

# Occupational Therapy

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The Department of Occupational Therapy offers a five-year master of science program in occupational therapy in which students receive a B.S. in occupational science and an M.S. degree in occupational therapy after the fifth year. Students must complete the fifth year to be eligible for the national certification examination and state licensure as occupational therapists. This program is designed as a freshman-entry program, and graduate students are admitted only from the Ithaca College undergraduate occupational science program. The undergraduate component of this program is described in the Ithaca College [undergraduate catalog](#).

The fifth year of the occupational therapy program takes place on the Ithaca College campus and at clinical fieldwork sites located throughout the country. The graduate year of study consists of 43 credits of graduate work, including 16 credits of clinical fieldwork education. The graduate year includes one full academic year of study and two summers. Students may elect a thesis or non-thesis option, but all engage in research-related activities during this year, which is designed to provide depth and breadth of education beyond traditional entry-level occupational therapy education.

The occupational therapy program at Ithaca College is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the [American Occupational Therapy Association](#) (AOTA, 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 331220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. Telephone 301-652-AOTA).

Graduates of the master's program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination administered by the [National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy](#) (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the graduate will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In [New York](#) and most other jurisdictions, a professional license is also required for practice. Although the NBCOT examination generally serves as the licensing examination, graduates are required to apply separately for certification and state licensure before entering clinical practice.

## Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission, students must have completed their B.S. degree in occupational science at Ithaca College with a cumulative GPA of 3.000 or higher. Students who have completed the degree with a cumulative GPA below 3.000, but equal to or greater than 2.700, will be required to pass a departmental graduate admissions examination at the completion of the spring semester of their senior year to be admitted to the graduate program.

## Academic Standards

Students are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.000 or higher during their graduate studies. Students may not receive a C (C-, C, or C+) for more than 6 credits, or an F for more than 3 credits during their graduate academic study. Students who fail to meet these standards in any semester will be placed on academic warning.

If a student receives a grade of F for a level II fieldwork class he or she will be placed on academic warning by the department and the Division of Graduate Studies. The student must register for and successfully complete an alternate fieldwork assignment as

scheduled by the academic fieldwork coordinator. The faculty may require remedial work or apply special conditions that the student must meet before allowing the student to repeat this class. If the student successfully completes this course, he or she may continue in the program; however, no one will be allowed more than one repeat of a level II fieldwork class. These policies, as well as academic, clinical, and professional behavior standards are published in the *Occupational Therapy Student Manual*, the *Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Manual*, and the Ithaca College undergraduate catalog.

## Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

### Graduation Requirements

1. Completion of the B.S. program in occupational science at Ithaca College.
2. Completion of the required courses listed below.
3. Completion of a research project or thesis that includes a proposal, data collection or library research, analysis, and presentation of results. The research thesis is conducted under the supervision of faculty members and must meet professional publication standards. Students' proposals must be accepted for thesis research by the faculty. These students will register for 673-67200 Individual Research --- Thesis. Students who do not undertake a thesis must take 673-67100 Group Research and 673-61000 Supervision in Occupational Therapy, and pass a comprehensive examination developed by the faculty prior to graduation.

Students enrolled in the thesis option who have completed all coursework except the thesis will be required to enroll in at least one credit of thesis each semester until they finish their degree. Students should work with their program advisers to plan an appropriate course and credit schedule. For international students this schedule will be reflected in the immigration paperwork.

### Major department requirements

673-62000	Advanced Theory and Practice	3
673-63000	Preventive Health Care and Patient Education	3
673-63100	Consultation, Community, and Alternative Models	2
673-64000	Activity Group Process	3
673-65000	Applied Pediatric Neuroscience	
673-65100	Applied Adult Neuroscience	3
673-61100	Professional Concepts II	1
673-67100	Individual Thesis Research I (3) <i>and</i>	
673-67300	Individual Thesis Research II (2)	
	<i>or</i>	
673-67200	Group Research (3) <i>and</i>	5
673-61000	Supervision in Occupational Therapy (2)	
	Total, major department requirements	20

