

SJSU Master of Science
Application Cycle 2022-2023

Occupational Therapy Program

San Jose State University

- ◆ Oldest public university in California: established 1857
- ◆ One of 23 California State University campuses
- ◆ Current enrollment is about 33,000
- ◆ Approximately 20% of students are graduate students
- ◆ OT program established 1943; MS program established in 1960
 - College of Health and Human Sciences
- ◆ Thousands of alums throughout US and the world

Central Classroom Building

The Occupational Therapy Department



Martin Luther King Library



SJSU OT Faculty

- ◆ 9 tenured/tenure track faculty
- ◆ 11 part time faculty / practitioners
- ◆ 8 highly esteemed emeritus faculty
- ◆ 10 faculty have PhDs in clinical psychology, education, human science, occupational science, health science
- ◆ 6 Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association
- ◆ Specialized practice certifications
- ◆ One Fulbright scholar
- ◆ Numerous books, chapters, articles and presentations, editorial boards, research grants

Department Chair – Dr. Gigi Smith



SJSU Master's Program

- ◆ 4 semester academic program
 - Includes an International Experience
- ◆ 2 fieldwork placements (12 weeks each-40 hours/wk)
- ◆ MS degree conferred after final fieldwork placement
- ◆ Eligible to sit for national registration examination (www.NBCOT.org)
- ◆ SJSU OT programs have a high pass rate on registration exam

The Curriculum

◆ Curriculum Core

Participation in meaningful occupation to promote health, well-being, and social inclusion across the lifespan

◆ Mission

The Occupational Therapy Department at San Jose State University is dedicated to preparing culturally diverse occupational therapy leaders who promote health and participation in life for individuals, organizations, and populations through engagement in occupation.

Curriculum Design

- ◆ The curriculum is designed to enable students to acquire the knowledge and competencies necessary to become a qualified occupational therapist within four semesters of graduate academic study and six months of internship (fieldwork).
- ◆ The curriculum is centered on the principle that participation in meaningful occupation promotes health, well-being, and social inclusion across the lifespan.

Curriculum Clusters

- ❑ Occupation-The Core of the Profession
- ❑ Foundations for Occupational Therapy Practice
 - ❑ Professional Development
 - ❑ Practice in the Community
 - ❑ Research and Knowledge Development
 - ❑ Practice of Occupational Therapy.

Curriculum Design

- ◆ Classes are small in order to foster an active learning environment that will encourage students to develop strong clinical reasoning and creative problem solving capabilities. Students refine skills in selecting, evaluating, and applying information in order to engage in evidence-based practice. Throughout the program, opportunities to interact with therapists and clients in clinical and community settings enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to practice.
- ◆ International Experience

International Experience

- ◆ The overall goal for the international experience is to gain cross-cultural insight into the political, social cultural and economic factors that influence the provision of occupational therapy services outside of the US.
- ◆ Time abroad ranges from 1-3 weeks during the Winter or Summer session
- ◆ Students register for 1-6 units of coursework
- ◆ These courses fulfill requirements for the degree

Degree Roadmap

◆ Semester 1

- ◆ OCTH 211: Historical and Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy
- ◆ OCTH 221: Occupational Analysis
- ◆ OCTH 212: Occupation Through the Lifespan
- ◆ OCTH 213: Professional Development I
- ◆ OCTH 222: Functional Kinesiology OR OCTH 276: Seminar and Practicum IA

◆ Semester 2

- ◆ OCTH 245: Introduction to Research Methodology
- ◆ OCTH 216: Evaluation in Occupational Therapy
- ◆ OCTH 224: Occupational Therapy Practice in the Community I
- ◆ OCTH 222: Functional Kinesiology OR OCTH 276: Seminar and Practicum IA
- ◆ OCTH 226: Occupational Therapy with Children or OCTH 236: Occupational Therapy with Youth

Degree Roadmap (cont.)

◆ Semester 3

- ◆ OCTH 275: Evidence-Based Practice in OT
- ◆ OCTH 233: Professional Development II
- ◆ OCTH 246: OT with Young Adults or OCTH 256: OT with Middle Aged Adults
- ◆ OCTH 226: OT with Children or OCTH 286: Seminar and Practicum IB (4 units) OR OCTH 234: OT Practice in the Community II

◆ Semester 4

- ◆ OCTH 295: Master's Project Capstone Course
- ◆ OCTH 246: OT with Young Adults or OCTH 256: OT with Middle Aged Adults
- ◆ OCTH 266 OT with Older Adults
- ◆ OCTH 286: Seminar and Practicum IB (4 units) OR OCTH 234: OT Practice in the Community II
- ◆ OCTH 210 Seminar for Occupational Therapists

The Curriculum

- ❖ Following completion of the academic curriculum, students complete two 12-week, 40 hour per week fieldwork placements (OCTH 201A and OCTH 201B).

