Occupational Therapy

The Department of Occupational Therapy offers a five-year master of science program in occupational therapy in which students receive a B.S. degree 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 40 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 degree 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 the B.S. degree program in occupational science at Ithaca College with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher. Students who have completed the degree with a cumulative GPA below 3.00, but equal to or greater than 2.70, 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 3.00 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 he or she is allowed 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 to repeat of a level II fieldwork class more than once. 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. degree 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 OTMS-67200/67300 Individual Thesis Research. Students who do not undertake a thesis must take OTMS-67100 Group Research and OTMS-67500 Advanced Program Practice, 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 1 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-62000</td>
<td>Advanced Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-65000</td>
<td>Applied Pediatric Neuroscience (3)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-65100</td>
<td>Applied Adult Neuroscience (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTMS-65500</td>
<td>Technological Interventions in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>OTMS-66500</td>
<td>Gerontic Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTMS-xxxxx</td>
<td>Clinical Elective I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTMS-xxxxx</td>
<td>Clinical Elective II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total, major department requirements</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students are expected to take 6 credits of clinical electives in the 03 spring block, which is in the first half of the spring semester. Students must take 3 credits from the OTMS-64xxx list of courses and 3 credits from the OTMS-68xxx list of courses. Specific courses offered will be determined by student consensus.

**Spring Graduate Electives**

**Clinical Elective Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-64100</td>
<td>Adaptation and Environmental Modification</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-64300</td>
<td>Cognitive Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-64500</td>
<td>Vocational Readiness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-64600</td>
<td>Play and Leisure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTMS-68100</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Physical Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Fieldwork Courses

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

Research

OTMS-67200  Individual Thesis Research I (3) and
OTMS-67300  Individual Thesis Research II (3) or
OTMS-67500  Advanced Program Practice (3) and
OTMS-67100  Group Research (3)
              Total research  6
              Total, M.S. in occupational therapy  40

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 placements are confirmed, students cannot alter them.

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 fieldwork center are usually able to provide some help. Students and their 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.

Occupational Therapy Course Descriptions

In the following course descriptions, Block 01=Summer, first fieldwork experience. Block 02=Fall semester, on-campus coursework. Block 03=Spring semester, on-campus coursework. Block 04=Summer, second
fieldwork experience. Block 05=Final fieldwork experience. Y=Yearly. IRR=Courses offered at irregular intervals.

OTMS-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. May be repeated for credit, for different selected topics. Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. 1-3 credits. (IRR)

OTMS-60000 Clinical Fieldwork II -- Children and Adolescents

Three months of full-time supervised clinical experience with the opportunity to treat pediatric patients/clients. Assignment in training center program approved in accordance with the American Occupational Therapy Association’s standards. Pass/fail only. Required. 6 credits. (Block 01 or 04)

OTMS-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 prerequisites. 3 credits. (Block 03, Y)

OTMS-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. Elective. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-64200 Advanced Concepts in Adapting Environments

Adaptation of physical, emotional, social, and cultural environments to promote patient/client success. Covers 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. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-64600 Play and Leisure

Further exploration of the occupational concepts of play and leisure, and their application to occupational therapy theory and practice. Developmental, theoretical, cultural, and philosophical aspects of play in normal individuals and in individuals with disabling conditions. Use of play/leisure in assessment, play as means, and play as end in occupational therapy practice. Seminar and discussions are supplemented with experiential learning and laboratories. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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. Elective alternative to OTMS-65100 Applied Adult Neuroscience. No prerequisites. 3 credits. (Block 02, Y)

OTMS-65100 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, Brunnstrom, and Rood techniques. Elective alternative to OTMS-65000 Applied Pediatric Neuroscience. 3 credits. (Block 02, Y)

OTMS-65500 Technological Interventions in Occupational Therapy

Examines the role of occupational therapists as part of an interdisciplinary team in the assessment, selection, application and outcomes of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. Considers the use of technology to allow greater accessibility and independence for people of all ages with physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities in the performance of life skills, including self-care, education, recreation, vocation, mobility, and communication. Prerequisites: Graduate student status or permission of instructor. 3 credits. (Block 02, Y)

OTMS-66500 Gerontic Occupational Therapy

Health care and community support of wellness, occupational performance, and quality of life as they relate to the needs of people over 65. Includes skills and knowledge required to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams, with clients and caregivers, as individuals, and in groups. Disease and disability prevention, environmental adaptation to facilitate continuing engagement in occupations, factors contributing to successful aging, and legislative and reimbursement issues as they apply to service delivery with the elderly. Students participate in discussions, problem-solving seminars, interaction with well and frail elderly, and review of the current literature regarding effective practice with the elderly. Prerequisites: Graduate student status. 3 credits. (Block 02, Y)

OTMS-67100 Group Research

A research course for students who do not elect to conduct individual research for a thesis. Includes reading and criticism of research related to a faculty-designed research project, collecting and analyzing data, writing of results, and discussion of findings of the project. Elective alternative to OTMS-67200 Individual Thesis Research I. 3 credits. (Block 02, Y)
OTMS-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. (Block 2, Y)

OTMS-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. 3 credits. (Block 03, Y)

OTMS-67500 Advanced Program Practice

Focuses on advanced practice in occupational therapy program development. Emphasis is on the application of scientific inquiry and evidence-based knowledge in clinical or educational settings. Develops grant writing, outcome assessment, and advanced project development skills. Emphasizing consultative, service leadership, and mentoring roles. Elective alternative to OTMS-67300 Individual Thesis Research II. 3 credits. (Block 03, Y)

OTMS-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. Prerequisites: OTMS-65000 or OTMS-65100. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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: OTMS-65000 or OTMS-65100. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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. Prerequisites: OTMS-65000 or OTMS-65100. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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: OTMS-65000 or OTMS-65100. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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. Prerequisites: OTMS-65000 or OTMS-65100. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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. Elective. 3 credits. (Block 03, IRR)

OTMS-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. Pass/fail only. Required. 6 credits. (Block 01 or Block 04, Y)

OTMS-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. Pass/fail only. Required. Prerequisites: OTMS-60000 and OTMS-69000. 4 credits. (Block 05, Y)

OTMS-69600 Elective Internship

Eight-week, full-time (or equivalent) internship with opportunity 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. Alternative to OTMS-69500 Clinical Fieldwork II -- Elective Specialty. Prerequisites: OTMS-60000 or OTMS-69000. 4 credits. (Block 05, Y)

OTMS-69900 Graduate Independent Study

Individual research and writing in an area of occupational therapy practice, research, or theory under supervision of occupational therapy faculty member. An approved design statement is required upon registration. Prerequisites: Permission of supervising faculty member, graduate department chair, and dean. Elective. 1-3 credits. (Block 02, Block 03, Block 04, Y)