### Clinical Fieldwork

673-60000	Clinical Fieldwork II --- Children and Adolescents	6
673-69000	Clinical Fieldwork II --- Adult and Geriatric	6
673-69500 or 673-69600	Clinical Fieldwork II --- Elective Specialty or Elective Internship	4
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Total, clinical fieldwork		16

### Graduate elective

3 credits from the following:

673-64100	Adaptation and Environmental Modification (3)	
673-64300	Cognitive Rehabilitation (3)	
673-64400	Technology in Occupational Therapy Intervention (3)	
673-64500	Vocational Readiness (3)	
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Total, graduate elective		3

### Specialty seminar

3 credits from the following:

673-68100	Advanced Concepts in Physical Disabilities (3)	
673-68200	Advanced Concepts in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy (3)	
673-68300	Advanced Concepts in Geriatric Rehabilitation (3)	
673-68400	School-Based Occupational Therapy (3)	
673-68500	Hand Therapy (3)	
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Total, specialty seminar		3
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Total, M.S. in occupational therapy		43

### Clinical Fieldwork

Clinical fieldwork is an essential part of professional training, and students must complete three level II fieldwork experiences in preparation for their degree and certification. Fieldwork centers maintain contractual relationships with Ithaca College, and students are placed in fieldwork centers by the fieldwork coordinator well in advance of the beginning of these placements. Once confirmed, student placements are not alterable by the student.

Students will be assigned to fieldwork based on their preferences and the availability of placements. Students should expect to do at least some of their fieldwork at a distance from their homes and Ithaca. They are responsible for making their own housing and travel arrangements, although the department and the center are usually able to provide some help. Students and families need to plan ahead for this process.

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) requires that all level II fieldwork experiences be completed within 24 months of the completion of the academic portion of the curriculum. Students who fail to complete graduate fieldwork within this period are subject to dismissal from the program.

## Course Descriptions

In the following course descriptions, F=Fall, S=Spring, Sum=Summer, Y=Yearly, IRR=Offered at irregular intervals..

### 673-59800 Special Topics in Occupational Therapy

Formal instruction in topics of current interest to graduate students and faculty in occupational therapy. Experimental and topical courses will be offered under this number and title. Course may be repeated for credit, for different selected topics. Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. 1-3 credits (IRR)

### 673-60000 Clinical Fieldwork II --- Children and Adolescents

Three months of full-time supervised clinical experience with opportunity to treat pediatric patients/clients. Assignment in training center program approved in accordance with the American Occupational Therapy Association's standards. Graded pass/fail only. Required. 6 credits. (Sum, Y)

### 673-61000 Supervision in Occupational Therapy

An applied course in supervision relating to the practice of occupational therapy. Includes elements of supervision, organizational behavior, and interaction strategies to further psychomotor, cognitive, and affective learning outcomes. Elective alternative to 673-67200. Corequisite: 673-67100. 2 credits. (S,Y)

### 673-61100 Professional Concepts II

Exploration in depth of the concerns and issues of professional career development in occupational therapy. Consideration of the elements of professional career development, appropriate selection of professional positions, legal issues of licensing, reimbursement policies, maintenance of professional competence, and issues related to cultural diversity in the clinic and the worksite. This is a continuation of Professional Concepts I, with a deeper analysis of ethics and multicultural issues. 1 credit (S,Y)

### 673-62000 Advanced Theory and Practice

Examination and critique of definitions, philosophy, generic base, and concepts in occupational therapy. Occupational therapy theory development, structure, and function are analyzed and critiqued as they relate to basic assumptions, frames of reference, and implications for practice and research. Focus is on research and theory development, and the application of theory to occupational therapy practice. Required. No prerequisite. 3 credits. (S,Y)

