

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/occupational-therapy/graduate-programs/doctor-of-philosophy-in-occupational-therapy/>

Vision Statement

The Ph.D. in Occupational Therapy (<https://twu.edu/occupational-therapy/graduate-programs/doctor-of-philosophy-in-occupational-therapy/>) is primarily a research degree that prepares occupational therapists for advanced scholarly careers in academia and practice. At the completion of the Ph.D. program in Occupational Therapy, the graduate will have demonstrated the ability to contribute new or expanded knowledge, skills, and attitudes to the discipline/practice of occupational therapy, as evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed journals, and national presentations at peer-reviewed professional conferences. The graduate will have demonstrated competency in the development and completion of a program of research that is judged to be consistent with performance expected for the degree by internal and external reviewers.

Graduates of the TWU Ph.D. in Occupational Therapy program will have acquired the level of knowledge and the ability to demonstrate the performance competencies that are consistent with the program's vision statement.

Knowledge

Graduates of the program will be:

- Firmly grounded in the theories of occupation that form the core concepts and assumptions of occupational therapy practice.
- Well-schooled in research method and analysis that is applicable to everyday practice.
- Able to apply sound andragogy within educational contexts.

Performance Competencies

Graduates of the program will have successfully:

- Used occupation-based theory to conduct research that translates the results directly into the everyday practice of occupational therapy.
- Participated with a mentor in the development and submission of a grant and/or research proposal.
- Initiated the development/evolution of a collaborative research network.
- Presented and/or co-presented with a mentor on research findings at professional conferences.
- Developed and submitted manuscripts on research findings – may be co-authored with mentor and research committee.
- Taught/co-taught in a graduate course, professional workshop, or other venues as approved by mentor.

Marketable Skills

Marketable skills prepare students for success in a variety of professional settings. Developed through academic coursework, co-curricular engagement, and extracurricular involvement, these skills include communication, critical thinking, teamwork, ethical reasoning, adaptability, and digital literacy. Whether directly related to a student's

major or serving as complementary strengths, marketable skills enhance career readiness and reflect TWU's commitment to producing graduates who are prepared to thrive in today's dynamic workforce.

1. Publish original scholarly work in scientific journals and present at peer-reviewed conferences.
2. Contribute to the mission of clinical, community, and academic settings by translating knowledge into best practice and andragogy.

Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

The academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours Required

The Ph.D. degree plan must include a minimum of 90 semester credit hours of master's/doctoral level coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. Coursework that was completed as part of a related master's or doctoral degree may (with approval) be applied to the Ph.D. degree plan (maximum of 45 semester credit hours). TWU Ph.D. coursework (including dissertation) that is included on the Ph.D. degree plan must be completed within 8 years of the first completed course as a TWU Ph.D. student. In addition, at least 50% of the semester credit hours included on the TWU Ph.D. degree plan must be awarded at TWU.

The organized courses are offered in a blended format with both online and face-to-face learning. Face-to-face seminars occur at the beginning and end of each Fall/Spring semester, and once in Summer.

Code	Title	SCHs
Knowledge Base		
OT 6223	Theory and Knowledge Development in Occupational Therapy	3
OT 6243	Learning Designs for Occupational Therapy Knowledge	3
OT 6353	Neuroscience Applications: Occupational Therapy and Adaptation	3
OT 6343	Theory of Occupational Adaptation	3
OT 6333	Occupation in Context	3
Research Tools		
OT 6553	Applied Research Design and Methods	3
OT 6363	Statistical Analysis in Occupational Therapy	3
or PT 6043	Statistical Methods I for the Health Care Professional	
OT 6643	Advanced Qualitative Methods in Occupational Therapy	3
OT 6623	Instrumentation for Measuring Occupational Performance	3
Academic Advisory Committee approved elective in Advanced Quantitative Analysis		3
Electives		6
Select 6 SCH from the following		
OT 6253	Scholarly Writing in Occupational Therapy	

OT 6823	Current Issues and Trends in Occupational Therapy	
OT 6373	Grant Writing in Occupational Therapy	
OT 6433	Teaching Practicum in Occupational Therapy	
OT 6913	Independent Study (Requires Academic Advisory Committee approval. Outside Electives may be included in degree plan under advisement of Research Mentor. Students are encouraged to take advantage of graduate coursework outside of TWU and/or OT to broaden/strengthen his or her program of study.)	
Qualifying Examination		
OT 6563	Programmatic Research Planning (Required)	3
Dissertation		
OT 6983	Dissertation (Repeated through semester of successful proposal defense)	3
OT 6993	Dissertation (Repeated through semester of successful final defense)	3
Total SCHs		45

Pre-dissertation Course Work

The student coordinates all initial enrollment through the Ph.D. coordinator. All Ph.D. degree plans are individualized and are generally finalized during the fall semester of 2nd-year coursework. The student must complete all Research Tool coursework identified on the student's degree plan before the semester in which the student sits for the qualifying exam. The student must complete all coursework identified as a Required Course on the student's degree plan by the close of the semester in which the student sits for the qualifying exam.

Qualifying Examination

The overall purpose of the Ph.D. qualifying exam is to 1) stimulate the student's synthesis of knowledge, 2) evaluate the student's progress in acquiring necessary knowledge and skills at the Ph.D. level, and 3) evaluate the student's potential to be successful in conducting dissertation level research. Students must satisfactorily complete the qualifying examination before they are eligible to become a doctoral candidate and enroll in dissertation coursework. Students may petition to sit for the examination in the fall or spring semester preceding the exam. The exam is offered twice a year. Dependent on the recommendation of the student's Qualifying Exam Committee the qualifying examination may be repeated once.

Dissertation Final Examination

Ph.D. candidates must demonstrate successful completion and oral defense of their dissertation research proposal. Dependent on the recommendation of the student's Research Committee, the proposal defense may be repeated once.

Doctoral candidates must demonstrate successful completion and oral defense of their dissertation project. Dependent on the recommendation of the student's Research Committee, the dissertation defense may be repeated once.