

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Occupational Therapy Doctorate

OTD

What people do every day matters. Occupational therapists empower clients of all ages to flourish through participating in daily life activities. KGI's **Occupational Therapy Doctorate** (OTD) program will prepare graduates as innovative leaders within the occupational therapy field. Expected to enroll in fall 2022, the three-year program will showcase active-learning, hands-on lab and fieldwork experiences, and team collaboration that will prepare students to become resourceful, ethical, and agile problem solvers.



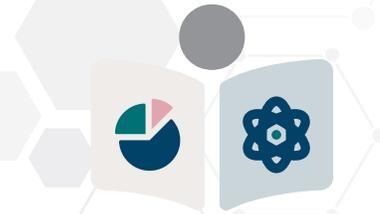
EMPHASIS ON LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

As a curricular thread, principles and practices of lifestyle medicine will be interwoven into courses across the OTD program preparing students to be champions for lifestyle changes to improve health and well-being.



COLLABORATION WITH MEDICAL DEVICE ENGINEERING PROGRAM

OTD students will have the opportunity to learn basic design and engineering principles and work with students on creating device solutions to promote participation in daily life activities.



RANGE OF ELECTIVES

We understand occupational therapy is a broad profession. KGI OTD students will have the ability to take elective courses in a range of topics to build knowledge and experience in a specific area of practice or clinical skill set.

About the Program

We believe in occupational therapy's transformative power both in current practice settings and in areas where occupational therapy is not yet established. KGI's OTD program envisions the innovative potential for therapeutically utilizing occupation to promote and sustain health, well-being, participation, and inclusion to meet a wide range of ever-changing, real-world needs.

Our mission is to educate future occupational therapists to meet the needs of individuals, communities, and populations for meaningful participation in daily life activities through a transformative and dynamic educational process. Students will learn to work with people of all ages and ability levels in client-centered, culturally responsive ways.

The transformative educational process of learning to "think like an OT" will be fueled by dynamic teaching,

active learning, and collaboration with occupational therapy classmates and students from other professional programs and disciplines. The program will provide a solid foundation in the scholarship of practice where professional thinking necessarily utilizes evidence and theory to meet clients' needs for optimizing occupational performance and participation.

We will teach our students to think outside of the box. KGI's OTD students will consider innovative possibilities for the future of practice where pioneering new approaches to occupational therapy care will be valued in the marketplace to meet the ever-changing needs of our world.

The most powerful tool we can use in occupational therapy is ourselves. **KGI's OTD program will nurture students' growth as compassionate, ethical practitioners who act with authenticity and integrity in every step of the occupational therapy process.**

Where Can Your OTD Degree Take You?

The demand for occupational therapy services has risen in recent years, and projections include a predicted 16 percent growth of the profession from 2019-2029. Occupational therapists can help people live healthy and meaningful lives—physically, mentally, and socially.

Occupational therapists work with people of all ages, with varying levels of abilities and conditions. As the number of aging people rises, so does the need for occupational therapy professionals to help elders lead independent and healthy lives. Increasing rates of autism also create more demand for occupational therapy services. The prevalence of mostly preventable diseases and its burden on the healthcare system calls for future professionals to work in prevention and wellness. Occupational therapists are ideally suited to work on those lifestyle factors so people can thrive.

A career in occupational therapy is like many different jobs wrapped into one. Occupational therapists work in hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, clinics, behavioral health settings, and community-based settings. The wide range of settings, ages, and conditions means that you can always keep growing, exploring, and finding new ways to make a difference in others' lives.



Accreditation Status

KGI's entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program has applied for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is 301.652.AOTA and its web address is acoteonline.org.

The program must be granted Candidacy Status, have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates 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). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Admissions Details

Dates and Deadlines

- **Start Term:** Fall 2022
- **Application Opens:** July 2021
- **Application Deadline:** January 15, 2022 (priority deadline); rolling admissions thereafter

Admissions Requirements

The OTD program accepts all applications via OTCAS. Requirements for admission include:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Seven prerequisites (see below)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Recommended occupational therapy observation

A GRE score is not required for admission.

Visit kgi.edu/otd for full details.

Prerequisites

The following courses are required for admission:

- Human Anatomy
- Human Physiology
- Human Lifespan Development or Development Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Introduction to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology
- Statistics
- Medical Terminology

Visit kgi.edu/otd for credit hour requirements.

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