

creighton university occupational therapy

creighton university occupational therapy offers a comprehensive and rigorous program designed to prepare students for successful careers in the field of occupational therapy. This program emphasizes a holistic and client-centered approach to healthcare, integrating evidence-based practices with hands-on clinical experiences. Creighton University's occupational therapy program is known for its commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and the development of competent, compassionate professionals. Students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities, expert faculty, and diverse fieldwork opportunities that enhance their practical skills and knowledge. The curriculum is carefully structured to cover essential topics such as human anatomy, therapeutic techniques, and professional ethics. This article explores the key aspects of the Creighton University occupational therapy program, including its curriculum, admission requirements, clinical training, faculty expertise, and career prospects. The following table of contents provides an overview of the topics covered.

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Overview of Creighton University Occupational Therapy Program

The Creighton University occupational therapy program is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundation necessary to excel in the healthcare sector. The program is housed within the College of Arts and Sciences and emphasizes interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking, and evidence-based practice. It offers both entry-level master's and doctoral degrees in occupational therapy, catering to diverse student needs and career goals. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), ensuring it meets national standards for quality education and professional preparation.

Mission and Philosophy

Creighton University occupational therapy program is grounded in a mission to promote health, well-being, and participation in meaningful activities through client-centered care. The curriculum fosters a holistic view of health that includes physical, emotional, social, and environmental factors. This philosophy encourages students to develop compassionate, culturally competent approaches to therapy that respect individual differences and promote inclusivity.

Program Accreditation and Recognition

The program's accreditation by ACOTE certifies that graduates are eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam, a critical step toward professional licensure. Creighton University occupational therapy graduates consistently demonstrate strong performance on certification exams and are highly regarded by employers across various healthcare settings.

Curriculum and Academic Structure

The curriculum of the Creighton University occupational therapy program integrates foundational sciences, therapeutic techniques, and clinical reasoning. The academic structure is designed to build competencies progressively through lectures, labs, case studies, and practical experiences. Students learn to assess, plan, and implement interventions that enhance clients' functional abilities and quality of life.

Core Coursework

Core courses cover a broad spectrum of topics essential to occupational therapy practice. These include:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Neuroscience and Motor Control
- Occupational Therapy Theories and Models
- Therapeutic Modalities and Techniques
- Psychosocial Aspects of Health
- Research Methods and Evidence-Based Practice
- Professional Ethics and Health Policy

Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program

In addition to the master's program, Creighton offers a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) that prepares students for advanced clinical practice, leadership roles, and scholarly contributions. The OTD curriculum includes advanced clinical coursework, leadership development, and a capstone project or thesis, emphasizing the integration of research into practice.

Admission Requirements and Application Process

Admission to the Creighton University occupational therapy program is competitive and requires applicants to meet specific academic and experiential criteria. The application process is designed to identify candidates who demonstrate strong academic ability, commitment to the profession, and potential for success in clinical practice.

Academic Prerequisites

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with prerequisite coursework in biology, chemistry, psychology, sociology, and statistics. A minimum GPA is typically required, reflecting the program's standards for academic excellence.

Application Materials

The application process includes submission of transcripts, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and a resume highlighting relevant healthcare or volunteer experience. Some applicants may be required to participate in an interview to assess communication skills and professional motivation.

Admission Criteria

Key factors considered for admission include:

- Academic performance and prerequisite coursework completion
- Relevant healthcare or volunteer experience
- Personal statement demonstrating commitment to occupational therapy
- Letters of recommendation from academic or professional references

- Interview performance (if applicable)

Clinical Training and Fieldwork Opportunities

Clinical education is a cornerstone of the Creighton University occupational therapy program, providing students with hands-on experience in diverse settings. The program emphasizes experiential learning to develop practical skills, clinical reasoning, and professional behavior.

Fieldwork Structure

Students engage in Level I and Level II fieldwork placements, which progressively increase in complexity and responsibility. Level I fieldwork introduces students to clinical environments and observational learning, while Level II placements involve intensive hands-on practice under supervision.

Clinical Sites and Partnerships

Creighton University occupational therapy students have access to a wide range of clinical sites, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools, outpatient clinics, and community organizations. These partnerships enable students to experience various populations and practice settings, enhancing their versatility and preparedness.

Skills Developed During Fieldwork

During clinical rotations, students develop competencies in:

- Client assessment and evaluation
- Individualized treatment planning
- Implementation of therapeutic interventions
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Documentation and ethical practice

Faculty and Research Initiatives

The strength of the Creighton University occupational therapy program is supported by a dedicated faculty team whose expertise spans clinical practice, research, and education. Faculty members are committed to mentoring students and advancing the field through scholarly inquiry.

Faculty Expertise

The faculty includes licensed occupational therapists with diverse specialties such as pediatrics, geriatrics, neurological rehabilitation, and mental health. Their clinical experiences inform teaching and provide students with current best practices and innovations in occupational therapy.

Research and Scholarly Activities

Creighton University encourages faculty and students to participate in research projects aimed at improving therapeutic outcomes and expanding the evidence base of occupational therapy. Research areas include motor function recovery, assistive technology, community health, and psychosocial interventions.

Student Involvement in Research

Students have opportunities to collaborate on faculty-led research, present at conferences, and contribute to publications. This engagement fosters critical thinking and prepares students for evidence-based clinical practice and potential academic careers.

