DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Vision Statement
The PhD 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 PhD 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 PhD/OT program will have acquired the level of knowledge and the ability to demonstrate the performance competencies that are consistent with 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 OT 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 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 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 venue as approved by mentor.

Degree Requirements
Total Semester Credit Hours Required
The PhD degree plan must include a minimum of 90 semester credit hours of masters/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 PhD 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 PhD student. In addition, more than 50% of the semester credit hours included on the TWU PhD degree plan must be awarded at TWU.

The organized class 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.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>SCHs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OT 6223</td>
<td>Theory and Knowledge Development in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OT 6243</td>
<td>Learning Designs for Occupational Therapy Knowledge</td>
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<td>OT 6353</td>
<td>Neuroscience Applications: Occupational Therapy and Adaptation</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 6343</td>
<td>Theory of Occupational Adaptation</td>
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<td>OT 6333</td>
<td>Occupation in Context</td>
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Research Tools
OT 6553 Applied Research Design and Methods | 3
OT 6363 Statistical Analysis in Occupational Therapy | 3
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
Select 6 semester credit hours from the following:
OT 6253 Scholarly Writing in Occupational Therapy
OT 6643 Advanced Qualitative Methods 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.)

Qualified Examinations
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

Pre-dissertation Course Work
The student coordinates all initial enrollment through the PhD coordinator. All PhD degree plans are individualized and are generally finalized during the fall semester of 2nd year course work. 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 PhD 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 PhD 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 course work. 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**

PhD 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.