

General Information

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program at NEIT allows certified occupational therapy assistants to expand on their academic and clinical experience to become leaders in their profession. This program is designed to be a bridge for professionals to move to the next level of responsibility as registered occupational therapists. The program is offered in a weekend format that requires students to be on campus five (5) weekends in each ten-week academic quarter and to participate online during alternate weeks. A student following the MSOT program as outlined may complete the program in ten (10) quarters. Registered occupational therapists (OTRs) assist people of all ages, with varying abilities or handicaps, to become independent in their day-to-day activities. Because every client has a unique set of circumstances, OTRs evaluate, develop, and help carry out a unique treatment plan for each one.

As an OTR, graduates can work in traditional medical environments or in any setting where people need to learn new ways to live satisfying and productive lives. In the field, OTRs often supervise occupational therapy assistants and other personnel. Students learn to use a variety of assessment techniques to identify a client's functional problems as well as their underlying physical, mental, and psychosocial problem areas. The OTR takes the lead in using pertinent personal information as well as theoretical and scientific evidence to establish appropriate intervention plans for individual clients or groups. The OTR acts as part of the rehabilitation team, participating in various interdisciplinary meetings and assuring that all occupational therapy intervention meets the legal, ethical, and fiscal requirements that apply to various medical and community-based settings.

After completion of all classroom training on campus, and Level I Fieldwork off campus, students enter the community for Level II Fieldwork. Two full-time twelve-week Level II Fieldwork experiences give students many opportunities to apply classroom training in real-life situations. Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, students will be eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination for Occupational Therapists. Those who complete the program and pass the exam are awarded the title of Occupational Therapist Registered. Employment is available in a wide variety of settings in the areas of physical disabilities, pediatrics, and geriatrics, as well as in mental health and wellness programs.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The entry-level occupational therapy master's degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and the website is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program 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, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.



Mission and Outcomes of the Occupational Therapy Program

The mission of the NEIT Occupational Therapy (OT) Program is to provide a specialized master's degree program to prepare Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants to become occupational therapists who are leaders in critical thinking and problem solving for service management in health care and community programs. As occupational therapists, graduates will take on various leadership roles in the healthcare field. Through a combination of classroom, laboratory and fieldwork experiences students build on their professional knowledge and experience to provide occupational therapy services to individuals and populations who strive to live productive and fulfilling lives.

Student Outcomes

By the end of the occupational therapy program, students will become dynamic, well-rounded professional level practitioners prepared for contemporary practice as evidenced by the ability to:

1. Demonstrate a depth and breadth of understanding of foundational and OT theoretical knowledge and its practical application for all aspects of service management.
2. Apply advanced knowledge and skills to OT assessment, outcome prediction, and planning of service delivery.
3. Integrate information and experiences to detect and solve problems, and think logically, flexibly, and critically about client and managerial questions.
4. Demonstrate mastery of the human dimension by contributing to and leading in a rapidly changing society with respect to advances in technology, and changes in legislation, reimbursement, health care delivery and social contexts.
5. Continuously value and take responsibility for professional development and life-long learning and encourage these qualities in others.
6. Care for society and their profession by consistently demonstrating the highest level of ethics and standards of practice for occupational therapy.

Curriculum

Summer Term

Course No.	Course Title	C	L	T
EN 331	Research Writing (COM Core)*	4	0	4

*EN 331 can be taken during the summer quarter before the start of the program in October.

Term I

Course No.	Course Title	C	L	T
OT 310	Service Delivery Models in Occupational Therapy	4	0	4
ELECTIVE	300-400 Level Math/Science Core	4	0	4
CHOOSE ONE				
EN 422	Writing in the Health Sciences (COM Core) (preferred)	4	0	4
EN 421	Technical Communications (COM Core)	4	0	4
		12	0	12

Term II

Course No.	Course Title	C	L	T
BIO 440	Functional Neuroscience (MA/SCI Core)	4	0	4
ELECTIVE	300-400 Level Humanities Core	4	0	4
ELECTIVE	300-400 Level Social Sciences Core	4	0	4
		12	0	12

Term III

Course No.	Course Title	C	L	T
OT 320	Theoretical and Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy	4	0	4
OT 325	Kinesiology	2	2	3
PS 410	Applied Research Statistics (SS Core)	4	0	4
		10	2	11

Term IV

Course No.	Course Title	C	L	T
OT 410	Critical Analysis of Scientific Literature	4	0	4
OT 530	Service Management in Mental Health	4	2	5
OT 536	Level I A Fieldwork	0	3	1
		8	5	10

Term V

Course No.	Course Title	C	L	T
OT 540	Service Management in Pediatrics	4	2	5
OT 546	Level I B Fieldwork	0	3	1
OT 552	Leadership and Advocacy	3	0	3
		7	5	9