Admission Criteria

- ◆ GPA of 3.0 or better in last 60 semester or last 90 quarter units of coursework.
- ◆ Completion of prerequisite courses with a B or better prior to entry into the program.
- ◆ 80 hours volunteer experience verified by “Evaluation of Volunteer Experience” form. 60 hours under the direct supervision of an OT/L and 20 hours in a community agency.

Community Agency

- ◆ A non-therapy site
- ◆ Ideally serves underserved or disenfranchised individuals
- ◆ Examples: Homeless shelters, soup kitchens, food banks, outreach programs, crisis centers, etc.

Admission Criteria (continued)

For 2022-2023 Application Cycle

- ◆ GRE Verbal score of 153 & a combined score of 297 is preferred, but not required. An Analytic Writing score of 4.0 on the GRE is highly recommended (a minimum score of 4.0 is acceptable)

Admission Criteria (continued)

- ◆ OTCAS application & personal statement –

Criteria for Applying to the MSOT Program

- ◆ Must **complete** 4/8 prerequisite courses
- ◆ Must submit volunteer experience forms. Please complete 20 hours of community work and at least 20 hours with an OT at the time of application. All hours must be completed by the start of classes in the Fall. ****The person who completes the volunteer form cannot also submit a letter of recommendation**
- ◆ Must complete the GRE

Criteria for Applying to the MSOT Program (continued)

- ◆ Submission of three letters of recommendation attesting to academic ability, work performance record and personal attributes necessary for graduate study. **1 letter must be from an academic source**

*Remember: Letters of recommendation cannot be from someone who has completed the volunteer form

Prerequisite Courses

- ◆ Human Anatomy with lab*
- ◆ Physiology with lab
- ◆ Neuroanatomy—Bio 109 @ SJSU is offered on campus Spring semester and online during Summer (OCTH 190)
- ◆ General (Intro) Psychology
- ◆ Abnormal Psychology
- ◆ Sociology OR Cultural Anthropology
- ◆ Statistics*
- ◆ Skills Course

* = Must have been taken in last 7 years

Neuroanatomy requirement

- ◆ Please check the website - prerequisite courses. Click on link for accepted neuroanatomy courses. If the course you want to take is not on this list, please email the Graduate Assistant. You must send the course syllabus and course description so that the class can be reviewed.
- ◆ Do not assume that a course with the name “neuro” in it will be an accepted option for this prerequisite.

Prerequisite Courses

- ◆ Please contact the Graduate Assistant if you wish to find out if a particular course you took meets the criteria for our prerequisites.
****Include the course syllabus or description from the catalog**

Admission Information

- ◆ Applications are accepted once per year beginning October 1st through February 1st
- ◆ Students are conditionally accepted on a rolling admission basis

Application Process

- ◆ OTCAS
- ◆ OT Department
- ◆ CalState Apply/GAPE
 - <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>
- ◆ You must complete the required paperwork for each of these

OTCAS-Occupational Therapy Common Application System

- ◆ The following documents are submitted through OTCAS
 - Application/Personal Statement
 - Official Transcripts
 - Letters of Recommendation

Occupational Therapy Department- SJSU

- ◆ The following are submitted directly to the OT Department
 - A copy of your application/personal statement from OTCAS
 - Sealed Volunteer Evaluation forms with waivers
 - Unofficial GRE scores
 - Include the 1st 2 pages of your OTCAS application

CSU Mentor/GAPE (Graduate Studies Admissions & Program Evaluations)

- ◆ The following are submitted via Cal State Apply (<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>)
 - Application to the University
 - Official Transcripts
 - Official GRE (4687) Opens October 1st
 - This is a separate process from your application to the program and to OTCAS

Tips

- ◆ Investigate prerequisite courses at local colleges
- ◆ Begin the volunteer hours ASAP
- ◆ Start the application process with OTCAS before Oct 1st as it takes at least two weeks for them to verify your application. **OTCAS open July 21st.**
- ◆ Applications are reviewed beginning October 1st and admissions are on a rolling basis. Timing is important!
- ◆ Choose referees carefully for the LOR (1 academic source required)
- ◆ Prepare a thoughtful personal statement describing goals and objectives for pursuing a Master's degree in OT, include leadership experiences and future potential (on application form).

For More Information:

- ◆ **Email us at:** gradadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu

- ◆ Graduate assistant
 - Emily Boykin
 - E-mail: gradadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu

Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)

- ◆ If you are interested in the OTD program please visit our website

<https://www.sjsu.edu/occupationaltherapy/programs/otd.php>

- ◆ Or email us at

otdadvisor-occupationaltherapy@sjsu.edu



Thank You!