Career Outcomes and Professional Development

Graduates of the Creighton University occupational therapy program are well-prepared to enter the workforce as competent and ethical practitioners. The program's comprehensive training supports diverse career paths in healthcare, education, and community services.

Licensure and Certification

Upon graduation, students are eligible to take the NBCOT certification exam, a requirement for licensure in most states. Creighton University occupational therapy graduates consistently achieve high pass rates on this exam, reflecting the program's quality and effectiveness.

Employment Opportunities

Occupational therapy graduates find employment in a variety of settings such as:

- Hospitals and rehabilitation centers
- Schools and early intervention programs
- Skilled nursing and long-term care facilities
- Outpatient clinics and community health organizations
- Private practice and consulting roles

Continuing Education and Professional Growth

The program encourages lifelong learning and professional development through continuing education, specialization certifications, and participation in occupational therapy associations. Alumni benefit from Creighton's extensive professional network and career services support.

Frequently Asked Questions

What degree programs in occupational therapy does Creighton University offer?

Creighton University offers a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program designed to prepare students for professional practice in occupational therapy.

Is Creighton University's occupational therapy program accredited?

Yes, Creighton University's occupational therapy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

What are the admission requirements for Creighton University's occupational therapy program?

Admission requirements typically include a bachelor's degree, prerequisite coursework in sciences and social sciences, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and relevant healthcare or volunteer experience.

Does Creighton University offer online options for occupational therapy education?

Creighton University primarily offers its occupational therapy program on campus, focusing on hands-on clinical experiences that are essential for the profession.

What clinical experiences are included in Creighton University's occupational therapy curriculum?

Students participate in various fieldwork placements across healthcare settings such as hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools, and community agencies to gain practical experience.

What career support does Creighton University provide to occupational therapy students?

Creighton University offers career counseling, job placement assistance, networking opportunities, and access to professional organizations to support occupational therapy students' career development.

How long does it take to complete the occupational therapy program at Creighton University?

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at Creighton University typically takes about three years to complete following the completion of prerequisite coursework or a bachelor's degree.

What makes Creighton University's occupational therapy program unique?

Creighton's program emphasizes a holistic, patient-centered approach, integrating Jesuit values, research opportunities, and extensive clinical training to prepare competent and compassionate therapists.

Are there opportunities for research in occupational therapy at Creighton University?

Yes, students can engage in faculty-led research projects and clinical research initiatives that contribute to advancing occupational therapy practice and knowledge.

What is the job placement rate for graduates of Creighton University's occupational therapy program?

Creighton University reports a high job placement rate for its occupational

therapy graduates, with many finding positions in diverse healthcare settings shortly after graduation.

Additional Resources

1. Foundations of Occupational Therapy at Creighton University

This comprehensive textbook provides an overview of the core principles and practices taught in Creighton University's Occupational Therapy program. It covers theoretical frameworks, assessment techniques, and intervention strategies essential for developing competent practitioners. The book also highlights the university's unique approach to client-centered care and interprofessional collaboration.

2. Clinical Practice and Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy: Creighton Perspectives

Focusing on hands-on experience, this book explores the fieldwork components integral to Creighton's Occupational Therapy curriculum. It presents case studies, best practices, and reflective exercises designed to prepare students for real-world clinical settings. The text emphasizes the development of professional skills through supervised practice and mentorship.

3. Occupational Therapy Research Methods at Creighton University

This title delves into the research methodologies taught at Creighton, aiming to equip students with the ability to conduct evidence-based practice. It covers qualitative and quantitative research designs, data analysis, and ethical considerations specific to occupational therapy. The book encourages critical thinking and application of research findings to improve patient outcomes.

4. Neurorehabilitation Techniques in Occupational Therapy: Insights from Creighton Faculty

Authored by Creighton University faculty, this book focuses on neurorehabilitation strategies within occupational therapy. It provides detailed descriptions of interventions for clients with neurological impairments, such as stroke and traumatic brain injury. The text integrates current scientific evidence with clinical expertise to enhance patient recovery.

5. Pediatric Occupational Therapy: Curriculum Highlights from Creighton University

This book addresses the specialization of pediatric occupational therapy as taught at Creighton. It outlines developmental milestones, assessment tools, and therapeutic activities tailored for children with diverse needs. The content reflects Creighton's commitment to family-centered care and community involvement.

6. Occupational Therapy Ethics and Professionalism: A Creighton University Guide

This guide explores the ethical principles and professional standards

emphasized in Creighton's Occupational Therapy program. It discusses dilemmas commonly faced by therapists and provides frameworks for ethical decision-making. The book aims to foster integrity, accountability, and compassionate care among future practitioners.

7. Assistive Technology in Occupational Therapy: Applications from Creighton University

Highlighting the role of technology, this book examines various assistive devices and their integration into therapy sessions. It includes practical guidance on selecting, customizing, and training clients to use technology effectively. The text reflects Creighton's innovative approach to enhancing independence and quality of life.

8. Community-Based Occupational Therapy: Strategies from Creighton University

This title focuses on occupational therapy practices within community settings, including schools, rehabilitation centers, and home environments. It emphasizes culturally sensitive interventions and collaboration with community resources. The book showcases Creighton's dedication to outreach and health promotion.

9. Leadership and Advocacy in Occupational Therapy: Lessons from Creighton University

Designed to inspire future leaders, this book covers leadership theories, advocacy skills, and policy development relevant to occupational therapy. It highlights the importance of influencing healthcare systems and advancing the profession. The content is drawn from the experiences of Creighton alumni and faculty leaders.

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