The Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy is a full time 60-credit weekend program. Classes are completed in 20 months and are followed by 24 weeks of full-time clinical fieldwork. Entry into the Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy requires a Bachelor's degree and the completion of prerequisite courses. Students without a Bachelor’s degree can apply for a Bachelor's of Health Sciences, which includes prerequisites or pre-professional occupational therapy courses.

Schedule an appointment with a representative of the Occupational Therapy Program to learn more about our program and the occupational therapy profession. An Occupational Therapy advisor will review your unofficial transcripts and will make a personal program plan for completing prerequisite courses. A telephone appointment may be scheduled for students who live at a distance. We strongly recommend that you talk with an Occupational Therapy advisor before taking prerequisite courses. Information about our weekend Master of Science Program in Occupational Therapy may be obtained by contacting the Occupational Therapy Program at (914) 674-7822 or (914) 674-7815 or by email at otprogram@mercy.edu. We also invite you to visit our Web site at https://www.mercy.edu/occupationaltherapy.

General Application Information
Students can apply to the Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy for provisional acceptance beginning each June, one year prior to beginning the Graduate Program the following fall semester. Applications are accepted June 15th through August 10th of each year. Applications may continue to be processed after the deadline should space be available in the cohort.

Requirements include:
- A Bachelor’s degree or a minimum of 90 undergraduate credits (including 48 credits of general education requirements that include Introduction to Sociology). Students with a minimum of 90 undergraduate credits can apply to the Program for provisional acceptance up to one year in advance of entry into the program. **The Bachelor's degree must be completed before beginning the Master's Program.** The prerequisite GPA as well as the overall GPA or GPA from the last degree will be considered in the admission process. See page 2 for specific requirements
- A realistic plan to complete remaining prerequisite courses before entry into the Program (admission prerequisite completion checklist form must accompany application). Students are required to complete ALL General and Specific prerequisite courses listed below prior to starting the Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy.
- All acceptances are provisional and require a successful completion of remaining prerequisites with a prerequisite GPA of 3.0 and a grade of B- or higher in Group Process and a grade of C or higher in prerequisites.

General Prerequisites: These courses are the typical prerequisite courses that are required by the majority of occupational therapy programs. Students may transfer these courses from other accredited colleges.
- Anatomy & Physiology I and II with a Lab including vertebrae dissection- (online/web-based labs are not acceptable) (8 credits) *
- Abnormal Psychology (PSYN 312 – 3 cr.) (offered online)
- Developmental Psychology (PSYN 233 – 3 cr.) – Must cover the entire lifespan (offered online)
- Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences (BHSC 370 – 3 cr. offered online); Stats course must be at a 200 level or above
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 credits) - (Intro to Sociology, Anthropology or Cultural Diversity)
- Introduction to Health Professions Literature and Scientific Writing (HLSC 225 – 1 cr.)

* General Bio I or II (4 credits with a campus-based lab) including with a grade of B or higher from a 4 year institution, can substitute for A&P II for students with a bachelor’s degree. It does not substitute for A&P I which focuses on Anatomy.

Specific OT Prerequisite Foundation Courses: **The courses listed below are typically part of the first year of other occupational therapy programs.** We allow students to take these courses as pre-requisites at their own pace (at a time, part time or full time). This allows the Mercy College Graduate OT Program to spend more time on OT focused content. All of these courses should be taken at Mercy College and can also be used to fulfill requirements for the Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences (see below).
- Overview of Occupational Therapy Practice* (HLSC 210 – 1 cr.) – OTAs are exempt
- Introduction to Health Professions Literature and Scientific Writing (HLSC 225 – 1 cr.)

Students with Bachelor’s degree with a GPA of 3.5 are not required to take this course, but are responsible for knowledge of content.

- Scientific Writing (HLSC 402 – 2 cr.) Students with Bachelor's degree with a GPA of 3.5 are not required to take this course, but are responsible for knowledge of content.
- Safety Precautions for the Health Care Professional (HLSC 205 – 1 cr.)*
- Group Process for Health Professionals (HLSC 344 – 3 cr.)
- Human Anatomy with Cadaver (BIOL 303 Lecture – 3 cr. and BIOL 303A Lab – 1 cr.)* Grades for lecture and lab courses must be a C or higher; grades are not averaged.
- Clinical Kinesiology and Applied Physics (HLSC 314 – 4 cr.)*
- Pathology for Rehabilitation (HLSC 302 – 3 cr.)*
- Applied Neuroscience for the Rehabilitation Professional (HLSC 410 – 4 cr.) *
- Introduction to Occupational Therapy (HLSC 420 3 cr.)