Term VI

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	548	Research Design	4	0	4
OT	550	Service Management for Adult Rehabilitation	4	2	5
OT	556	Level I C Fieldwork	0	3	1
			8	5	10

Term VII

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	555	Wellness and Participation in Populations	3	0	3
OT	560	Service Management in Geriatrics	4	2	5
OT	565	Practicum in Population-Based OT Services	1	4	3
			8	6	11

Term VIII

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	670	Practice Issues for the Occupational Therapist Seminar	6	0	6
OT	673	Capstone Project	2	4	4
			8	4	10

Term IX

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	688	Level II A Fieldwork – full time (12 weeks)	0	35	12
			0	35	12

Term X

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	698	Level II B Fieldwork – full time (12 weeks)	0	35	12
			0	35	12
<i>Total Quarter Credit Hours = 113</i>					

Legend

C = Number of lecture hours per week

L = Number of laboratory hours per week

T = Total Quarter Credit Hours where each lecture hour per week is one credit, every 2-4 laboratory hours are one credit depending on the expected amount of pre- or post-lab work.

PLEASE NOTE: All liberal arts core courses are listed in italics.

Subject to change.

Degree Progress Checklist

Check off each completed course.

Program Requirements

T1	OT	310	_____
T3	OT	320	_____
	OT	325	_____
T4	OT	410	_____
	OT	530	_____
	OT	536	_____
T5	OT	540	_____
	OT	546	_____
	OT	552	_____
T6	OT	548	_____
	OT	550	_____
	OT	556	_____
T7	OT	555	_____
	OT	560	_____
	OT	565	_____
T8	OT	670	_____
	OT	673	_____
T9	OT	688	_____
T10	OT	698	_____

Liberal Arts Core Requirements
7 Required Courses

Each course = 4 credits (total of 28 credits)

Communications Core				
#1	EN	331	Summer Term before start of program	_____
#2	EN	422	T1	_____
OR				
#2	EN	421	T1	_____

Math/Science Core				
#3	300-400 level MA/SCI elective		T1	_____
#4	BIO	440	T2	_____

Humanities Core				
#5	300-400 level HU elective		T2	_____

Social Sciences Core				
#6	300-400 level SS elective		T2	_____
#7	PS	410	T3	_____

Subject to change.
Please see your advisor for any questions.

Students are advised to take courses in the order and in the quarter in which they appear on this checklist. Any deviation may result in an extended time required to complete your degree as well as additional tuition and fees. Please contact your Student Advisor prior to making any changes to the course sequence.

Course Descriptions

OT 310 Service Delivery Models in Occupational Therapy

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

This course provides students with an advanced understanding of concepts that underlie the provision of occupational therapy services. Analysis of the financial, legal, and regulatory contexts in which OT services are provided will serve as a basis for managing OT services including clinical and administrative decision-making.

OT 320 Theoretical and Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 310, EN 331, BIO 440

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the influence of theory on occupational therapy practice. Various types of clinical reasoning will be analyzed and applied to students' practice experiences. Students will become familiar with the ways in which theory is developed and begin the process of using theoretical information to make clinical decisions. Use of the current Occupational Therapy Practice Framework will be included.

OT 325 Kinesiology

2 Class Hours 2 Lab Hours 3 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: BIO 100/101, BIO 120/121 or equivalent

This course will provide students with advanced knowledge of human movement including joint motions and muscle actions, biomechanics and movement analysis. Manual muscle testing, goniometry and other biomechanical assessment techniques will be taught. Emphasis will be on the analysis of normal movement, creating treatment plans to maintain and restore musculoskeletal functions, and the development of intervention planning for orthopedic conditions, including an introduction to modalities.

OT 410 Critical Analysis of Scientific Literature

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: EN 331, OT 310, OT 320, PS 410 or equivalent

This course is the first in the sequence addressing research competency. The goal of this course is that students become able to locate and understand a research article. Topics include identifying and understanding the components of a research article, judging its relevance to practice situations, and understanding the components of evidence-based practice. Examples will utilize both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students should be able to critique an article for possible inclusion in a literature review.

OT 530 Service Management in Mental Health

4 Class Hours 2 Lab Hours 5 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 320, BIO 440, PS 410 or equivalent

Co-requisite: OT 410

This is the first course in the occupational therapy service management sequence. Emphasis is on evaluation and treatment planning for OT intervention with people who have disorders in the psychosocial realm. This course will serve as an introduction to the procedures, terminology, and statistics associated with the use of assessment tools. Students will select and apply appropriate frames of reference for use with case studies that are presented on paper or in interactive media. Students will practice leading the occupational therapy team in settings such as psychiatric hospitals, geropsychiatric units, adult day programs, and other community-based programs.

