

MOT Occ Ther
Master of Occupational Therapy
Under Review | Summer 2026

Proposal Information

Status Active	Workflow Status In Progress Refresh  Form Submission, Proposer Submitted for Approval Proposer collapse ▼ ✓ Heidi Sanders 10/30/2025 4:04 PM
	Department Chair Approval, Occupational Therapy Approved Department Chair ✓ Heidi Sanders 10/30/2025 4:05 PM
	Registrar Technical Check Approval, Registrar Technical Check Approved HSC Technical Check ✓ Todd Hynson 11/03/2025 12:27 PM
	Health Professions Dean, School of Medicine Approved Health Professions Dean ✓ Shelly McLaughlin 11/03/2025 6:38 PM
	HSC Library Approval, HSC Library Approved Library Approval ✓ Melissa Rethlefsen 11/04/2025 8:32 AM
	SGPC Approval, Faculty Senate Graduate and Professional Committee Approved Chair ✓ Robben Brown 2/05/2026 10:32 AM
	FSCC Member notification, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Notification Sent Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Member <div><div>✉ Joe Anderson</div><div>✉ Laura Belmonte</div><div>✉ Sara Ice</div><div>✉ Mary Rice</div><div>✉ John Russell</div><div>✉ SueNoell Stone</div><div>✉ Jonathan Wheeler</div><div>✉ Kirsten Thomson</div><div>✉ Paulo Dutra</div><div>✉ Randi Archuleta</div><div>✉ Joan Lucas</div><div>✉ Julia So</div><div>✉ Jennifer Henry</div><div>✉ Christopher Holden</div><div>✉ Justine Ponce</div><div>✉ Isabella Goss</div><div>✉ Vanessa Ferguson</div><div>✉ Lauren McQuiston</div><div>✉ Jennifer Laws</div></div>
	Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Approval, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Approved Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Chair ✓ Janet Vassilev FSCC voted to approve this form 3/13/26. 3/13/2026 3:04 PM — Nicole Capehart
	HSC Vice President Academic Affairs Approval, HSC Vice President Academic Affairs Approved HSC Vice President Academic Affairs ✓ Shelly McLaughlin 3/16/2026 5:52 PM
	Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate Waiting for Approval Faculty Senate Approval Nancy Middlebrook Theresa Sherman
	HLC Notification Notification

Joseph Suilmann

External Review - HED CIP code approval, External Review

Approval | HED CIP code approval

Michael Raine

Anna Gay

Reg. Final Approval/Processing, Registrar

Approval | Registrar final approval

Michael Raine

Maggie Sumruld

Notification, Proposer

Notification | Proposer

Heidi Sanders

Notification, Faculty Senate Graduate and Professional Committee

Notification | Chair

Robben Brown

EMRT notification, EMRT users

Notification | EMRT user

Enrollment Mgt Reporting Team

Notification, LoboTrax Team

Notification | LoboTrax Staff

Sherri DeLeve

Paula Freitag

Hannah Epstein

Allie Martinez

Glenda Johnson

Changes

- Degree Hours
- Graduation Requirements
- Catalog
- Requirements
- Proposed Effective Term and Year

Show All ▼

Proposal Information

Proposed

Sponsoring faculty/staff member

Heidi Sanders

Proposed

Sponsoring faculty/staff email

hsanders@salud.unm.edu

Existing

Sponsoring faculty/staff member

Existing

Sponsoring faculty/staff email

College

School of Medicine

Department

Occupational Therapy

Campus

Health Sciences Center (Albuquerque)

Effective Term and Year

Proposed
Proposed Effective Term and Year
Summer 2026

Existing
Proposed Effective Term and Year
Fall 2006

Justification

Proposed
Program Justification
As part of the Healthcare Workforce Expansion Initiative at UNM, the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program (OTGP) has made exhaustive efforts to determine strategies to double enrollment within the next ten years. This has included researching the curriculum, resources and costs of other public OT programs within the region. One action identified was to reduce the number of credit hours required. Entry-level OT programs across the country have reduced credit hours and/or semester requirements to decrease the costs of tuition, be more competitive for applicants, and follow recommendations by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). The UNM OTGP is proposing a reduction in credit hours to align with the average credit hours required by other programs in the region. The faculty have thoughtfully identified redundancies within the curriculum and opportunities to move content related to ACOTE standards into other existing courses. Content from OCH 554: Relationship Centered Care will move into OCH 624: Advocacy and Leadership, and content from OCH 634: Neuroscience of Occupation will be incorporated into OCH 604: Applied Neuro. In addition, the credit hours required for Fieldwork II will be reduced from 12 hours to 9 hours to align with the requirements of other programs within the region. There is no guideline for credit hours for Fieldwork II from ACOTE.