*Acceptance of transfer credit and exemption criteria for any of the above courses may require passing a competency exam.
Students with a Bachelor's Degree
Students who have already earned a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university must complete all of the prerequisite courses before beginning the graduate program. General prerequisite courses, listed above, may be accepted as transfer. Students who complete a minimum of 30 credits or more of prerequisite courses at Mercy College are eligible to apply for a second Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences as described below. If a student does not pursue a second bachelor's degree, they may register as a “Special Matriculate”. Students within this category must complete prerequisite courses within 1 academic year with a minimum of 6 credits per semester to be eligible to apply for financial aid.

Students without a Bachelor's Degree
All of the Occupational Therapy prerequisite courses can be used to fulfill the requirements for the Bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences. To be eligible for the Bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences, students must complete a minimum of 30 undergraduate credits at Mercy College. A Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university is required for progression into the Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy. The following sequence is recommended for students who meet application criteria and plan to complete remaining prerequisite courses within a year (full time schedule). Prerequisite courses may also be taken on a part time schedule. However, once students apply to the program, they need to present a plan to complete remaining prerequisite courses. Students who complete their prerequisites within one year will be given preference in the admission process. Preference is also given to students with comprehensive work or life experience.

Program Application Components:

A. Applications are accepted for consideration between June 15th and August 10th, one year prior to the fall for which the student would begin the occupational therapy program. All application components including official transcripts and required prerequisite grades must be received by established time frames for applications to be processed. Students who complete prerequisite courses within one year (full time schedule) may also be accepted on a part time schedule. The program must be completed to progression into the Master's Program. Students who have extensive work or life experience may be eligible to apply for life achievement credits for elective courses for this degree.

B. Admission applications will be accepted between June 15th and August 10th. Students are required to complete a minimum of at least 20 credits of prerequisite courses by the end of the summer term of application (including at least 2 science courses) and a prerequisite GPA of 3.0. Students with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher from a bachelor's or master's degree (or overall GPA if the bachelor's degree is in progress) will be given preference in the admission process. Preference is also given to students with additional prerequisite coursework completed and grades of B or above in at least two core HLSC Science courses.

C. Two references on the Mercy College Occupational Therapy Recommendation Form must be submitted, additional letters may be attached (references should be from an occupational therapist or work supervisor and faculty of a prerequisite course if possible). The recommendations must be recent (within six months). Each reference should be in sealed envelopes with the reference's signature over the seal.

D. A two-page, double-spaced typewritten personal goal statement regarding why the applicant has chosen occupational therapy as a career must be submitted.

E. Official transcripts from all colleges attended must be submitted.

F. The admission prerequisite completion checklist form must accompany the OT application. It should reflect a realistic plan to complete all remaining prerequisites prior to the start of the fall OT Graduate Program. All acceptances are provisional and require successful completion, with a grade of C or better, of remaining prerequisites with a prerequisite GPA of 3.0 and a grade of B- or higher in Group Process and a grade of C or higher in prerequisites. A full admission policy and procedure is available from the OT program upon request.

G. All acceptances are provisional and require a successful completion of remaining prerequisites with a prerequisite GPA of 3.0 and a grade of B- or higher in Group Process and a grade of C or higher in prerequisites. A full admission policy and procedure is available from the OT program upon request.

Revised 11/13/2014
WHY CHOOSE MERCY’S PROGRAM?

- Innovative weekend program
- Hands on experiences within the clinic and classroom
- Supportive learning environment
- Nationally recognized faculty
- Excellent employer ratings of graduates
- Reputation of the program and Mercy’s graduates in clinical settings

IN WHAT SEQUENCE SHOULD SCIENCE COURSES BE TAKEN?

Only two science courses can be taken simultaneously. BIOL 130 and 131 Anatomy and Physiology I and II, with a vertebrate dissection is the first science course that should be taken because it is a prerequisite for HLSC 302 Pathology for Rehabilitation, and BIOL 303 Anatomy with Cadaver. General Bio II (4 credits with a campus-based lab including dissection of a vertebrate) with a grade of B or higher from a 4 year institution, can substitute for A&P II for students with a bachelor’s degree. Students are required to successfully completed BIOL 303 Human Anatomy with Cadaver prior to taking HLSC 314 Clinical Kinesiology and Applied Physics. These courses will only be permitted as co-requisites with permission of the OT Program director and a history of strong performance in Anatomy and Physiology I and II. The remaining science prerequisite is HLSC 410 Applied Neuroscience for the Rehabilitation Professional. Students can take this course simultaneously with HLSC 314 Clinical Kinesiology and Applied Physics.