OT 536 Level I A Fieldwork

3 Class Hours 1 Quarter Credit Hour

Prerequisites: OT 320, PS 410

Co-requisite: OT 530

This is the first of three distinct, required Level I fieldwork experiences. Students will be placed in a setting in which they can focus on psychosocial issues with a variety of populations. This will allow engagement with the populations and concerns being addressed in the concurrent service management course. Students will experience the role of the occupational therapist in healthcare and wellness, with an emphasis on evaluation, intervention and program planning, and development of advanced practical skills.

OT 540 Service Management in Pediatrics

4 Class Hours 2 Lab Hours 5 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 410, OT 530, OT 536

This is the second course in the service management sequence. Emphasis is on evaluation and treatment planning for OT intervention with children and adolescents. Students will select and apply appropriate frames of reference for use with case studies that are presented on paper or in interactive media. Students will practice leading the occupational therapy team in settings such as schools, early intervention, and pediatric rehabilitation.

OT 546 Level I B Fieldwork

3 Class Hours 1 Quarter Credit Hour

Prerequisites: OT 410, OT 530, OT 536

Co-requisite: OT 540

This is the second of three distinct, required Level I fieldwork experiences. This fieldwork experience will allow student engagement with the pediatric population being addressed in the concurrent service management courses. Students will experience the role of the occupational therapist in healthcare and wellness, with an emphasis on evaluation, intervention and program planning, and development of advanced practical skills.

OT 548 Research Design

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 410, OT, 530, OT 540, EN 331, PS 410

This is the second course in the research sequence, in which students focus on designing a beginning level research project in an area of interest. Students will demonstrate an understanding of qualitative and quantitative research designs and methods used in healthcare, education, and community-based programs. They will identify the strengths and weaknesses in research designs for varied types of clinical questions.

OT 550 Service Management for Adult Rehabilitation

4 Class Hours 2 Lab Hours 5 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 320, OT 325, OT 530, OT 540, BIO 440

This is the third course in the occupational therapy service management sequence. Emphasis is on evaluation and treatment planning for OT intervention with adults who have physical, cognitive, and perceptual disorders. Students will apply advanced knowledge in rehabilitation, including the use of physical agent modalities, ergonomics, post-surgical procedures, design and fabrication of orthotics, and assistive technology. Students will select and apply appropriate frames of reference for use with case studies that are presented on paper or in interactive media. They will practice leading the occupational therapy team in settings such as acute-care hospitals, rehabilitation units, and outpatient settings.

OT 552 Leadership and Advocacy

3 Class Hours 3 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 310, OT 320

This is a course designed to provide students with experience and knowledge in leading teams, programs, and forging new ideas in which occupational therapy practitioners may positively influence people's lives. Leadership requires student knowledge of management and administration. Advocacy requires student knowledge for fostering change and new initiatives within internal and external environments such as facility management, reimbursement, and legislative action.

OT 555 Wellness and Participation in Populations

3 Class Hours 3 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 546, OT 548, OT 550

Co-requisite: OT 565

This is a course focused on student engagement in preventative care and exploring methods to engage populations, throughout the lifespan, in meaningful occupations of choice. This course is centered on the philosophy that active participation increases the likelihood of wellness and continued health while maximizing the overall well-being of the individual involved. This course does not deal with disabilities or limitations but focuses instead on the abilities of individuals and groups to remain active participants in their roles and in society.

OT 556 Level I C Fieldwork

3 Class Hours 1 Quarter Credit Hour

Prerequisites: OT 540, OT 546

Co-requisites: OT 548, OT 550

This is the last of three distinct, required Level I fieldwork experiences. This fieldwork experience will allow student engagement with the adult rehabilitation or geriatric population being addressed in the concurrent service management courses. Students will experience the role of the occupational therapist in health care and wellness, with an emphasis on evaluation, intervention and program planning, and development of advanced practical skills.

OT 560 Service Management in Geriatrics

4 Class Hours 2 Lab Hours 5 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 320, OT 530, OT 550, BIO 440

This is the last course in the occupational therapy service management sequence. Emphasis is on evaluation and treatment planning for OT intervention to enhance occupational participation for people aging with or without disabilities. Students will practice leading the occupational therapy team to meet the unique needs of this population in current practice in settings such as skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, adult day programs, and home care. Students will select and apply appropriate frames of reference for use with case studies that are presented on paper or in interactive media.

