

## Overview

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program is designed for self-directed occupational therapists who are strongly motivated to gain advanced competencies as clinicians, educators, administrators and researchers.

## Program Outcomes

When you successfully complete the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program, you will be able to:

- proficiently assess, design and deliver client-centered, evidence-based and reflective occupational therapy processes to address occupational engagement of individuals and/or populations for health and well-being.
- seek, interpret, and utilize existing scientific and documentary evidence and effectively communicate the same to relevant stakeholders in written and oral form.
- demonstrate leadership in various professional settings responsive to the occupational needs of society and the dynamic healthcare landscape.
- practice in a professional and collaborative manner with diverse stakeholders exuding high personal standards of behavior meeting ethical, legal and socio-cultural responsibilities and its influence in occupational engagement.
- exercise sound professional reasoning skills in making informed decisions in a wide range of occupational therapy roles.
- engage in lifelong learning and actively contribute to professional growth and development.

## Admission Requirements

### Applicant must

- be a graduate of BS Occupational Therapy from a recognized school.
- be a holder of a current professional license from the Professional Regulations Commission.
- possess at least one-year professional practice experience as an occupational therapist, in their chosen practice settings.
- pass a written entrance examination administered by the Office of Admissions of the University.

The following application requirements must be submitted to the Graduate School:

- completed Graduate School application form.
- Transcript of records from the baccalaureate program.
- certified true copy of the PRC board certificate and board rating.
- Letter of endorsement from the Dean of the school he graduated the baccalaureate program form.
- two (2) letters of reference
- two colored passport size ID pictures

## Curriculum

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

#### PREREQUISITE COURSES: (6 UNITS)

#### St. Thomas on Critical Thinking

A course on Aristotelian and symbolic Logic that focuses on the fundamental laws of thought. It provides guiding principles in order to enhance critical and reflective skills that would facilitate correct and responsible judgment and reasoning. It gives an opportunity to be in control of one's thinking activities.

#### Health Research Methods

This course provides students with the basic knowledge of all research paradigms and designs (quantitative and qualitative) and design specific methods to be able to draft

a research methodology plan. It also provides students the ability to critique various research studies.

#### CORE COURSES: (7 UNITS)

#### Evidence Based Health Care

This course provides students with the opportunity to become critical and educated consumers of research. Students learn to critically evaluate the quality of published and unpublished literature using structured methods. They are taught how to use library database and internet to search for literature and this provides them with the confidence to evaluate the strength of the evidence in clinical topics and how to present this in a logical form. This course introduces the concepts of evidence based practice and teaches students to undertake systematic and exhaustive searching, critical synthesis of the evidence and make recommendations based on the synthesized evidence. Students are required to complete a full systematic review and present their reviews in a colloquium.

#### Educational Strategies for Health Professionals (2 units)

This course prepares health professionals to be better educators of learners in various settings, including students, patients, clients, family and caregivers, colleagues, and other health professionals, through an in-depth understanding of teaching-learning principles and the application thereof to instruction in different practice settings. Focus is on instructional planning, teaching and evaluation of learning for audiences in different practice settings.

#### Leadership and Management (2 units)

This course is the study of management of academic organizations, rehabilitation centers or units in hospitals, community centers, and public health agencies. Emphasis is on methods of application of managerial functions including health program planning, evaluation and health policy formulation.

#### MAJOR SUBJECTS

Research track - 14 units

Clinical track - 18 units

#### Advanced OT Theoretical Foundations (3 units)

This course revisits the dimensions and theories of human occupation as one of the core foundation of current and future occupational therapy practice. It will provide an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the relationship between occupation, health and well-being and the basis of the therapeutic application of occupation.

#### Advanced Assessment in OT: Psychometric Theories and Practice (3 units)

This course aims to equip students with basic psychometric and measurement theories required for instrumentation and validation studies implemented in clinical field, and to investigate evidence of psychometric properties of different clinical assessment tools and outcome measures.

