243-3645	Welch Hall C-290
Student Financial Services	(310) 243-3802	Welch Hall B-270
Bookstore	(310) 243-3789	Loker Student Union
Cashiers Office	(310) 243-3812	Welch Hall B-270
Financial Aid Office	(310) 243-3647	Welch Hall B-260

Important OT Admissions Process Announcement and Reminder:

1. Beginning October 2010, attendance at an “OT Information Session” is required prior to submission of an application packet.

Refer to OT Program Website for Information Session Schedule:

<http://www.csudh.edu/cps/hhs/ot/>

2. You need to apply to both the University and the OT Program:

Graduate Studies Application is available at: www.csumentor.edu

MSOT Application is available at: www.csudh.edu/hhs/ot/

University Application is completed online using California State University’s CSU Mentor.

Note: a \$55 application fee is charged by the CSU campus.

OT Program Application Packet is sent directly to the OT Department at:

CSU Dominguez Hills
College of Professional Studies
Department of Occupational Therapy, WH-A320
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, CA 90747

Note: Make sure you include the OT Application Form and the Application Packet Checklist with supporting documents. Deadline for submission of complete Application Packet to the OT Program is September 15.