OT 565 Practicum in Population-Based OT Services

1 Class Hour 4 Lab Hours 3 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: OT 410, OT 540, OT 548, OT 550, BIO 440

Co-requisite: OT 555

This is a course dedicated to the development of leadership roles in an emerging, community-based program providing students the chance to actively promote wellness and participation across the lifespan. This course will allow students to select a population of interest, while employing strategies learned in previous courses to engage and encourage participation in meaningful activities and facilitate the participants' engagement in occupations of choice. Program design for the selected population will be a focus of this course.

OT 670 Practice Issues for the Occupational Therapist Seminar

6 Class Hours 6 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisite: All Occupational Therapy program courses for Terms I through VII

This is a course that integrates previously learned material into a culmination of problem-solving, case management, and advanced practice analysis related to the field of occupational therapy. Students will engage in higher level analysis and synthesis of issues pertaining to occupational therapy practice and development. Case-based and problem-based learning will be the foci of this seminar with instructor facilitation supporting student leadership and team building.

OT 673 Capstone Project

2 Class Hours 4 Lab Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisite: All Occupational Therapy program courses for Terms I through VII

This is the third course in the research sequence, focusing on participation in beginning level research. Research projects will be faculty-facilitated and may be completed individually or in small groups. This is the final project of the program and may include the research and development of a new program or social initiative emphasizing occupational therapy leadership and emerging practice.

OT 688 and OT 698 Level II Fieldwork

35-40 Hours per Week for 12 Weeks 2 Placements

Prerequisite: All Occupational Therapy program courses for Terms I through VII

Level II Fieldwork will be provided in two distinct settings in the community to allow students the opportunity to experience the role of the occupational therapist while focusing on assessment and evaluation of clients and client populations, development of programs and leadership roles in the health care community. Level II Fieldwork is offered after the completion of all MSOT coursework outlined in the curriculum. Each course will run for 12 consecutive weeks, full-time. Part-time fieldwork (at least 50% of full-time equivalent) opportunities may be available in some cases. Two distinct (2) Level II fieldwork experiences are required.

BIO 440 Functional Neuroscience

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisites: BIO 100/101, BIO 120/121 or their equivalent

This course provides students with an advanced understanding the anatomy and physiology of the central and peripheral nervous systems and how disorders in these systems affect a person's ability to function in everyday life. Topics include special senses, motor control, perceptual and cognitive processing and emotion.

PS 410 Applied Research Statistics

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

PS 410 is an intermediate-level course designed to develop in students an expertise in identifying statistical approaches to research problems. Students will examine statistics and the rationale behind them. They will comprehend and interpret statistical results as they apply to their technology. Students will master the APA style of writing by dissecting the results and discussion sections of journal articles in their technology and by writing those sections using statistics learned in the course.

Questions & Answers

1. **When do my classes meet?**

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) classes meet five weekends in each 10-week academic term, generally every other weekend. Students should plan on attending classes Friday between 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM and Saturday between 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Every OT course is taught in a hybrid format with some class time occurring in person and some class time online.

At the beginning of each quarter you will receive a detailed schedule giving the exact time and location of all your classes. The College requires that all students be prepared to take classes and receive services at any of NEIT's locations where the appropriate classes and services are offered.

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2. **How large will my classes be?**

The average size for a class is about 20 students; however, larger and smaller classes occur from time to time. Lab classes in the MSOT program will have about 12 students for one instructor and one lab assistant.

3. **How much time will I spend in lab?**

About one third of your MSOT courses consist of laboratory work. In order for you to get the most out of your laboratory experiences, you will first receive an explanation of the theory behind your lab work.

4. **Where do my classes meet?**

The majority of classes meet at the East Greenwich campus during assigned on-campus weekends.

5. **Do I need to be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) to enter the MSOT program?**

Yes, this program is tailored for people who hold an associate degree and certification as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. If you are not a COTA, you may enroll in NEIT's OTA program and upon successful completion of the OTA program and Certification from NBCOT, you will be eligible to apply to the MSOT program.

6. **How long should it take me to complete my program?**

To complete your degree requirements in the shortest possible time, you should take the courses outlined in the prescribed curriculum. In this 10-quarter program a student may complete the requirements in as little as 30 months. Students must complete all course work including general education classes before being eligible for the full-time clinical education that is completed in quarters 9 and 10.

7. **Is NEIT accredited?**

NEIT is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.). Accreditation by NECHE is recognized by the federal government and entitles NEIT to participate in federal financial aid programs. For more information on accreditation, see NEIT's catalog.

8. **Does the MSOT Program have specialized accreditation?**

The entry-level occupational therapy master's degree program at NEIT is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), c/o Accreditation Department, American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and their website is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of this program 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, most states require licensure in order to practice;

however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Rhode Island and all neighboring states require a license to practice as an OTR.

