Professional Doctorate of **Occupational Therapy**

Help others live life to the fullest

Chatham University's **Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD)** program is an online 30-credit, low-residency program for clinicians and academicians who want to enhance their careers. Unlike a PhD in occupational therapy, the OTD degree has a clinical or practice focus and requires much less of a time commitment.

The OTD degree can be completed in just 16 months. Students take two classes at a time, allowing them to continue working and balancing life commitments while effectively engaging in new learning.

Experienced occupational therapists who hold a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy, but not a master's degree, are eligible for the **Bachelor-to-OTD Bridge Program**.

chatham.edu/otd

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The Professional Doctorate of Occupational Therapy is a program within Chatham University's **SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES.** The School of Health Sciences has developed a strong reputation for its sought-after healthcare professionals. From high licensure or board pass rates to advanced clinical aptitude, our graduates enter or advance their careers ready to meet the needs of patients and clients, and contribute to improving the quality of care their organizations deliver.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The program is focused on helping students develop the knowledge and skills they need to become evidence-based practitioners, advanced clinicians, and professional leaders.
- Each course is connected to the student's practice focus.
- The online learning experience is enhanced with two, short required residencies at Chatham.
- Each student will complete a capstone project that includes the design and implementation of an intervention where they work, or may extend into the community or an emerging practice area. Students present their project at Chatham at a peer-attended presentation and are encouraged to submit their work for consideration to peer-reviewed journals and conferences post graduation.
- Students enjoy opportunities to forge professional relationships that last well beyond the program. The small size of each cohort allows for deep discussion and interaction. An alumni mentor program ensures that students have a support system even beyond faculty and their online learning advisor.
- Chatham's OTD faculty members bring a wealth of clinical experience as well as teaching experience in a range of practice settings.

SAMPLE COURSES

OTD750 Occupational Therapist as Entrepreneur
This course provides the professional student with the knowledge and skills necessary to market and manage an occupational therapy practice in traditional or emerging healthcare systems. Students develop business plans and marketing strategies, and research potential financing through grants or loans. Legal and ethical issues impacting practice are also examined.

OTD760 Leadership and Professionalism
This course examines the meaning of leadership from both a personal and organizational perspective. Students explore leadership theories, styles, and the meaning of professionalism through narratives. Through group discussion of leadership and professional issues, students reflect on their own leadership strengths, as well as strategies for applying this knowledge in their professional lives.

OTD772 Capstone Implementation and Evaluation
The methods of evidence-based practice culminate in the professional student's design and implementation of an intervention within their clinical setting. Through an independent study, students network with faculty mentors, administrators, and other professionals to successfully engage in the evidence-based OT capstone project. Students evaluate the efficacy of their individually implemented programs and present their findings.

▶ **chatham.edu/otdcurric**

OUTCOMES

Recent OTD graduates have gone on to work in the following arenas:

- Higher Education
  – St. Catherine University, Minneapolis, MN
  – Bay Path University, Longmeadow, MA
  – Florida International University, Miami, FL
- Hospitals and Medical Centers
  – DeVos Children's Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI
  – Genesis Health Care, Pittsburgh, PA
  – University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, St. Margaret, Pittsburgh, PA
- Low Vision Services
  – VA Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, PA
  – Hamilton Eye Institute, Memphis, TN

- Early Learning
  – Cumberland Therapy Services, LLC, Pittsburgh, PA
  – Frederick County Maryland Developmental Center, Baltimore, MD
  – Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, Traverse City, MI
- Senior Services
  – Home Health Care, Northville, MI
  – Advanced Senior Health, Macon, GA
  – Glades West Rehabilitation and Nursing, Miami, FL
- Entrepreneurship
  – Little Lotus Therapy, Port Saint Lucie, FL
  – Advanced Senior Health, Macon, GA

"The OTD curriculum allows students to explore their own area of professional interest and then directly apply their learning through the design and implementation of an evidence-based capstone project in their work setting. Students become a true community of learners, working together for the future of better healthcare."

— **JOYCE SALLS, OTD, OTR/L,** *program director*

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Students may apply for either a fall or spring start to the OTD program or a fall start to the Bachelor-to-OTD Bridge Program using our free, online application. It is recommend that students submit their applications as soon as possible as space in our cohort programs is limited. For admission requirements, please visit chatham.edu/otdreqs.

Bachelor-to-OTD Bridge Program

In just one term during the fall, students in the bridge program complete three online prerequisite courses. Upon completion, students enter directly into the OTD program.

▶ Apply online at apply.chatham.edu/ccps

PITTSBURGH RESIDENCIES

The online learning experience is enhanced with two, short required residencies at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. The first is three days and occurs at the end of the first term. This experience includes a leadership course plus a preview of capstone presentations. The second is two days and occurs at the end of the last term. Here, students deliver their capstone presentation.

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