CAN THE PREREQUISITE COURSES BE TAKEN AT ANOTHER COLLEGE?

General prerequisites can be taken at another College, however students who choose to take these courses elsewhere should submit the course description to the OT Program advisor. Note that the Developmental Psychology course must cover the entire lifespan including childhood, adolescence, adulthood and geriatrics. Program Specific Prerequisites such as Human Anatomy with Cadaver, Kinesiology, Pathology, and Neuroscience should be taken at Mercy College within the last 5 years. Transfer credit may be given for some of these courses if a competency exam is passed.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO THE SEPTEMBER CLASS?

Admissions applications will be accepted between June 15th and August 10th. All materials including references on the college form as well as essays must be submitted by the deadline for consideration of admission. Students are encouraged to submit their applications early.

WHAT IS THE ADMISSION DECISION BASED ON?

The final admission decision is based upon a combination of your pre-requisite and overall grade point average, letters of recommendation and written essays. Students with incomplete prerequisite courses are admitted on the condition that they complete the remaining prerequisite courses at Mercy College with a grade of C or better and a minimum pre-requisite and overall GPA of 3.0. All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to entering the Program. When the program has 2 equally qualified applicants, preference will be given to the applicant who has obtained a previous degree from Mercy College.

WILL I BE ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM IF I ACHIEVE A PREREQUISITE AND OVERALL GPA OF 3.0?

Not necessarily, admission to the Program is very competitive and the Program receives more applicants than it can accommodate. The Program can only admit one class per year with a maximum of 35 students per cohort.

WHAT IF I REPEAT A PRE-REQUISITE COURSE?

The grades of any repeated program specific prerequisite courses will be averaged together into the GPA. Students currently repeating a program specific pre-requisite course will have the standing grade for that course included in their admission GPA until the new grade is averaged with the existing grade.

IS VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE REQUIRED?

Volunteer experience is encouraged, but not required. The Overview of Occupational Therapy Practice course is required, and will help students gain an appreciation of the scope of occupational therapy practice, as well as the diversity of clients and disabilities encountered in the profession. This course has been developed to help students learn more about a career in occupational therapy, and is designed to prepare students to enter the Mercy College Graduate Occupational Therapy Program.

IS THE PROGRAM CONSIDERED TO BE PART-TIME?

No. Although courses are scheduled on weekends, the program involves a full-time graduate load of 9 to 11 credits per semester or 30 credits per year (total = 60 credits). Students are not allowed to take a reduced credit load because the courses on each weekend are designed to be taken simultaneously. The Program is extremely intense and students may be required to engage in independent learning. While classes are conveniently scheduled on weekends, additional time is required outside of class, students are expected to participate in online discussions, open labs, lab practical exams, and complete Level I fieldwork placements and course assignments during weekdays.

WHEN ARE COURSES HELD?

The graduate courses are generally scheduled every other weekend. See the last page for the curriculum sequence and schedule. Prerequisite courses are offered on the weekends and/or evenings.

Revised 11/13/2014
ARE ALL COURSES HELD AT THE DOBBS FERRY CAMPUS?
The Occupational Therapy Program is offered at the Dobbs Ferry campus only. Classes are held in Main Hall. In the first year of the program, students attend some class sessions held at Blythedale Children’s Hospital. In the second year of the program, students attend some class sessions at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, Phelps Memorial Hospital, and Kings Harbor Multi-care Center.

WHAT ARE THE WEEKENDS LIKE?
The weekend format is an intense learning experience. The amount of information covered in one weekend is equivalent to that covered in 4-5 classes in a traditional program. The weekend involves a mixture of lecture and discussion, small group problem solving, and active hands-on practice. Several clinicians, with expertise in a particular area of practice, are usually scheduled to make guest presentations during each weekend.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS BETWEEN CLASS WEEKENDS?
A great deal of independent learning and participation in online discussions is necessary between classes to keep up with the coursework. Students are expected to actively participate in online discussions using the Blackboard platform or similar technology. Collaborating with peers on group projects or your capstone project typically occur during the week. These meetings may be face-to-face or use online platforms. Some classes may schedule open labs or practical exams during weekdays/evenings. Level I fieldwork experiences are typically scheduled 1 full day a week (i.e., Monday – Friday) during each fall and spring term. See below for more information on fieldwork placement and requirements.