Because of the complex nature of licensing requirements and because these requirements change periodically, we cannot list all the requirements for licenses available in all states. NEIT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CHANGES IN LICENSING REQUIREMENTS THAT ANY STATE, INCLUDING RHODE ISLAND, MAY IMPLEMENT AT ANY TIME. Each student is to take personal responsibility for determining the licensing requirements in the specific state in which he or she plans to work. Your instructor or department chair can give you help as needed.

Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification or attain state licensure.

9. Do I need a certain grade point average to enter the program?

Yes, you will need a 3.0 grade point average from your undergraduate OTA degree program to enter the MSOT program.

10. Can I transfer the credits that I earn at NEIT to another college?

The transferability of a course is always up to the institution to which the student is transferring. Students interested in the transferability of their credits should contact the Office of Teaching and Learning for further information.

11. Can I transfer credits earned at another college to NEIT?

For the MSOT program, transfer credit for appropriate courses taken at regionally accredited institutions will be considered for courses in which the student has earned a "B" or above for both general education and professional courses. An official transcript from the other institution must be received before the end of the first week of the quarter for transfer credit to be granted for courses to be taken during that quarter.

Students must complete the last 60 quarter credit hours at NEIT as a residency requirement.

12. I am a COTA and have already earned my bachelor's degree. Will this affect my course work or the length of the program?

Holding a bachelor's degree will not affect the length of the program but would affect the course load per quarter. Individual cases will be evaluated by the MSOT Program Director upon receipt of an official transcript from the degree granting institution.

13. How many credits do I need to acquire my Financial Aid?

Students entering the MSOT program will be eligible for various forms of financial aid, including loans. See your financial aid officer for additional details.

14. What does my program cost?

The cost of your program will be as outlined in your enrollment agreement, along with your cost for books and other course materials.

15. Is there a charge if I take courses during the intersession?

Yes, The OT master's program is a ten-quarter program that does not include the intersessions. All courses can be scheduled during the standard schedule. If you choose to take a course during intersession, you will be charged per your enrollment agreement. Students should consult with the Financial Aid Department regarding the availability of their financial aid.

16. What kind of employment assistance does NEIT offer?

The Office of Career Services assists NEIT students and graduates in resume writing, interviewing skills, and the development of a job search strategy. Upon completion of their programs, graduates may submit

a resume to be circulated to employers who are seeking candidates with the skills and/or experience that matches the employers' requirements. Employers regularly contact the Office of Career Services about graduates of NEIT's degree programs. In addition, NEIT's Office of Career Services contacts employers to develop job leads. Graduates seeking employment at the completion of their program will also be expected to participate fully in their job search. No institution can, and NEIT does not, guarantee employment or a specific starting salary to its graduates.

17. Where will job opportunities exist?

An exciting aspect of NEIT's programs is that graduates can seek local, national and international employment.

18. Will this program prepare me for a national certification exam?

Yes. Upon successful completion of the entire course of study including Level II fieldwork, you will be eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapist. An individual must pass this examination to be eligible for state licensure and to be a Registered Occupational Therapist. This exam is scheduled throughout the year through an independent agency, the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

19. Does the MSOT program have a dress code?

Appropriate attire will be required during your fieldwork education. Specific dress codes will be provided to you prior to the fieldwork education. It is understood that in a professional work environment, clothing must adhere to the standards of the profession and be practical to allow the individual to carry on his/her job responsibilities.

20. What is a Registered Occupational Therapist?

A Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) is an integral member of the health care delivery team who manages all aspects of evaluation, planning and intervention for clients of all ages. The OTR works with individuals of all ages to prevent deficits and maintain or improve function in activities of daily living, work and play/leisure. Recipients of Occupational Therapy services may be individuals who have been affected by disease, trauma, physical, psychological, cognitive or sensorimotor deficits.

21. Who employs Registered Occupational Therapists?

OTRs serve a diverse population in a variety of settings such as hospitals and clinics, rehabilitation facilities, schools, long-term care facilities, extended care facilities, sheltered workshops, camps, home health care agencies, private practices, and wellness clinics. Occupational therapists also hold consulting positions in areas such as ergonomics, adult day programs, and residential services agencies. Becoming a registered occupational therapist also allows graduates to pursue career paths in academia to prepare people to be occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants.

