

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Occupational Therapy Doctorate

OTD

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program prepares graduates to be leaders within the occupational therapy field. This degree program showcases active-learning, hands-on lab and fieldwork experiences, and team collaboration that will prepare you to become resourceful, ethical, and agile problem solvers.



Highlights



Whole person care and lifestyle medicine

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. An emphasis on lifestyle medicine will teach students to integrate health management strategies in all practice settings.



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.



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.



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. Inter-professional experiences will enhance student learning and professional growth.



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.



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.



About the program

The 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, graduates become 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.

Students benefit dynamic teaching, active learning, and collaboration with occupational therapy classmates and students from other professional programs and disciplines. The program provides a solid foundation in the scholarship of practice where professional thinking is built upon evidence and theory to meet clients' needs.

OTD students consider innovative possibilities for the future of practice by pioneering new approaches to occupational therapy care

Fieldwork

Students 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

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 simulation

Level II Fieldwork

- Students master skills needed to transition from the role of a student to that of an entry-level practitioner

Students learn foundational therapeutic skills in traditional settings while also exploring opportunities in non-traditional, role-emerging, and innovative practice areas. Students are 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.





Capstone

The 14-week doctoral capstone is an in-depth experiential learning opportunity that develops advanced skills in:

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

Students identify capstone areas of interest that align with their professional goals, and are paired with a faculty mentor and a community site to collaboratively develop a plan for their doctoral capstone.

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 program curriculum, clinical pathways, innovative technologies, and research studies.

Accreditation Status

This entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program has received candidacy status from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), is able to enroll students, and is approved by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC).

This degree 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.

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 work with people of all ages, with varying levels of abilities and conditions. Occupational therapists work in hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, clinics, behavioral health settings, and community-based settings, allowing graduates to find new ways to make a difference in others' lives.



How to apply

Dates and deadlines

Start Terms: Fall

Application deadline: December 15 (priority), final deadline: June 7

Recommended: Occupational therapy observation/shadowing

Prerequisites:

Courses in

- Human anatomy
- Human physiology
- Human lifespan development
- Psychology
- Abnormal psychology
- Introduction to sociology or cultural anthropology
- Statistics
- Medical terminology*

**A certificate of completion for medical terminology course is also acceptable*

Application requirements:

- OTCAS
- Completed online application
- Personal statement
- Resume
- Letter of recommendation
- Transcripts
- English language proficiency (TOEFL, PTE, IELTS, iTEP)
- \$75 non-refundable application fee

Admission interviews:

- Phone
- Virtual
- On-campus

Admitted students are required to submit a \$400 non-refundable enrollment fee to hold their spot in the program.



Contact us

Keck Graduate Institute

📍 535 Watson Drive, Claremont, CA 91711

☎ 909.819.4KGI ✉ admissions@kgi.edu 🖥 kgi.edu

📄 For more information, please visit kgi.edu/otd