

Graduate Programs in Occupational Therapy



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY

Division of Occupational Therapy



Occupational therapists help people of all ages regain or improve their quality of life through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. Occupational therapists help adults and children participate fully in the activities that are meaningful and relevant for them. This includes but is not limited to helping children participate fully in school and social situations; helping individuals recovering from injury regain skills and learn strategies to improve independence; providing support for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes; and supporting wellness and preventative health behavior among people with chronic illness.

Graduate Programs in Occupational Therapy

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

Shenandoah's entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) is a 107-credit degree that can be completed in three years in a flexible, hybrid format with over 50% of the content delivered online. This program not only prepares you to become a skilled and compassionate occupational therapist, but it also offers additional focus on clinical practice skills, research skills, administration, leadership, policy development and advocacy. In addition, doctoral students complete a culminating capstone project.

Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy

The Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) is an online program designed for practicing, registered occupational therapists who have obtained a master's degree and want to advance in leadership and develop as evidence-based scholars. Applicants can choose Track I to pursue the program in one year, or Track II to complete the degree in two years.

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Shenandoah's 75-credit Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) prepares you to help clients reach their highest level of independence and quality of life. Our MSOT program prepares you to become a skilled and compassionate occupational therapist, serving a diverse range of conditions in a variety of health care and community-based settings. The program is offered in two formats: hybrid with courses one day each week at our Scholar Plaza location in Leesburg, Virginia, or hybrid with courses on weekends (Saturday-Sunday) approximately twice a month for a total of seven weekends in a semester at our Winchester location. Close mentorship with faculty, combined with the program's small class sizes and practical learning experiences, prepare you to enter the field as an OT practitioner dedicated to evidence-based, client-centered care, service, ethics, research, and leadership.

Collaborative Learning and Real-World Experience

In the OTD and MSOT programs, you'll gain invaluable hands-on experiences through extensive opportunities to engage with clients through community involvement and structured fieldwork placements. Working with faculty members, physicians and fellow students from Shenandoah's pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, and nursing programs, you'll learn in collaborative, interprofessional teams, providing invaluable health care services to populations at home and around the world.

Innovative Hybrid Learning Offers Flexibility to Fit Your Life

The Occupational Therapy Division offers three programs with either a hybrid learning format combining online coursework with on-campus meetings, or fully online coursework, providing flexibility for both traditional and non-traditional students. Outside of your coursework, you'll gain additional experience through faculty-directed experiential learning in the community each semester and apply these experiences in classroom and online learning environments.



Key Features

- The national median salary for occupational therapists is **about \$80,000+**
- 99% licensure exam pass rate (MSOT)
- Accessible faculty **mentors**
- **Hands-on learning** experiences with clients
- **Locations at the Health Professions Building** on the campus of Winchester Medical Center and at **Scholar Plaza, Loudoun**, near Inova Loudoun Hospital in Leesburg, VA
- Faculty research opportunities and collaborative research projects
- **Online coursework** combined with classroom-based learning offers **flexibility** for both traditional and nontraditional students
- Students use **university-provided Apple tech**: a MacBook Pro laptop and an iPad with an Apple Pencil
- Provide service through **community and international experiences**
- Winchester location is one hour from Dulles International Airport, offering nonstop service to five continents
- Faculty are actively involved in **health care advocacy and policy development**

"When deciding to transition out of the workforce to return to school, I was seeking a program that would provide me with the most optimum school-life balance, where I could manage the demands of a full-time program with my new role of being a stay-at-home mom. With 80% of the content being delivered online, and 20% being delivered through the one-day-a-week, in-person classes, SU was the most obvious and undoubtedly the best choice for me."

*— La'Shandra "Elle" Russell '19 M.S., OTR, LVT
Master of Science in Occupational Therapy*

"People in our cohort had all different levels of experience, so I really felt like I was learning from everyone else."

*— Autumn Servera '10, '21 OTD,
Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy*





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