KEAN UNIVERSITY

The College of Health Professions and Human Services



**Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)**

**Program Coordinator: Dr. Claire Mulry** **Graduate Admissions Counselors**

**Office:** East Campus, Room 226 **Office:** Kean Hall, North Wing

**Phone:** 908-737-5850 **Phone:** [908-737-](tel:908-737-7134)4723

**Email:**  [ot@kean.edu](mailto:ot@kean.edu)  **Email:**  [gradadmissions@kean.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@kean.edu) **Website:** <http://grad.kean.edu/ot>

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**Program Description**

The entry level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) will train students to become licensed occupational therapists. The cohort based curriculum consists of 90 credits that are earned over nine semesters. The OTD is designed to provide entry level education in occupational therapy for individuals who have a baccalaureate degree in another field. Each student completes 9 semesters of required academic courses including a minimum of six months of supervised full-time fieldwork in approved clinical settings and a 14-week doctoral residency experience with a capstone project. Clinical fieldwork must be completed within 24 months of academic completion.

Currently, to become an occupational therapist, the minimum educational requirement is a master’s degree. The overall goal of this degree is to train general practitioners. However, the entry level doctoral degree trains practitioners with advanced skills in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice skills, research skills, administration, leadership, program and policy development, advocacy, education, and theory development (ACOTE, 2017). Educating and training occupational therapy practitioners with advanced skills is beneficial in the changing healthcare arena. Students successfully completing the program will be eligible to take the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be able to identify him or herself as an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). All states, including New Jersey, require licensure in order to practice. State licenses are usually based on the successful passing of the NBCOT Certification Exam.

\*Please note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to complete fieldwork, take the certification examination and/or attain state licensure.

The Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Correspondence should be directed to: ACOTE, c/o Accreditation Department, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), 7501 Wisconsin Avenue., Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. Their phone number is (301) 652-6611. Website: [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org)

**Admission Requirements *\*This program admits in the fall semester only***

**Application Deadline – February 1st Apply Now Through OTCAS**

In addition to the University’s admissions requirements:

* Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university
* Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0
* Official transcripts from all institutions attended
* Three letters of recommendation - One academic letter, one personal and one professional letter. These can be uploaded to the electronic application. Letters must be dated within two years of applying.
* Professional Resume/CV
* Respond to a departmental question on the application
* Departmental interview may be required
* TOEFL (for applicants whose native language is not English)
* Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee interview or admission to the program

**Prerequisite Coursework**

Each prerequisite course must be completed with a grade of **B or better**. At the time of application, prospective students may have only **three** prerequisite courses outstanding/in progress and if accepted, need to be completed by June 30. However, due to the competitive applicant pool, the Admissions Committee encourages the completion of all prerequisite courses prior to application.

General Psychology (3 credits) Abnormal Psychology (3 credits)

Life Span Development**¹** (3 credits)

**Intro to Sociology (3 credits) or**

**Cultural Anthropology (3 credits)**

Psychological Statistics (3 credits) Anatomy & Physiology I and II (w/lab) **1** (8 credits)

**¹**These courses must be taken within 10 years of application to the program

**Note:** Students lacking the prerequisite courses can complete these courses at any accredited institution. If you wish to complete these prerequisites at Kean University, you may apply to the University as an undergraduate second-degree student. You Cannot CLEP Anatomy and Physiology for this program.

**Program Requirements**

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| **COURSE REQUIREMENTS** |
| **SSEMESTER ONE – FALL (16 CREDITS)** |

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| **BIO 6405** | Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology | 4 credits |

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| **OT 7101** | Professional & Interprofessional Identity | 1 credits |
| **OT 6403** | Theoretical Guidelines to Practice I | 4 credits |
| **OT 6612** | Group Development Across the Lifespan | 3 credits |
| **OT 6200** | Introduction to Residency I (1/2 semester) | 1 credit |
| **OT 6213** | Conditions Across the Lifespan | 3 credits |

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| **SEMESTER TWO – SPRING (15 CREDITS – OPTION FOR 16)** | | |
| **OT 6303** | Occupations Across the Lifespan | 3 credits |
| **OT 6406** | Brain, Behavior and Occupational Therapy | 4 credits |
| **OT 6611** | Community Partnerships & Service | 1 credit |
| **OT 6613** | Global Health Experience – (optional/elective) | 1 credit |
| **OT 6401** | Theoretical Guidelines to Practice II | 4 credits |
| **OT 6552** | Administration and Advocacy | 3 credits |

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| **SEMESTER THREE SUMMER (4 CREDITS – Option for 5)** | | |
| **OT** **7208** | Leadership: Development and Application | 1 credit |
| **OT 6523** | Research Methods and Evidence Based Practice | 3 credits |
| **OT 6613** | Global Health Experience – (optional/elective) | 1 credit |

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| **SEMESTER FOUR - FALL (16 CREDITS)** |

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| **OT 7522** | Research Methods in Occupational Therapy II | 2 credits |
| **OT 7923** | Seminar in Pediatric Practice | 6 credits |
| **OT 7924** | Seminar in Mental and Behavioral Health | 6 credits |
| **OT 7925** | Level I Fieldwork Seminar A | 1 credit |
| **OT 7926** | Level I Fieldwork Seminar B | 1 credit |

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| **SEMESTER FIVE – SPRING (16 CREDITS – OPTION FOR 17)** | | |
| **OT 7921** | Seminar in Adult Rehabilitation Practice | 6 credits |
| **OT 7927** | Level I Fieldwork Seminar C | 1 credit |
| **OT 7610** | Orthotics, Prosthetics and Modalities | 3 credits |
| **OT 7212** | Residency Proposal | 3 credits |
| **OT 7100** | Assistive Technology | 1 credit |
| **OT 7103** | Holistic and Integrative Health and Wellbeing | 2 credits |
| **OT 6613** | Global Health Experience – (Optional) | 1 credit |

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| **SEMESTER SIX - SUMMER (4.5 CREDITS)** | | |
| **OT 7962** | Advanced Fieldwork Seminar I | 4.5 credits |

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| **SEMESTER SEVEN – FALL (4.5 CREDITS)** | | |
| **OT 7963** | Advanced Fieldwork Seminar II | 4.5 credits |

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| **SEMESTER EIGHT – SPRING (6 CREDITS)** | | |
| **OT 7205** | Doctoral Residency Proposal & Defense | 6 credits |

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| **SEMESTER NINE – SUMMER (8 CREDITS)** | | |
| **OT 7206** | Doctoral Residency Experience | 6 credits |
| **OT 7207** | Doctoral Residency Project and Portfolio | 2 credits |

**TOTAL OF 90 CREDITS TO COMPLETE PROGRAM**

Revised 6/2025