CAN I SPEAK WITH STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM TO GAIN THEIR PERSPECTIVE?
Yes. Many of our current students and alumni have volunteered to speak to prospective students about our program. Please call or email the Occupational Therapy Program advisor (otprogram@mercy.edu) for the student/alumni contact sheet.

WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT IS WELL-SUITED FOR A WEEKEND PROGRAM?
The program is well suited for the adult learner who is motivated, self-directed and takes charge of his/her own learning. A weekend program requires strong self-initiation and the ability to organize, structure, and manage one's time efficiently. Strong library research skills are a prerequisite for success. The program also incorporates a problem-based learning approach where students work within groups to investigate and explore different clinical issues within the context of case scenarios; this requires the ability to work successfully as a team player.

DO STUDENTS WORK FULL-TIME?
It is recommended that students work a maximum of 25 hours per week. The program involves a full-time graduate course load, even though classes are scheduled on weekends. Students are required to attend Fieldwork Level I sites 7-8 weekdays each fall and spring semester (see fieldwork requirements).

WHAT ARE THE FIELDWORK REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM?
There are two types of fieldwork required in the program – Level I and Level II. The fieldwork experiences are arranged through the Director of Clinical Education, and the majority is scheduled during the week. Special requests for days and locations will require possible delay in graduation. NOTE: Some fieldwork assignments may be a distance from the student's home, thus requiring travel and/or the need for housing accommodations. Students are responsible for the cost of travel and accommodations. Attempts will be made to schedule fieldwork within commutable distance from your home (i.e., 1 ½ hour each way).

- Level I fieldwork: Students are required to spend one weekday in an assigned clinic for approximately 7-8 weeks during each fall and spring semester. Due to the high volume of students in the metropolitan area, the weekday for Level I fieldwork is selected by the facility. The Level I practice settings match the life span age population being studied each term. Level I fieldwork is expected to be completed simultaneously with the coursework.

- Level II fieldwork: Students must complete a total of 24 weeks of full time Level II fieldwork to graduate from the program and to be eligible for the national exam and state licensure. Level II placements are typically completed at the end of the program in two 12 week full-time, unpaid, fieldwork experiences. Modifications of the Level II fieldwork experiences, such as part time (i.e., 3 day a week schedule) or placement in 3 practice sites (e.g., 12 weeks in physical disabilities, 8 weeks in pediatrics, and 8 weeks in mental health) may be possible depending on a student's grade point average, work schedule and availability of fieldwork sites with contracts with Mercy College. Part time fieldwork experiences will lengthen the time needed to complete the program but for some students offer the opportunity to balance educational requirements with work or family responsibilities. Specialty or 3rd fieldwork experiences are offered in focused areas such as hand rehabilitation or pediatric early intervention after the student completes the basic fieldwork experiences. Attempts are made to assign the student to placements that are sequentially scheduled but this is not always possible. In some circumstances, students may have a 1-3 month break between fieldwork experiences. All Level II fieldwork requirements must be completed within 24 months of the completion of coursework unless granted an extension by the Program Director and faculty review committee.
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS
Many hospitals, schools, childcare facilities and nursing homes require criminal background checks of all people working in their settings due to state legislation and accreditation requirements – this includes students completing clinical placements. The completion of the criminal background check and their costs are the responsibility of the student. Refusal to complete the background check or multiple rejections from external placements due to information in a students’ background check may prevent the student from participation in an external clinical experience. If a student cannot complete the mandatory student placement continuation in the program will not be permitted. For further details, students are advised to see the Program Director.

IS A MASTER’S THESIS REQUIRED?
A capstone project is required. Students work in small groups with faculty and/or experienced clinicians in either collaborative research teams or community program development teams. Many of the projects are clinically oriented and continue from one year to the next. Students may sign up for an ongoing project or propose an independent project. Students meet with their teams monthly throughout the second year. Approximately 10 hours of independent work is required per month; depending on the project, this may include data collection in a clinic or the community.