22. What type of tasks are done by a Registered Occupational Therapist?

As vital members of the healthcare team, occupational therapists:

- collect data and oversee the evaluation of a client/patient referred for services;
- develop treatment goals in collaboration with the client and significant others;
- predict therapeutic outcomes for clients in various settings and circumstances;
- implement and coordinate an intervention plan in collaboration with the COTA;
- provide direct service to occupational therapy clients, groups and populations to address impairments in body functions, structures or activities valued and required for successful participation in life roles;
- train clients and caregivers in activities of daily living such as feeding, dressing, bathing and household tasks;
- use activities to promote improvement in psychosocial, cognitive, perceptual, and sensorimotor skills;
- assess the need for, provide and adapt assistive technology, seating and mobility systems;

- adapt the environment, or prescribing adaptive equipment to enhance an individual's ability to function;
- communicate and interact with other team members, clients and the individual's family or caregivers;
- maintain treatment area, equipment, and supply inventory as required;
- maintain records and documentation required by the work setting;
- perform administrative tasks related to the effective running of occupational therapy departments; and
- supervise COTAs, OT and OTA students, rehabilitation aides, volunteers and other staff as indicated.

23. Will I actually have the opportunity to practice these skills in a real professional environment while still in school?

Yes. The MSOT program will provide you with a treatment laboratory. During course work and laboratory experiences, you will have the opportunity to practice skills used by the OTR in various treatment settings. Level I and Level II Fieldwork education will require you to practice your skills at facilities which provide occupational therapy services and other services in non-traditional health care settings. You will have the opportunity to experience the duties which you will someday practice on your own.

24. Is licensure required to practice as an occupational therapist?

Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Certification Examination. Rhode Island and all neighboring states require a license to practice as an OTR. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification or attain state licensure.

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25. What is the difference between Level I Fieldwork and Level II Fieldwork?

Level I Fieldwork

Fieldwork education is provided in two parts during your academic program. Level I Fieldwork takes place during the fourth, fifth and sixth academic quarters and requires thirty (30) hours of work with clients during the ten-week term.

OT 538, Mental Health, is provided by faculty of the MSOT program. Other Level I Fieldwork experiences may be completed at a student's workplace if appropriate supervision and contracts are in place. Students may present a portfolio for review by the MSOT Program Director for credit for ONE Level I fieldwork course. Follow specific guidelines for portfolio content and deadline for submission in the MSOT student manual.

Level II Fieldwork

Upon successful completion of all courses in quarters 1 through 8 including general education requirements, students will attend Level II Fieldwork full-time (35 to 40 hours each week) for two separate twelve (12) week placements for a total of twenty-four weeks. Typical work hours fall between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Level II Fieldwork takes place during the 9th and 10th quarters. The Level II Fieldwork is split into two courses, representing education at two distinct facilities with varied types of clientele. While part-time fieldwork may be available in some cases, your graduation will be delayed. The academic fieldwork coordinator will assist you in selecting the fieldwork sites. An occupational therapist will be assigned as your fieldwork supervisor. Each Level II Fieldwork course offers you direct "hands on" education, thus allowing you to apply classroom knowledge to an actual treatment or clinical environment.

Fieldwork education is provided off campus in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, school districts, outpatient clinics, and a variety of community-based settings. Depending on work schedules at each clinical site, students may be required to attend fieldwork on holidays and NEIT vacation weeks.

26. Where do I go for the Level I and Level II Fieldwork education? Will those sites be provided for me or must I find a site on my own?

The College has developed affiliation agreements with occupational therapy practitioners and facilities within Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut and other states. Clinical opportunities may be available around the country, with prior notice given to the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. Sites will be assigned as available to complete your Level I and Level II Fieldwork education. Students are welcome to recommend a potential fieldwork site of interest and the fieldwork coordinator will make every effort to obtain a fieldwork contract. Students will be encouraged to be active participants in the selection of their fieldwork education site.

Students may not complete Level II Fieldwork at their current site of employment.

27. If I am unable to complete the entire sequence of Level II Fieldwork education, full time, as outlined in the curriculum, will there be alternative options available to me?

Yes. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) allows for Level II Fieldwork education to be completed within a reasonable period of time, following completion of academic classroom preparation. Students unable to complete a Level II Fieldwork education due to illness, or other unforeseen problems, will be given the opportunity to extend the time necessary to complete the fieldwork education, provided it is completed within an 18-month time-frame. Part time fieldwork may be an option but must not be less than 50% of a full time equivalent at that work setting.

28. What is the current job market for a graduate of NEIT's master's program in Occupational Therapy?

The MSOT program prepares its graduates to explore multiple employment opportunities including, but not limited to:

- Occupational Therapist
- Director of Occupational Therapy
- Rehabilitation manager
- Life-skills planner
- Case manager

In addition, graduates are prepared to pursue doctoral degrees in a variety of disciplines that will prepare them for careers in occupational therapy education or research. Please be aware that the transferability of courses is always up to the institution to which the student is transferring.

29. Do I need to maintain a certain grade point average?

Yes. You are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 throughout the program. For all quarters, a grade of B or better must be attained in the professional OT courses and a grade of C or better must be attained in any other course in order to advance to the next quarter and to graduate.

