

# Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (M.S.O.T.)

Occupational Therapy is a health and rehabilitation profession that helps individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives. It gives people the “skills for the job of living” necessary for independent and satisfying lives (American Occupational Therapy Association, 2004).

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program supports the following goals of Milligan College:

- Students will demonstrate social responsibility in numerous ways, such as serving in churches, on the mission field (domestic and foreign), and with social agencies; mentoring, nurturing, and protecting others; and displaying increased understanding of and experience with other cultures.
- Students will demonstrate sound scholarship through their ability to read and think analytically and critically, to communicate clearly and effectively, to evidence knowledge and competencies in the liberal arts and the natural and social sciences, and to understand a significant body of material in their major fields of study.
- Students will gain an enriched quality of life through awareness of health issues, appreciation for both the arts and sciences, stewardship of resources, and preparation for graduate studies and a rewarding career or profession.

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program promotes integration and utilization of theory and practice in the art and science of occupational therapy and prepares students to meet the entry-level standards of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program is designed for students who have an earned bachelor’s degree and who have completed the prerequisite requirements for admission to the program. Baccalaureate degrees can be in a variety of academic areas, some of which include human performance and exercise science, human development, sociology, biology, and psychology.

## Accreditation

The occupational therapy program at Milligan College is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), a division of The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. Their phone number is 301-652-AOTA. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Beginning January 1, 2007, occupational therapy educational programs will only be accredited at the post baccalaureate degree level.

After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. (Applicants should note that previous conviction of a felony may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain licensure.) One hundred percent of graduates from Milligan College’s M.S.O.T. program have found employment in the field of occupational therapy or an occupational therapy-related position.

## Goals

The following goals are expected upon completion of the professional curriculum and arise directly from the missions of the College and the professional program and from the program’s philosophy. By the time of graduation from this curriculum, the student should: (1) Demonstrate professional-level competencies necessary for practice as an occupational therapist in health care and human service delivery systems; (2) Apply accepted principles of scientific inquiry to the study of problems in health and human service delivery; (3) Demonstrate the management skills necessary for the service delivery of occupational therapy; (4) Demonstrate professional and caring attitudes and values consistent with the practice of occupational therapy; (5) Assume a leadership role in advancing the field of occupational therapy.

## Financial Information

Tuition is \$490 per semester hour for the 2006-2007 school year. A non-refundable application fee of \$30 is required with the application. For information regarding financial aid, please refer to the financial aid section of the catalog.

## Library

The P.H. Welshimer Library supports the program by providing access to over 600 scholarly journals including the leading journals in occupational therapy. Numerous electronic databases (Psychology Abstracts, Sociology Abstracts, and Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) are also available. In addition to the Welshimer Library, students and faculty have access to the Occupational Therapy Program Professional Resource Center, and the libraries of Emmanuel School of Religion, East Tennessee State University (main campus and medical school), and the Holston Associated Libraries, Inc. (HAL).

HAL consists of Milligan and seven additional libraries in the region. The computer system displays in each library the holdings of all eight libraries in a shared catalog. Due dates are shown for materials that are checked out of each library. Materials are readily lent among the libraries. Many additional features of the system enhance information exchange and resource sharing. Through these agreements, Milligan students have access to many materials beyond the considerable holdings of the Welshimer Library. Further, membership in the Southeastern Library Network provides interlibrary loan access to the holdings of thousands of additional libraries worldwide.

## Professional Resource Center

The Professional Resource Center (PRC) houses an extensive collection of assessment instruments, videotapes, DVDs, and intervention equipment. A computer cluster and workspace where students can explore Internet resources, perform data analysis for research projects, and produce multimedia presentations are part of the PRC. The PRC is available to therapists in the community as well as the students of the program.

## Admission Requirements

The minimum requirements for admission to the M.S.O.T. program are as follows:

1. An undergraduate degree with overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.0
2. Volunteer experience in a variety of occupational therapy clinical settings with a minimum of 40 documented hours or a disability related work/volunteer experience with the proper documentation
3. Combined GRE scores of at least 1000 (verbal + quantitative)
4. TOEFL score of at least 550 (international students)
5. Two completed reference forms from persons who have adequate knowledge of the applicant's Christian commitment, character, and professional qualities of potential for success as a graduate student
6. A completed baccalaureate degree that includes the following prerequisite courses:
  - a. Math and Science (9 - 12 hrs; 4 hrs of which must be a combined anatomy and physiology course)
  - b. Social Science (9 hrs)
  - c. Communication (Written and Verbal) (6 hrs)
  - d. Medical Terminology (1 - 3 hrs)
  - e. Computer Literacy (3 hrs) (can be fulfilled through documented computer competency)

(Substitution or waiver of requirement for any of the above prerequisite courses may be granted by the occupational therapy program admissions committee on an individual basis.)

