

WAGNER COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Overview

The entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program at Wagner College plans to welcome its inaugural student cohort in the summer of 2024. In addition to post-baccalaureate entry, the program will offer a six-year accelerated early-entry BA/BS to OTD option.

Mission

The Wagner College Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program prepares students to become exceptional, reflective practitioners who will optimize the health and occupational wellness of those they serve and inspires them to achieve as lifelong practice scholars and ethical leaders.

Faculty

In June 2022, Wagner College welcomed its founding OTD Program Director, David Pallister, JD, MA, OTR/L. David, an alumnus of Wagner College, has been an occupational therapist since 1995 and an occupational therapy educator for over 17 years. His clinical work focused mainly in the areas of adult and older adult rehabilitation, ergonomics and work wellness, and environmental modification. David's teaching areas include neurological and orthopedic conditions, physical and cognitive disabilities intervention, kinesiology, and ergonomics.

In November 2022, the OTD Program welcomed its Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Dina Prisco, PhD, OTR/L, BCP. In March 2023, Dina transitioned into the role of Doctoral Capstone Coordinator, and will oversee the development of the capstone and research curriculum in the program. Dina has been an occupational therapist since 2012 and her clinical work has been in the pediatric hospital, school, and home-based settings. Dina's teaching and research areas include pediatrics, research methods, leadership, and wellness.

In March 2023, the OTD Program welcomed its new Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Siobhan Walsh, OTD, OTR/L. Siobhan will lead the development of the fieldwork program and curriculum. She has been an occupational therapist since 2012 and her primary clinical experience has been in adult neurorehabilitation in the acute, inpatient, and home-based settings. Siobhan's teaching and research areas include neurological conditions; cognitive, perceptual, and visual rehabilitation; and leadership and mentorship.



Accreditation Note

The Wagner College entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program has applied for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is www.acoteonline.org.

The program must be granted Candidacy Status, have a pre-accreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Students must complete 24 weeks of Level II fieldwork as well as an individual 14-week capstone experience within 18 months following the completion of the didactic portion of the program. The doctoral capstone experience must be started after completion of all coursework and Level II fieldwork as well as completion of preparatory activities defined in 2018 ACOTE OTD Standard D.1.3.