30. What happens if I do not earn a B in an occupational therapy class?

Students who earn less than a B in any occupational therapy course, or a C in any other course, will be required to re-take the course the next time it is offered, which may require a wait of up to one year. If the student does not earn the required B or C in the course after the second attempt, he or she will be dismissed from the MSOT program. Additional tuition and fees may be assessed, and program completion may be delayed for students who must retake an OT course.

Students are allowed to repeat a maximum of 3 required (excluding Level II Fieldwork) courses, only once, prior to withdrawal from the MSOT program. Failure to maintain this level of achievement will result in dismissal from the MSOT program.

31. Are there any additional costs/activities associated with this program?

Besides textbooks, the student will be required to have a complete physical exam, and immunizations or blood titer tests. Personal negligence and malpractice insurance is also required by affiliating facilities where internships are scheduled and must be in place throughout all fieldwork experiences. A course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is required before the beginning of the 4th academic quarter through the American Heart Association (CPR -C, Healthcare Provider Course). Yearly renewal will be required thereafter. Applicants must provide a certificate, signed by a physician, confirming that they have been immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella, that they have received a booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) within the last ten years, and 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine or a positive titer before participating in clinical placements. Students who have not had the required vaccines must complete them at their own expense prior to the beginning of Level I fieldwork.

Students must have access to a computer as described in detail in #36.

There are fees associated with taking the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (approximately \$560.00). The NBCOT examination is not part of any college curriculum, but passing it is required in order to work as a registered occupational therapist.

All costs associated with travel for fieldwork education are the sole responsibility of the student.

32. Are there any behavior standards for this program?

MSOT students are expected to exhibit ethical and professional behavior. This will be assessed on a continual basis and will encompass not only grades but also adherence to classroom protocol, laboratory and clinic safety, attendance, participation and preparedness for class, appearance and ability to work as a team member. Development of professional values and attitudes is inherent in the curriculum, and students will be expected to exhibit such behavior to assure a placement in a clinical setting.

33. Is a master's thesis required to complete the program?

No, the MSOT program does not require a thesis. All students are required to participate in a beginning level research project. This research will be completed in a clinical practice or community setting and will represent a culmination of the student's work in the MSOT program. Students will choose their project with the assistance of a faculty advisor based on an area of interest.

34. Are there any prerequisites for the MSOT program?

The OTA program at NEIT serves as the starting point for the MSOT curriculum. Potential students who graduated from other ACOTE accredited OTA programs must submit an official transcript for review by the Program Director who will certify that all foundational courses are comparable to those of the NEIT OTA program. There may be professional course content at the AS level which must be completed prior to admission into the MSOT program. Students are advised to speak with the Program Director for additional details.

35. Do I need to have a Criminal Background check?

All MSOT students are required to have a criminal background check. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) requires all healthcare facilities which they accredit to perform criminal background checks on students. Prior to entering fieldwork, students will be required to undergo a criminal background check. In addition to the criminal background check required by JCAHO, some clinical sites may also require a national criminal background check. It will be necessary for students to sign a Consent and Disclaimer permitting NEIT to perform a criminal background check and a

Release and Authorization permitting NEIT to disclose the results of the criminal background check to a clinical site where the student is being considered for placement. If a background check reveals any criminal convictions, the student may be disqualified from a clinical placement or employment in the field. Students assume the cost for all background checks.

Some facilities may also require a drug screen prior to accepting a student for Fieldwork.

NEIT makes no guarantee that once a student is matriculated, the student will be able to attend any fieldwork training setting, sit for the national certification or gain licensure if the student has a prior criminal conviction. This is the student's responsibility to discover what they must do to manage a positive criminal background investigation.

36. Do I need special computer skills?

You'll need basic familiarity with your computer, for example: emailing, using the Web, and downloading and attaching documents. You will need:

- Either a laptop or desktop computer (PC or Mac). Generally, a computer that is less than 3 or 4 years old should be fine.

Note: Tablets and smartphones can be convenient for reading course materials and email but will not be sufficient for doing all of your course work.

- A home Internet connection that's fast enough to stream video; if you can easily view YouTube videos or Netflix, your connection is fine.
- The latest version of a Web browser (Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Internet Explorer) for your class work. If you're not sure, this [computer check](#) page will tell you what browser you have. Or check this [browser support page](#) to see if your browser is up to date.
- An "Office" suite such as Microsoft Office Word, Excel and PowerPoint. NEIT provides this to you for free through Microsoft's Office 365).

You will also need:

- A webcam (the one built into your laptop or iPad should be fine).
- A microphone (built into the computer or headset is handy).
- A digital camera (the one on a smart phone is fine).

You will need frequent and extended access to a computer to be successful in your course.