Existing
Program Justification

Proposed
Graduate program revision
No

Existing
Graduate program revision
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Program Category and Level

Program Category	Program Level	Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name
Degree	Graduate	Master of Occupational Therapy

Certificate or Degree Type
Master of Occupational Therapy

Degree/Certificate Level
Graduate

Plan Options

Proposed
Is this program also offered online?
No

Existing
Is this program also offered online?
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File Uploads

Associated Quali Forms

Proposed	Select any associated program forms that exist
Select any associated course forms that exist	
OCTH 554L - Relationship Centered Care (2) Inactive	
OCTH 634L - Neuroscience of Occupation (2) Inactive	
OCTH 624L - Advocacy, Communication and Leadership (3)	
OCTH 604L - Applied Occupations: Neurological Practice (5)	
Existing	
Select any associated course forms that exist	

Shared Credit and Dual Degree information

Interdepartmental Program

No

Catalog Information

Program Description

The Occupational Therapy graduate program offers the Master of Occupational Therapy degree. The student must complete the academic and fieldwork components of the program and successfully complete the Occupational Therapy Student Performance Assessment (OTSPA). Occupational therapy coursework is taken in a designated sequence.

Scheduling

The Occupational Therapy Graduate Program offers a traditional 2.5-year schedule which involves an intensive, full-time load taken in a designated sequence. It is not recommended that students work while in the traditional program. Students who choose to work part-time need to understand that work schedules cannot conflict with required courses or fieldwork assignments.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are subject to change without notice. Tuition is determined by the Board of Regents each April for the following school year beginning in Fall. To verify current tuition, visit the Bursar's Office Web site. Additional expenses, including course fees, health insurance, books, and supplies, recur annually. Contact the Financial Aid Department at (505) 272-8008 for information.

Admissions Requirements

Admission Requirements

Prospective applicants must have:

- Bachelor's degree.
- 3.0 cumulative GPA on the last 50 graded credit hours taken.
- Prerequisite courses completed within the past 5 years with a grade of "B" (3.0 GPA) or better.

Students may apply while enrolled in undergraduate courses to complete a baccalaureate degree, or prerequisite courses if all prerequisite courses will be completed by the end of the Fall semester of the current application cycle. The application deadline for Fall admission is November 1. Up to 30 students are admitted each year, with classes beginning in the upcoming Fall semester.

Selection is based on:

- Transcript evaluation.
- CASPer Computer Based Assessment
- Personal Statement (OTCAS form).
- Written materials, 3 letters of reference (one from a health professional) and application – (including life experiences, volunteer/work experience, community involvement, and regional bilingual skills).

Applicants must complete the following steps to apply to the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program.

- Submit departmental application to the UNM Occupational Therapy Graduate Program.
- Submit application through the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS). The UNM Occupational Therapy Graduate Program will review the applications after they have been verified by OTCAS.

The top candidates are invited to the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program at the University of New Mexico for an interview and an extemporaneous sample of their writing ability in late January. Submission of an online application and official transcripts to the Office of Graduate Admissions is required at this time. Final selection is made from this group of candidates.

The selection process does not discriminate against any student on the basis of gender, marital or parental status, race, color, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. Additional admission information is located on the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program Web site.

Pre-Professional Curriculum

Prerequisites provide a general foundation in behavioral sciences and are essential for success in the Occupational Therapy Graduate Program. Applicants must complete all prerequisite courses with a minimum 3.0 grade in each course by the end of the Fall semester of the application period. All prerequisites must have been successfully completed within the past five years.

Courses other than the specific courses listed below must be approved by the admissions committee prior to the application deadline. Applicants must submit a Course Waiver Form (available on our website) to the admissions committee for each course being considered.

Required Prerequisite Courses

BIOL 2210	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIOL 2210L	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory	1
BIOL 2225	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIOL 2225L	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Laboratory	1
ENGL 2210	Professional and Technical Communication	3
MATH 1350	Introduction to Statistics	3

PSY 332	Abnormal Behavior	3
PSYC 2120	Developmental Psychology	3
Total		20

Proposed

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requires successful completion of a minimum of 84 credit hours including required didactic coursework, assessments, and Master's Examination (OTSPA). Students must complete all Graduate Studies requirements, including the Master's Examination, with a minimum 3.00 GPA.

- 49 credit hours didactic coursework.
- 4 credit hours minimum OCH 594.
- 3 credit hours graduate-level elective.
- 18 credit hours OCH 675 (Fieldwork Level II, two 12-week sessions).
- Master's Examination: Occupational Therapy Student Performance Assessment (OTSPA).