### 673-63000 Preventive Health Care and Patient Education

The process of adapting patterns of behavior so they will lead to improved health and heightened life satisfaction. The link between health, prevention of health problems, and behavior patterns and lifestyles is discussed. States of mind, thoughts, feelings, self-efficacy, coping strategies, and use of social support mechanisms in wellness and prevention are considered. Roles of therapists as educators are discussed, and skills in patient education are developed. No prerequisite. Required. 3 credits. (F,Y)

### 673-63100 Consultation, Community, and Alternative Models

The practice of occupational therapy in nontraditional and community-based settings. Emphasis is on alternative models of delivery, including consultation and monitoring. Roles of occupational therapists in industry, private practice, prevention programs, and emerging areas of practice are explored. Skills and issues related to effective and ethical practice are addressed. Required. 2 credits. (S,Y)

### 673-64000 Activity Group Process

The use of groups in occupational therapy, with special emphasis on activity-based groups. Concepts and theories of group formation, development, structure, and leadership introduced in earlier courses are expanded and practiced as they apply to adults and children. Development of group protocols and management of groups are

practiced. Research on the use of groups is discussed. Required. 3 credits. (F,Y)

**673-64100 Adaptation and Environmental Modification**

Study of theories regarding human behavioral adaptation and development for skills to modify physical, emotional, social, and cultural environments. Promotion of appropriate behavioral adaptations that facilitate engagement with the tasks that comprise life roles. Examination of methods of environmental assessment and techniques for modification of physical spaces and equipment, temporal structures, and patterns of use. 3 credits. (F, IRR)

**673-64200 Advanced Concepts in Adapting Environments**

Adaptation of physical, emotional, social, and cultural environments to promote patient/client success. The external barriers that impede successful functioning. Development of specialized equipment and methods of adapting equipment and physical space. Environmental adaptation includes time, space, and technical aspects that promote optimal functioning. Elective. 3 credits. (F, IRR)

**673-64300 Cognitive Rehabilitation**

Occupational therapy assessment and intervention for persons with cognitive dysfunction. Evaluation instruments are derived from various theoretical perspectives. The focus is on assessment and intervention with brain injured adults, but other patient populations are also considered. Intervention strategies and critical analysis of research are emphasized. Elective. 3 credits. (F, IRR)

**673-64400 Technology in Occupational Therapy Intervention**

Theoretical concepts and principles related to the application of assistive technology. Assistive devices are used to increase functional abilities and foster independence in clients of all ages in self-care, work, and leisure pursuits. Simple and complex high technology devices are described. Client assessment, selection of appropriate devices, and training in the use of the devices are discussed. Elective. 3 credits. (F, IRR)

**673-64500 Vocational Readiness**

The role of occupational therapy in the vocational readiness process. Includes a review of vocational development and values, theoretical models, assessment, planning, treatment, and documentation. Vocational programming for children, adolescents, and adults with a variety of disabilities is discussed. Laboratory activities in vocational assessment and training are included. Students completing the course will be certified in the McCarron-Dial Work Evaluation System. Elective. 3 credits. (F, IRR)

**673-65000 Applied Pediatric Neuroscience**

Pediatric neuroscience and neuroscientific theories as they apply to pediatric practice. Theoretical and treatment models investigated include sensory integration (SI) theory, neurodevelopmental (NDT) theory, and theories of motor control and motor learning for the treatment of children with a variety of developmental disorders. Clinical labs deal with treatment for children having cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, and related conditions. No prerequisites. 3 credits. (S,Y)

**673-65000 Applied Adult Neuroscience**

The use of neurologically based approaches to the treatment of adults with stroke, head trauma, and other neurological disorders. Includes a review of neuroanatomy and physiology, and critique of neurologically based models, including contemporary task oriented approach, NDT, PNF, Brunstrom, and Rood techniques. Elective alternative to 673-65000. 3 credits (F,Y)

**673-67100 Group Research**

A research course for students who do not elect to conduct individual research for a thesis. It includes reading and criticism of research related to a faculty-designed research project, collecting and analyzing data, and writing of results and discussion of findings

of the project. Elective alternate to 673-67200 Individual Thesis Research I. 3 credits (F,Y)