Technical Standards

In addition to the acquisition of the appropriate knowledge in the sciences and humanities, the faculty of the New England Institute of Technology Occupational Therapy Program are committed to the education of all qualified individuals. The essential requirements for the successful completion of a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy are described below. The student needs to demonstrate the following skills and abilities, with or without reasonable accommodation. When a student's ability to perform is compromised, the student must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to perform the essential functions of the occupational therapy student described below.

Frequency Key: O = Occasionally (1-33%); F = Frequently (34-66%); C = Constantly (67-100%)

Ability	Description	O	F	C
Cognitive	Process, synthesize, organize and learn new material in order to plan and implement a variety of activities.			X
	Identify cause-and-effect relationships in clinical situations; synthesize data and draw sound conclusions.			X
	Problem solve independently using several variables at once			X
	Utilize basic math concepts for measurement and construction tasks.		X	
	Imitate role modeling of professional skills and behaviors			X
	Perceive events realistically, think rationally and clearly to function in routine and emergency situations			X
	Follow written or verbal instructions in English.		X	
Communication	Communicate effectively with faculty, clients, staff and other professionals using layman's terms or medical terminology as appropriate.			X
	Orally report data and observations in language appropriate to the situation.		X	
	Read English sufficiently to understand and comprehend college level text books, written protocols, documentation in client's chart, information necessary for documentation, evaluation, and directions on tools or packaging.			X
	Write English sufficiently to legibly record client evaluations, progress notes and other documentation for client's chart.			X
	Express thoughts clearly and succinctly in one-on-one and larger group settings.			X
	Give written or verbal instructions in English to direct others in their work and to carry out intervention and assessment.			X

Ability	Description	O	F	C
Behavioral/ Social	Adjust to a variety of individuals and their distinct needs. Modify behaviors according to feedback from supervisors, clients and administrators			X
	Maintain a professional attitude during all work performance			X
	Adjust to changes in scheduling and demonstrate flexibility required to meet department or facility needs.		X	
	Respect the integrity of all human beings and right for all individuals to receive appropriate treatment.			X
	Identify one's own strengths and weaknesses and request assistance when needed.		X	
	Maintain emotional stability and the maturity necessary to interact with other students, clients and professionals in a responsible manner			X
Gross Motor	Lift to carry or maneuver equipment weighing up to 60 lbs.		X	
	Transfer or maneuver individuals weighing up to 200 lbs.	X		
	Transfer patients to heights of up to 19 inches by lifting.		X	
	Have physical strength, coordination and mobility to effectively operate and maintain equipment, safely move clients, carry out procedures and provide interventions		X	
	Kneel, crouch, crawl, bend and maneuver in and out of various positions to address client needs.		X	
	Demonstrate safe body mechanics for lifting, pushing, and pulling		X	
	Navigate through various environments in a safe manner		X	
	Reach to operate and obtain items overhead.	X		
	Tolerate activity in standing or sitting for long periods of time or to respond to emergency situations			X
	Move from sitting to standing, walking and weight shifting to assist in the maintenance of a client's posture or position for treatment intervention		X	
	Ascend and descend stairs with minimal effort while carrying up to 15 pounds		X	
Fine Motor	Demonstrate multiple grasp and pinch patterns, including dexterity for writing and keyboard function or to administer standardized tests.			X
	Locate and palpate correct anatomical location for assessment and treatment of changes in muscle tone		X	
	Utilize firm grasp for sustained hand/arm use in a variety of activities such as setting up a testing or treatment environment and calibrating equipment with small parts.		X	

Ability	Description	O	F	C
Sensory	Visual: Observe and obtain information from all relevant sources required during client care. Acute enough to read small printed language on tools used for therapy. Also adequate distant vision to respond to cues in visual environment approximately 20 feet away			X
	Visual: sufficient contrast sensitivity to interpret information on medical monitors and equipment with LED screens, etc.	X		
	Auditory: Perceive spoken word; hear and interpret loud, soft and muffled sounds (including alarms and machinery).			X
	Tactile: Use sensation for physical assessment of clients (pulse/muscle movement) and to perceive environmental cues (temperature, vibration, pressure).			X
	Olfactory: Distinguish smells which are contributory to assessing and/or maintaining client's health status or environmental safety (i.e. fire)			X
Environmental	Work in areas where personal boundaries may be violated (i.e. hugging from clients or other uncontrolled behaviors)	X		
	Work in areas of potential exposure to infectious waste, body fluids, wet or humid conditions.		X	
	Work under stressful conditions and irregular hours while reacting calmly to emergency situations.	X		
Cultural	Communicate accurately, sensitively and effectively with clients and professionals from different cultural and social backgrounds. This includes expression and reception of non-verbal behaviors.			X