



2023

Since 1952, Dominican University has provided students with the environment to cultivate unique bonds and life-long relationships. Our convenient location in the scenic Hudson Valley area, just 17 miles from New York City, feels like a home away from home, in our friendly, yet challenging and supportive atmosphere.

The **Dominican University New York Graduate Occupational Therapy (OT) Program** uses a weekend format enabling qualified students to work toward their goal of becoming registered occupational therapists. The entry-level Master's Occupational Therapy curriculum requires students to participate in seven trimesters of academic work followed by 24 weeks of full-time clinical fieldwork. In recognition of their professional experience, the curriculum for students with initial NBCOT certification and one year's experience as Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs) are honored 30 credits for their work experience. All students require the completion of Level I and two Level II Fieldwork Experiences. As of 2020, Level I fieldwork is a clinical simulation experience. The degree conferred upon completion of the program is a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy for those already holding Bachelor degrees or higher, and a combined Bachelor of Science/Master of Science degree for COTAs holding an Associate degree. Dominican University offers a BA in Social Science to BS/MS in OT program as well as a new BS in Health Sciences to MS in OT program track.

Dominican has entered into a consortium agreement with the New-Seminary to launch a new one-day-a-week weekday program format beginning in the Summer of 2023. This program is designed to allow students to pursue their degree while maintaining family and life responsibilities. Classes are scheduled one day a week on campus for all hands-on labs along with synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

Full Time Faculty

Pamela Story, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM, ITOT, Program Director, Allied Health Division Director
Cathy Cavaliere, PhD, OTR/L, Coordinator of Research
Mary Walsh Roche, MS, OTR/L, LMT Academic Fieldwork Coordinator
Nadia Rust, OTD, OTR/L, SIPT
Caitlin Sorrentino, OTD, OTR/L
Randy Marti, Ph.D., OTR/L, ACBIS

Dominican University is one of a select group of colleges to be named a **College of Distinction**, based on its excellence in Four Distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant campus communities and successful outcomes. Dominican University has been honored as a College of Distinction for the last four years

For the last three years, Dominican University has also been named **Military Friendly** for exhibiting best practices in support of military students. The University fully participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program and offers other programs and service to veterans and active military students.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Dominican University New York a Top Performer on Social Mobility on its 2022-2023 Best Colleges list.

Dominican University is recognized as a **Hispanic Serving Institution**. Dominican University is committed to Hispanic success in education, and into the work force of tomorrow. Dominican University is working to improve access to and the quality of postsecondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students; and to meet the needs of business, industry and government through the development and sharing of resources, information and expertise.

Adjunct Faculty

Sandra Block, OTD, OTR/L; Tara Fettes, MS, OTR/L; Brenda Mahon, OTD, OTR/L; Noreen O’Keeffe-Bloomer, MS, OTR/L; Corinne Piren, MS, OTR/; Bonnie Powers Ross, MS, OTR/L; Pietra Noto Rivera, MS, OTR/L; Diane Weiss, MA, OT/L, BCP, FAOTA

Faculty Presentations and Achievements

Nadia Rust & Mary Walsh Roche presented *A Justice Lens: Integrating Community and Education* at the Dominican Higher Education Colloquium in June 2022.

Nadia Rust & Sabashnee Govender presented *A Justice Lens to Integrating Community Practice-based Experiences into Education and Curricula* at the American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference in San Antonio in April 2022.

Catherine Cavaliere, Randy Marti, Nadia Rust, Caitlin Sorrentino, Pam Story, & Mary Walsh Roche presented *Truth, Justice, and Engaged Scholarship: Strategic Initiatives to Support Non-traditional Higher Education* at the New York State Occupational Therapy Annual Conference in Saratoga, NY in October 2022.

As part of the NYSOTA Educator Series in April 2023, **Caitlin Sorrentino** presented about the interactive and collaborative educational opportunity for OT and COTA students that was hosted by the Dominican University New York Graduate Occupational Therapy Program. Many colleges offer support services to help meet the needs of their students, facilitate social interaction, and promote a sense of connectedness. This presentation described the wellness groups that were implemented and their positive impact on students’ experiences.

Mary Walsh Roche attended the online Winter Podcasting Institute sponsored by the National Humanities Center in conjunction with the Digital Humanities Center at San Diego State University January 9-13, 2023. Mary will graduate in May with a doctorate in Medical Humanities from Drew University. Here is a link to the podcast episode of *Finds from the Archive*, a podcast about archives, stories and everything in between that Mary created with fellow program participants during the institute
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/01HuqpB8sX8HLbvyFF0goU>

Student Presentations

Mentored by Dr. Nadia Rust, students Hogai Balouch, Brittany Dreyhaupt, and Michelle Rogowski presented at a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Rockland event in May 2022 on Substance Use in Adolescence: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Prevention and Promotion of Positive Mental Health.

Congratulations to our students who presented posters at the NYSOTA conference this past October and to those who will be presenting at the upcoming AOTA conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Collaborations

Caitlin Sorrentino developed a non-traditional level one fieldwork placement in collaboration with Eastwick College. Eastwick OTA students along with DUNY Graduate OT students led wellness groups on campus. This collaboration supported the students’ learning and understanding of the COTA/OTR/L relationship.



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