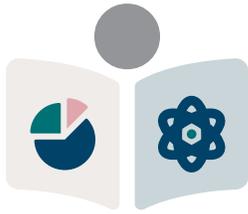


## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

# 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.



### INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM

KGI's innovative OTD curriculum is based on an integrative and systems approach that utilizes active learning experiences, in teams and labs, with occupation as the core subject to prepare students for the future of practice.



### WHOLE PERSON CARE

Students will learn to achieve therapeutic outcomes by addressing the complex interplay of whole person factors that influence occupational engagement, including both physical and mental health, family systems, social factors, and the environment.



### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

KGI offers occupational therapy services to students to help them navigate the complexities of graduate school. KGI OTD students will learn how to provide occupational therapy services in higher education settings through coursework, electives, and the option of fieldwork to help advance this important emerging practice.



### INNOVATIONS IN PRACTICE

KGI OTD students will be trained on the use of innovative practices therapeutically utilizing occupation and technologies to promote health and well-being for clients in a way that pushes occupational therapy forward in traditional and emerging areas of practice.



### HEALTH EQUITY AND OCCUPATIONAL JUSTICE

Students will learn about occupational therapy using an occupational justice lens to understand inequities related to poor health outcomes and access to services. Students will apply this knowledge, at the practice and policy levels, in order to advocate for issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion while also developing lifelong skills to be culturally responsive practitioners.



### COMMUNITY-BASED PRACTICE

KGI OTD students will learn the process of determining the needs of a community, identifying grant and funding sources, and developing programs in a variety of areas. Students will gain experience in providing therapeutic services to the community through experiential learning opportunities and collaborations with other disciplines in the KGI community.

## 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.

Through a transformative and dynamic educational process, the mission of KGI's OTD program is to develop innovative occupational therapists who utilize the therapeutic potential of occupation to promote and sustain health, well-being, participation, and inclusion with individuals, group, and populations to meet a wide range of ever-changing, real world needs. Students will learn to work with people of all ages and ability levels in client-centered, culturally responsive ways.

The transformative educational learning process 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 is built upon evidence and theory to meet clients' needs.

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.**



## Fieldwork

Embarking on the fieldwork components of the OTD program will provide students the opportunity to take the theoretical and hands-on skills that they've learned in the classroom and apply them to real clients in the context of authentic practice environments.

Fieldwork opportunities provide students with the ability to:

- Discover the client's occupational performance needs through evaluation and assessment
- Plan, develop, and execute occupation-based interventions
- Identify opportunities for innovation, advocacy, and leadership development in practice

Fieldwork education at KGI consists of:

- Level I Fieldwork
  - Aligns with the material being taught in the respective trimester
  - Serves as an opportunity for students to experience selected portions of occupational therapy process
  - Placements include hospitals, schools, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient clinics, community-based programs, and simulations
- Six total Level I fieldwork experiences

- Level II Fieldwork
  - Students master skills needed to transition from the role of a student to that of an entry-level practitioner
  - Two 12-week experiences for a total of 24 weeks

During all fieldwork experiences, students will learn foundational therapeutic skills in traditional settings while also exploring opportunities in non-traditional, role-emerging, and innovative practice areas. Moreover, students will be challenged to explore ways to bridge innovation with traditional therapeutic settings through the infusion of whole-person care, lifestyle medicine principles, and innovative practice skills. The KGI fieldwork student will discover where occupational therapy can champion the therapeutic potential of occupation to promote and sustain health, well-being, participation, and inclusion with individuals, groups, and populations to meet a wide range of ever-hanging, real-world needs.

## Capstone

KGI's OTD program is committed to cultivating leaders and innovative scholars of practice prepared to advance the occupational therapy profession forward, in both traditional and emerging settings. The 14-week doctoral capstone is an exciting in-depth experiential learning opportunity that charts the path for the student's future occupational therapy career through advanced skill development in one or more of the following areas:

- Clinical practice skills
- Research
- Program or policy development
- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Administration
- Education
- Theory development



Through guided exploration over several trimesters, students identify capstone areas of interest that align with their professional goals. Students are paired with a faculty mentor and partner with a community site to collaboratively develop a plan for their doctoral capstone.

After completion of all coursework and fieldwork, students complete their culminating doctoral capstone in the final trimester of the program, which consists of two components:

- The capstone project
- The 14-week doctoral capstone experience (DCE)

Student's application of occupational therapy knowledge is showcased through impactful deliverables of the capstone, such as program curriculum, clinical pathways, innovative technologies, and research studies.

The doctoral capstone ultimately reflects a match between student interests, the occupational needs of the DCE community partner, contribution to the profession, and key themes of the program, including innovations in practice, lifestyle medicine, community-based practice, and occupational justice.



## Testimonial

"I am so proud of the OTD program we are building here at KGI. It is a truly innovative program that will produce highly competent practitioners who care deeply about their patients and communities. The incorporation of lifestyle medicine into the curriculum adds a unique and highly pertinent dimension that will enhance the qualifications of our graduates and distinguish them from their peers in the profession."

Martin Zdanowicz, KGI Dean of SPHS and the Riggs School

## Where Can Your OTD Degree Take You?

The demand for occupational therapy services has risen in recent years, and projections include a predicted 17 percent growth of the profession from 2020-2030. 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 health management and promotion. 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](http://acoteonline.org). The OTD program is also pending approval from the WSCUC.

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](http://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](http://kgi.edu/otd) for credit hour requirements.

## Contact Us

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