

Graduate Programs at CSU Dominguez Hills



M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Program Description

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).

Admission Requirements

Applicants must apply to both the MSOT Program and CSU Dominguez Hills. Applications to the program are accepted one time each year. Students planning to seek admission to the program should attend an information session and 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 if class space is available. OT applications are available on line at www.csudh.edu/hhs/dhs/OT and the Graduate Studies application is available at www.csumentor.edu.

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 the applicants must have completed, within the last 10 years, separate courses in Anatomy with laboratory (3 credits), and Physiology with laboratory (3 credits), Life Span Developmental Psychology (3 credits), Abnormal Personality (3 credits), and Statistics (3 credits). Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in bachelor's degree and pre-requisite coursework and completed of 80 hours of documented volunteer 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 supervising volunteer hours and the other two from professionals that can attest to 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. A personal interview with members of the Occupational Therapy Program Admissions Committee may be scheduled and if accepted, students will complete the CSUDH medical history questionnaire and physical examination, provide proof of required immunizations, and will be required to provide evidence of Live Scan Fingerprinting and Criminal Background Check upon beginning Level II Fieldwork.

Graduation Requirements

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

Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE),

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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. Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, occupational therapy educational programs will only be accredited at the post-baccalaureate degree level.

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 to practice. 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 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.

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.-\$70,000. with excellent benefits and working conditions.

Faculty

Terry Peralta-Catipon, Ph.D, OTR/L - Program Director
Claudia G. Peyton, Ph.D., OTR/L
Eric Hwang, Ph.D., OTR/L
Marilyn Noriega, MS, OTR/L
Kathleen Shanfield, MS, OTR/L
Reza Boroon, MBA
Paul Penoliar, OTR/L

Diane Mayfield, EdD, OTR/L - Fieldwork Coordinator
Yan-han Huang, Ph.D., OTR/L
Mary Groves, MS, OTR/L
Joan Surfus, OTR/L
April Rhodes, MS, OTR/L
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For more information, call (310) 243-3427 or go to www.csudh.edu