Prospective students meeting the minimum admission criteria will be invited to a brief individual interview and completion of a writing sample. Final selection of students will be made by the admissions committee of the occupational therapy program and will be based on weighted scores obtained from the grade point average and the required admission visit. Matriculation of a cohort of new students is contingent upon an adequate number of admitted applicants.

### Provisional Standing

Students may be admitted to the occupational therapy program with one or more of the prerequisite requirements not met. Admission is made on an individual basis by the occupational therapy admissions committee and is based, in part, on the student's potential for success in the program.

Provisional status is designated for a maximum of two semesters. Students who do not meet the objectives set forth in their provisional standing will be placed on probationary status and given one semester for resolution of the provisional objectives.

Students who have been provisionally admitted due to low GPA (GPA below 3.0) must achieve a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA during the first two semesters in the program. Provisional students who achieve this level of performance will be awarded full standing in the program.

Students who have been provisionally admitted due to course deficiency must successfully complete (3.0 or better grade for each course) those courses by the end of the second semester of the program. Students are strongly encouraged to complete all prerequisite course work prior to starting the academic program. Admittance to the program due to incomplete prerequisite courses is not guaranteed and is considered to be an exception to accepted program policy.

## Academic Probation and Retention Standards

Retention in the occupational therapy program is based on a combination of academic performance and adherence to the program's Technical Standards for Admission and Retention and/or the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics for Students (see Occupational Therapy Student Manual for a detailed overview of the Technical Standards and statement of Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics for students). Specific standards include but are not limited to the following:

1. The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of "B" (3.0) to graduate from the occupational therapy program.
2. The student must earn a grade of at least "C" in non-core courses within the program.
3. The student must earn a grade of at least "B" in all core (theory and practice courses) courses.
4. Failure to comply with the above standards will necessitate program faculty action that includes, but is not limited to: repetition of specific courses, fulfillment of additional requirements, academic probation, and/or dismissal from the program.

## Transfer Credit

Transfer credit is generally not permitted because of the program accreditation requirements. Special circumstances may warrant permission of transfer credit. The program faculty council and admissions committee will make determination of transfer credit.

## Time Limits for Completion Requirements

All students are admitted to the occupational therapy program on a full-time basis. Completion of all degree requirements on a full-time basis will take a minimum of two and one-half years. In exceptional cases, part-time status may be granted. Part-time students must complete all degree requirements within a period defined by the faculty council of the occupational therapy program. This time period must not exceed six years. Students must complete their clinical affiliations within 24 months of completing their classroom work.

## Grade Requirements for Graduation

Students must achieve a 3.0 average for graduation.

## Curriculum and Course Sequence

The 80-hour curriculum includes coursework in three essential components: basic skills, the occupational therapy process, and capstone experiences.

### Component I: Basic Skills

The basic skills component represents subject matter which serves as the foundation for the professional theories and practice methods. This component includes applied science courses, research methods and design, and an introduction to the profession of occupational therapy.

### Component II: The Occupational Therapy Process

The core of this curriculum, the occupational therapy process, includes the study of occupation, typical life span development, and wellness with integration of the major theories and practice methods of occupational therapy. A developmental sequence is utilized to facilitate continuity and consistency from one course to another. Major topics dealing with disease processes, the physical and psychosocial impact of dysfunction, wellness, assessment, intervention, and adaptation are incorporated. This sequence of courses promotes the development of critical thinking skills. An introduction to clinical experiences through Level I Fieldwork is included.

### Component III: Capstone Experiences

The capstone component of the curriculum is designed to move the student further toward the objective of integrated critical thinking. Topics covered in these courses include: administration and leadership, advanced clinical reasoning, directed research, and Level II Fieldwork. At the end of this component of the curriculum, the student should be prepared to sit for the NBCOT certification examination for the occupational therapist.

In addition, the student is expected to complete either an original research project or an individual master's thesis.

The courses and the clinical experiences are designed to develop the knowledge and skills of the highest national standards. The teaching faculties are dedicated professionals prepared to offer applied science and skills courses at the advanced level.

## Course Descriptions

**OT 501. Diagnostic Considerations for Occupational Therapy** - A review of major pathophysiological and psychosocial conditions including clinical descriptions, etiology, routine diagnostic procedures, progression of the condition, medical management, prognosis and outcomes. From an occupational performance perspective, information is presented in terms of how the condition might affect and influence sensorimotor, cognitive, psychosocial, self-care, productivity, and leisure functioning. A clinical team approach and legal issues of mental health are presented. Offered fall term each year. Four semester hours.