Existing

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requires successful completion of a minimum of 84 credit hours including required didactic coursework, assessments, and Master's Examination (OTSPA). Students must complete all Graduate Studies requirements, including the Master's Project, with a minimum 3.00 GPA.

- 53 credit hours didactic coursework.
- 4 credit hours minimum OCH 594.
- 3 credit hours graduate-level elective.
- 24 credit hours OCH 675 (Fieldwork Level II, two 12-week sessions).
- Master's Examination: Occupational Therapy Student Performance Assessment (OTSPA).

Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

License/Certification associated with program

No

Proposed

Professional Accrediting Bodies

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

Existing

Professional Accrediting Bodies

Degree Information

Proposed

Degree Hours

74

Minimum Major Hours

Existing

Degree Hours

84

Degree Requirements

Requirements

- Complete all of the following
 - Complete the following:
 - OCH514L - Introduction to Occupation and Health (3)
 - OCH524L - Kinesiology of Occupation (3)
 - OCH534 - Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice (4)
 - OCH544L - Occupation Across the LifeSpan (5)
 - Complete the following:
 - OCH522L - Neuroanatomy (3)
 - ~~OCH554L - Relationship Centered Care (2)~~
 - OCH564L - Applied Occupations: Orthopedic Practice (6)
 - ~~OCH634L - Neuroscience of Occupation (2)~~
 - OCH614L - Applied Occupations: Psychosocial Practice (5)
 - OCH604L - Applied Occupations: Neurological Practice (5)
 - OCH624L - Advocacy, Communication and Leadership (3)
 - OCH654 - Organization and Administration (2)
 - OCH664L - Applied Occupations: Pediatric Practice (6)
 - OCH674L - Community Health (4)
 - Earn at least 4 credits from the following:
 - OCH594 - Graduate Seminar (1 - 3)
 - Earn at least ~~24~~ **18** credits from the following:
 - OCH675 - Fieldwork II (1 - 12)
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following types of courses:
Graduate-level elective.

Grand Total Credits: 74

Concentrations

Program Concentrations

Code	Title
Concentration Required	
No	

Emphases

Emphasis required	Emphasis Hours
No	
Emphasis Rules	
No Rules	

Program Learning Outcomes

Proposed

Learning Outcomes

Curriculum outcomes are measured in three areas: **Professional Practice, Professional Communication, and Professional Growth and Development**. Outcome measures integrate these three key areas.

Professional Practice: The graduate will demonstrate entry-level competencies necessary for practice as an occupational therapist in dynamic human services and healthcare delivery systems. To this end, the graduate's professional decisions will reflect:

- An appreciation of physical, cognitive, emotional, social,, cultural, contextual, and other factors that influence participation in valued occupations throughout the lifespan (OTA, 2014),
- An understanding of occupational models and frames of reference that identify challenges and facilitate participation in daily activities,
- Competent and ethical use of occupational therapy screening and assessment methods that address clients’ participation, activity, bodily functions, and structures,
- Competent and ethical use of occupational therapy strategies that are consistent with evidence-based practice,
- The skills necessary to provide services in a variety of settings and with a variety of clients including individuals, families, institutions, and society.

Professional Communication: The graduate will demonstrate professional communication and collaboration skills, which will facilitate effective and innovative occupational therapy practice. In addition, graduates will be able to skillfully advocate for their clients, the profession, and general health and well-being. To this end, the graduate will demonstrate:

- An ability to communicate with consumers of occupational therapy services that conveys respect, establishes productive relationships, and facilitates collaborative goals and functional outcomes.
- An ability to collaborate effectively with others in a wide range of settings and contexts
- The written and oral skills necessary for effective occupational therapy practice and roles related to leadership, scholarship and advocacy.

Professional Growth and Development: The graduate will demonstrate a strong personal commitment to professional growth and development, which includes scholarship and leadership. The graduate will:

- Be a critical consumer of evidence-based literature Contribute to evidence-based practice through innovative applications of knowledge, or through scholarly activity;
- Advocate for clients, the profession, communities, and public health;
- Assume leadership roles in their practice, community, and profession;
- Assume responsibilities for self-assessment of competencies and for continued professional growth.

Existing
Learning Outcomes

Registrar Office Only

CM Program Code MOT Occ Ther	BANP	Banner Program Code MOT-OCTH	Major Code OCTH
Online Program Code	Online Major Code	Pre-major Program Code	Pre-major Major Code
CIP Code 512306	Concentration Inheritance No		
Proposed Catalog Main Campus Health Sciences Center (Albuquerque)	Catalog Activation Date 08/01/06		
Existing Catalog Main Campus			

Notes