**673-67200 Individual Thesis Research I**

Preparation of a thesis proposal and the first three chapters (introduction, literature review, and methodology) of an independent, scholarly research paper under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty in occupational therapy. Data collection will be initiated. The Graduate Committee must approve the proposal. Elective. 3 credits. (F,Y)

**673-67300 Individual Thesis Research II**

Completion of independent research, including collecting data and analyzing results. Preparation of a scholarly research paper under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty in occupational therapy. An oral presentation of the thesis is required. Elective. 2 credits. (S,Y)

**673-68100 Advanced Concepts in Physical Disabilities**

A seminar examining current literature and thought in the treatment of adults with disabilities, with opportunities to expand skills and knowledge in advanced techniques. Research into the effectiveness of occupational therapy modalities is included. Elective. Prerequisite: 673-65000 or 673-65100. 3 credits. (S, IRR)

**673-68200 Advanced Concepts in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy**

A seminar on current trends in occupational therapy in mental health care. Focus is on advanced concepts of human adaptation and treatment for psychiatric dysfunction. Implications for the future of occupational therapy in mental health are explored. Elective. Prerequisites: 673-65000 or 673-65100. 3 credits. (S, IRR)

**673-68300 Advanced Concepts in Geriatric Rehabilitation**

A seminar on health care and community support as they relate to the needs of disabled and nondisabled elderly people. Covers the importance of interdisciplinary practice; the rationale for prevention, environmental adaptation, and activity; factors involved in healthy, successful aging; and major health care legislation and reimbursement mechanisms and their ramifications in gerontological rehabilitation. Elective. Prerequisite: 673-65000 or 673-65100. 3 credits. (S, IRR)

**673-68400 School-Based Occupational Therapy**

A seminar exploring current trends in occupational therapy in schools. Includes the individual educational plan (IEP) process, the education team and system, treatment implementation, and documentation methodologies appropriate to school systems. Programming for children from birth to age 21 is included. Elective. Prerequisites: 673-65000 or 673-65100. 3 credits. (S, IRR)

**673-68500 Hand Therapy**

Seminar on the knowledge, skills, and practices of hand therapy and rehabilitation. Hand injuries and surgery, use of physical agent modalities in hand therapy, treatment protocols, advanced splinting, and ethical and legal issues are covered. Elective. Prerequisite: 673-65000 or 673-65100. 3 credits. (S, IRR)

**673-68800 Occupational Therapy in Early Intervention**

Study of the impact of biological, psychological, and sociocultural factors on the occupational development of young children with special needs. Designed to provide skills in assessment and family-centered intervention to infants and toddlers with special needs and their families. 3 credits. (S,IRR)

**673-69000 Clinical Fieldwork II --- Adult and Geriatric**

Three months of full-time supervised clinical experience with opportunity to treat adult and geriatric patients. Assignment in training center programs approved in accordance with the standards of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Graded pass/fail only. Required. 6 credits. (April-June, Y)

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**673-69500 Clinical Fieldwork II --- Elective Specialty**

Two or three months of full-time, supervised clinical experience with opportunity to plan, implement, and evaluate treatment for patients or clients in a specialty area selected by the student in consultation with the fieldwork coordinator. Graded pass/fail only. Required. Prerequisites: 673-60000 and 673-69000. 4 credits. (Sum, Y).

**673-69900 Graduate Independent Study**

Individual research and writing in an area of occupational therapy practice, research, or theory under supervision of OT faculty member. An approved design statement is required upon

registration. Prerequisite: permission of supervising faculty member, graduate, department chairs and dean. 1-3 credits. (F, S, Su, Y)

**673-69600 Elective Internship**

Eight week, full-time (or equivalent) internship with opportunity for student to apply occupational therapy theory and principles in a nontraditional setting under the supervision of a person with demonstrated competence in a specialized area of consultation or service delivery. Alternate to Clinical Fieldwork II --- Elective Specialty (673-69500). Prerequisites: 673-600 or 673-6900. 4 credits. (Sum, Y)