**OT 510. Christ and Calling in Health Care** - A seminar class designed to help students integrate their faith into health service provision and administration. Issues addressed include exploration of Christ as a healer, exploration of self and one's calling, scientific study of the impact of religion on health care, appropriate avenues of ministry in health care, and how to surmount obstacles to compassion in American health care culture. Offered fall term each year. One semester hour.

**OT 531. Musculoskeletal Anatomy** - A regional study of human muscular and skeletal anatomy with particular emphasis on the back and upper extremity. Course includes cadaver dissection, demonstration, and lecture. This course is available to undergraduate students with senior status. Undergraduate prerequisites: senior status, BIOL 250 or 330, and consent of instructor. Offered fall term each year. Three semester hours.

**OT 532. Functional Neuroanatomy** - A presentation of human neuroanatomy with implications for abnormality and subsequent therapy treatment. The course includes the study of human nervous system specimens in a laboratory setting. This course is available to undergraduate students with senior status. Undergraduate prerequisite: consent of

instructor. This course may be taken by undergraduate students to fulfill one four-hour laboratory science requirement in the GER. Offered spring term each year. Three semester hours.

**OT 535. Kinesiology - Human Movement** - A study of the principles of human movement including analysis of biomechanics, joint structure and function, muscle physiology, and musculoskeletal function. An introduction is given to methods to improve movement quality in functional performance. Offered spring term each year. Three semester hours.

**OT 560. Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy** - A foundation (history, organization, personnel, and their respective roles) for the development of the clinical aspects of occupational therapy practice. Emphasis is on the philosophy of using activity analysis as a foundation for clinical reasoning. Teaching theory and learning styles are included. Offered fall term each year. Four semester hours.

**OT 580. Research Design and Methods in Occupational Therapy I** - An introduction to research design with emphasis on occupational therapy literature and skill development in review of research literature, formulation of problem statements, research design, and critical analysis of published research. Research methodology is reviewed with emphasis on recognizing and dealing with threats to methodological validity and reliability. Students identify research interests with occupational therapy applications or focus. Offered fall term each year. Three semester hours.

**OT 605. Lifespan Occupational Development I** - The study of normal occupational development of infants through adolescence with emphasis upon the functional roles typical for children within a variety of cultural settings, i.e. self-care, play, school, family, and friend relationships. Activities and tasks reflective of role functioning are analyzed. Offered fall term each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 606. Lifespan Occupational Development II** - The study of normal occupational development of young adulthood through older adulthood with emphasis upon the functional roles typical for adults within a variety of cultural settings, i.e., self-care, care of others, work, leisure, family, and community interactions. Activities and tasks reflective of role functioning are analyzed. Offered spring term each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 607. Professional Writing in Occupational Therapy** - Instruction in and practice of professional documentation, documentation for reimbursement, grant-proposal writing, and letter-writing skills necessary in the practice of occupational therapy. Offered spring term each year. One semester hour.

**OT 610. Play/Leisure** - The exploration of play/leisure as a primary performance area of occupational therapy. Laboratory experience in play/leisure skills evaluation and training for the physically, mentally, and cognitively disabled. This course emphasizes evaluation and training with a life-span perspective. Strategies that promote adaptation to disabilities and that increase role independence include: using play/leisure activities in therapeutic intervention, adapting media and play/leisure tasks to specific disabling conditions. Offered fall term each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 615. Work Programs in Occupational Therapy: Principles and Practice** - Major vocational theories will be explored. The assessment and intervention of work dysfunction related to physical, cognitive, and mental impairments are addressed. Assessment and intervention skills include: prevocational, job analysis, work/functional capacity, and ergonomics. Legal issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individual with Disabilities Education Act, workers' compensation, and Social Security Disability are included. Opportunities for occupational therapists to serve as consultants to various industries are explored. Offered fall term each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 620. Activities of Daily Living** - Laboratory experience in the evaluation, intervention, and training of basic and instrumental activities of daily living for the physically, mentally, and cognitively disabled. This course focuses on a range of implementation strategies including environmental

adaptation, use and design of adaptive equipment, restructuring cognitive complexity, and training caregivers to assist individuals in regaining functional independence in meaningful activities. Offered spring term each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 631. Psychosocial Theory and Practice** - The study and application of psychosocial components of occupational therapy practice in all areas of practice with a focus on mental health diagnoses and an emphasis on the development of the therapeutic relationship. Psychosocial theories and occupational theories such as the Model of Human Occupation along with related intervention strategies are addressed through coursework and community service learning experiences. Offered fall term each year. Five semester hours.

**OT 632. Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics** - A developmental approach to principles of occupational therapy with infants and children, including evaluation, treatment planning, treatment techniques, discharge planning, and working with care givers. Offered spring term each year. Five semester hours.