ARE THERE OTHER REQUIREMENTS I NEED TO COMPLETE TO PRACTICE AS AN OT?
Graduates of the Occupational Therapy Program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination of the occupational therapist administered by the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). 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. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

HOW DO I FIND A VOLUNTEER OR PAID JOB IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?
Visit the Career Development Center in Room 216 at the Dobbs Ferry Campus and ask about the Cooperative Education Program. With the help of a counselor, you can locate a position in an occupational therapy setting and earn 3-6 credits in a related Cooperative Education course. Contact Cooperative Education at (914) 674-7660. The Occupational Therapy Program also has a list of facilities where you can volunteer (email otprogram@mercy.edu).

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?
Students accepted into the Graduate OT Program are eligible to apply for scholarships with the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE). These scholarships award 1 year of full tuition with an agreement for a minimum of 24 months employment with the NYCDOE upon graduation. Students interested in receiving information and an application should call the NYCDOE Office of Related and Contractual Services at 212-374-1081 in January of the year they intend to start the program. Some health care facilities offer scholarships that require employment agreements upon graduation. The American Occupational Therapy Association also offers scholarships; information may be obtained by calling (301) 652-2682. Mercy College also offers graduate assistantships to eligible students. These assistantships provide partial tuition in exchange for a weekly work commitment. In addition, the Mercy College OT Program frequently has funds available for distribution from private foundations and governmental grants.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES THAT I WILL INCUR?
The faculty attempts to select books that can be used during several semesters, and during your first year of practice. Books for the first semester cost approximately $400 dollars. During other semesters the average is $300. There are additional expenses related to the fieldwork component of the Program: students must have their immunization titer values taken, (can be as high as $300), an annual physical, and TB test. Professional malpractice insurance, (less than $40 dollars/year), is required, as is an annual CPR certification course. Some fieldwork sites may require a background check and fingerprints (approximately $120).

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL SKILLS THAT ARE RECOMMENDED PRIOR TO ENTERING THE PROGRAM?
Yes. Due to the number of written assignments required throughout the program, students need to demonstrate proficiency in writing. In addition, computer experience in word processing, knowledge of the Internet, and an e-mail address are helpful. Familiarity with the Library Computer Search system, Medline and Psych Abstracts are necessary to complete assignments. The college library system can be accessed through a home internet connection. Students may contact instructors through e-mail. CPR certification is required before beginning Level II fieldwork.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
The program has an essential function form that outlines the necessary behavioral, communicative, psychomotor, cognitive, and self-care skills deemed essential for completion of the program and performance as a competent occupation therapist. This form is signed by the student stating he/she is or is not capable of performing the skills and abilities listed. Most fieldwork sites also have their own essential functions form.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS DURING THE PROGRAM?
The Writing Lab offers assistance with writing assignments and with developing and giving presentations. Throughout the program, the faculty may schedule review sessions.
**IS THE PROGRAM ACCREDITED?**

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. ACOTE’s phone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA; their web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org) and their email is accred@aota.org. Graduates of the Occupational Therapy Program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination of the occupational therapist administered by the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). 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. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. When you apply to sit for the certification examination with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), you will be asked to answer questions related to the topic of felonies. For further information on these limitations, you can contact NBCOT at: National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, 800 S. Frederick Avenue, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-4150 or via telephone at (301) 990-7979.

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**Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy Curriculum Sequence**

**FIRST YEAR**

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>OCTR500</td>
<td>Models in Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
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<td>OCTR505</td>
<td>Childhood and Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>OCTR506</td>
<td>Level 1 Fieldwork in Pediatrics</td>
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<td>OCTR507</td>
<td>Problem Based Learning in Pediatrics</td>
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<td>OCTR503</td>
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**SPRING SEMESTER**

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<td>Level 1 Fieldwork with Adolescent Clients</td>
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<td>Problem Based Learning in Adolescent Health</td>
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**SUMMER SEMESTER**

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<td>OCTR525</td>
<td>Quantitative &amp; Qualitative Research Methods for Occupational Therapy</td>
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- Advanced Topics I – (students select from: Pediatrics, Neurorehabilitation, Adult Rehabilitation or Community Health & Wellness)

**SECOND YEAR**

**FALL SEMESTER**

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<td>Problem Based Learning in Adult Health</td>
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<td>OCTR610</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Assessment &amp; Treatment IV - Adults</td>
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**SPRING SEMESTER**

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**SUMMER SEMESTER**

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- Advanced Topics III – (students complete the Advanced Topics course series)

**FALL SEMESTER**

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Total of 60 Credits