#### Advanced Interventions in OT: Utilization of Clinical Reasoning (2 units)

Clinical reasoning is considered the foundation of clinical practice. This course will facilitate the students' awareness of their reasoning, expert-novice differences, the errors they make and assisting them to improve their logical and creative reasoning abilities. It will provide students with the opportunity to improve reasoning skills along with examination and management techniques and skills, particularly in occupational therapy.

#### Advanced Skills for Occupational Therapy (6 units) (2 hours lecture, 4 hours laboratory/field work per week)

This course is intended for practicing OTs to gain knowledge and skills in a specialized area of occupational therapy. This course will include a review of basic foundational science and theories related to this specialized area, application of evidence-based practice and development of advanced clinical skills/competencies in the chosen area of practice through simulated and real clinical scenarios. Students shall be involved in 60 hours of fieldwork under the supervision of faculty experts/mentors. The field of study may focus on expanding specialty clinical skills, clinical education or collecting research data under a specific research program.

Integration of occupational therapy processes in the chosen area of OT specialization shall culminate the course.

**Health Promotion and Wellness (2 units)**

This course is designed to develop further knowledge and increase skills in the major principles pertaining to health promotion and current issues in health promotion. It also allows practitioners to develop skills in communicating health to populations, communities, groups and individuals.

**Health Communication (2 units)**

This course is specially designed for rehabilitation professionals to expand on existing counselling and group work skills to effectively provide a holistic approach to OT practice.

**International OT Practice Fundamentals (3 units)**

This allows the students to pursue related areas of interest such as special education, clinical psychology, occupational health, contemporary OT practices which can enhance their perspectives in occupational therapy. Engaging in relevant settings of student’s choice sustains lifelong learning.

**COGNATE COURSES: 3 UNITS**

Any subject in other major fields that has substantial bearing on thesis.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

Written Comprehensive Examinations (WCE)

Research Track

- TW I - 3 units (Thesis Proposal)
- TW II - 3 units (Research Colloquium)
- TW III - 3 units (Thesis Defense)

Clinical Track

Research-based Special Project – 5 units

**Total = 39 Units**

**Summary of Program Requirements**

Degree Requirements	units
Pre-requisites	6
Core Subjects	7
Major Subjects	
Research Track	14
Clinical Track	18
Cognates	3
Thesis Writing I	3
Thesis Writing II	3
Thesis Writing III	3
Research-based Special Project	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The University of Santo Tomas follows an Academic Year Calendar of three (3) terms.

Third Term: June-July

For further information, please call,  
 Tele-Fax: (632) 740-9732 or  
 Tel. No. (632) 406-1611 loc 8247; 731-5396  
 Web-http://graduateschool.ust.edu.ph  
 E-mail: odgs@mn1.ust.edu.ph  
 or write to:  
 The Dean/Faculty Secretary  
 UST Graduate School  
 España, Manila, Philippines 1008

**UST Graduate School Administration  
 Officials and Faculty Set-up**

MARILU R. MADRUNIO, Ph.D.  
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ALEJANDRO S. BERNARDO, Ph.D.  
*Faculty Secretary*

GRECEBIO JONATHAN D. ALEJANDRO, Dr.rer.nat.  
*Director for Graduate Research*

CHERYL PERALTA, MSPT, MHPed, PTRP  
*Program Lead, MSPT/MSOT Cluster*

**PROFESSORIAL STAFF**

- JOCELYN F. AGCAOILI, MHPed, MSPT, PTRP
- CHRISTIANNE MARIE CORONEL-ANDIGAN, MHithSc, OTRP
- ABELARDO APOLLO DAVID, JR., MOccThy, OTRP
- JANINE MARGARITA DIZON, PhD, PTRP
- MA. LORENA IGNA, MOH, OTRP
- DONALD MANLAPAZ, MSPT, PTRP
- MA. GEORGINA MOJICA, MHPed
- MARY ANN MAGSINO-PANGANIBAN, MAOT, OTRP
- CHERYL PERALTA, MSPT, MHPed, PTRP
- JOCEL REGINO, MSPT, PTRP
- SALLY JANE UY, MBAH, OTRP



University of Santo Tomas  
 THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
 MANILA, PHILIPPINES  
**The Graduate School**

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 OCCUPATIONAL  
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