**OT 643. Orthopedic Dysfunction Theory and Practice** - A holistic approach to the theory and practice of occupational therapy with adults, including evaluation, intervention planning, intervention techniques, and discontinuation of services. Interaction with caregivers and team members will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on general orthopedic conditions, upper extremity dysfunction, and splinting skills. Offered fall term each year. Four semester hours.

**OT 644. Neurological Dysfunction Theory and Practice** - A holistic approach to the theory and practice of occupational therapy with adults, including evaluation, intervention planning, intervention techniques, and discontinuation of services. Interaction with caregivers and team members will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on neurological conditions. Offered spring term each year. Three semester hours.

**OT 651. Group Process** - A presentation of group theory and group dynamics. The instruction in basic group skills includes selecting a theory base, designing groups, writing group protocols, analyzing group activities, implementing specific group techniques, and evaluating progress of group members. Offered fall term each year. Three semester hours.

**OT 652. Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics** - A developmental approach to principles of occupational therapy for the older adult including evaluation, treatment planning, treatment techniques, discharge planning, and working with care providers. Offered spring term each year. One semester hour.

**OT 680. Research Design and Methods in Occupational Therapy II** - A continuation of OT 580 with an emphasis on sampling techniques, survey construction, grant writing, and advanced critique and analysis of published research. Offered spring term each year. One semester hour.

**OT 685. Research Data Analysis** - A practical review of basis data analysis techniques used in qualitative and quantitative research formats, including experience in using SPSS data analysis software. Offered spring term each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 691A. Fieldwork Level IA** - Introductory fieldwork level I experiences in the area of pediatric occupational therapy settings under the supervision of clinicians. Offered spring term each year. One semester hour.

**OT 691B. Fieldwork Level IB** - Introductory fieldwork level I experiences in the area of psychosocial occupational therapy settings under the supervision of clinicians. Offered fall and spring terms each year. One semester hour.

**OT 691C. Fieldwork Level IC** - Introductory fieldwork level I experience in the area of physical dysfunction occupational therapy settings under the supervision of clinicians. Offered fall term each year. One credit hour.

**OT 695A. Clinical Reasoning Seminar A** - A seminar that accompanies Fieldwork Level IA in pediatrics. Students will begin to integrate clinical observations and experiences with evaluations, treatment planning, and treatment implementation. Offered spring term each year. No credit.

**OT 695B. Clinical Reasoning Seminar B** - A seminar that accompanies the Fieldwork Level IB with persons who have psychosocial disabilities. Students will begin to integrate clinical observations and experiences with evaluations, treatment planning, and treatment implementation. Offered fall term each year. No credit.

**OT 695C. Clinical Reasoning Seminar C** - A seminar that accompanies the Fieldwork Level IC with adult physical disabilities. Students will begin to integrate clinical observations and experiences with evaluations, treatment planning, and treatment implementation. Offered fall term each year. No credit.

**OT 710. Occupational Therapy Service Management** - The study of the occupational therapist's role in service management and the health care system. Professional values, attitudes, ethics, and standards are emphasized. The study involves skill development in consultation, continuous quality improvement, program evaluation, strategic planning, marketing, and budgeting. Trends in health care and third-party reimbursement are examined. Offered spring term each year. Three semester hours.

**OT 740. Advanced Clinical Reasoning Seminar** - Seminar that prepares students for Level II Fieldwork and entry level occupational therapy positions through integration of clinical reasoning principles and academic knowledge. Issues that affect the student's successful entry into the field of occupational therapy including professional behaviors, licensure, legislation and in-depth review, and preparation for the NBCOT examination will be included. Offered spring term each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 750. Specialization Elective** - A course directed toward students' exposure to clinical areas of practice of their own choosing. Offered fall and spring terms each year. Two semester hours.

**OT 780A, B, and C. Directed Research** - Group research project or individual research project supervised by appropriate faculty. Students will participate in one hour in conjunction with OT 680 and OT 685. During the fall semester of their second year, students will take two hours of directed research to have release time for data collection. Students will defend their research in the final semester. One semester hour for 780A and C and two semester hours for 780 B.

**OT 791A. Fieldwork Level IIA** - A full-time supervised clinical experience designed to develop entry-level professional skills, consisting of a three-month full-time affiliation in a selected treatment setting. Offered every term. Five semester hours.

**OT 791B. Fieldwork Level IIB** - A full-time supervised clinical experience designed to develop entry-level professional skills, consisting of a three-month full-time affiliation in a selected treatment setting. Offered every term. Five semester hours.

**OT 791C. Fieldwork Level IIC (optional)** - A full-time supervised clinical experience in a specialized area. A minimum of six weeks duration is required. Offered every term. Three to five semester hours.