OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Welcome to UT Health San Antonio Department of Occupational Therapy!
Occupational therapy began in the early 1900s in mental health hospitals with the therapeutic use of purposeful activities to improve the lives of those with mental illness. Therefore, our vibrant profession is grounded in the social sciences and the biological sciences. Today occupational therapy is a vital, evidence-based health profession that meets the needs of individuals, communities, and populations. Occupations include a wide array of daily living activities like self-care skills such as dressing, grooming, eating, or bathing; being able to successfully complete activities such as meal preparation, household tasks, managing finances, driving or accessing transportation; as well as the vital life activities of going to school, work, or leisure activities. Therefore, the ability to participate in occupations is necessary for health and well being.

The practice of occupational therapy involves the assessment and treatment of individuals across the lifespan whose ability to engage in their occupations is threatened or affected by developmental disability, physical disability, psychosocial dysfunction, or sensory impairment. The occupational therapy process involves the assessment and intervention of physical, developmental, or mental health issues that affect a person's ability to participate in their needed, desired, or expected occupations.

Occupational therapists are leaders in health professions in serving individuals of all ages in a variety of settings including rehabilitation facilities, long-term care facilities, public schools, psychiatric hospitals, day care facilities, homes, community agencies, and industrial sites. Regardless of the age of the client or the practice setting, occupational therapists are always concerned with supporting a person's ability to participate in their occupations.

Graduates of the OT program are eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (http://www.nbcot.org) (NBCOT) and to apply for licensure that is required for practice in most states. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT examination or attain state licensure. Please be aware that disciplinary actions in your past, either felonies or misdemeanors, should be addressed with the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners beforehand. Waiting to report it on your application for licensure will cause a delay in issuing a license. It is recommended that applicants use this review before applying to or attending an OT program.

The OTD program has been granted Candidacy Status by ACOTE (https://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Find-School/Developing/OTD-Developing.aspx) and accepted the first OTD cohort for Summer 2018.

For further information about the accreditation process contact:

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