

General Information

The Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree at New England Institute of Technology allows registered occupational therapists to expand on their academic and clinical experience to become global citizens promoting health, wellness and participation in diverse populations. This program is designed to elevate professionals to a higher level of responsibility as leaders in the profession. The curriculum assumes enrolled students enter the program as practicing occupational therapists who are interested in pursuing an advanced degree in the field.

The design of the proposed PP-OTD program is forward-thinking and focused on the completion of the student individualized doctoral project. Students of this program represent individuals already practicing within the profession who aspire to be leaders within their focused area of practice. The PP-OTD program will provide students with a comprehensive program that is supportive and individualized and that utilizes their unique background and experience as well as the collective experience of their classmates, instructors and mentors.

The program is offered fully online. Students participate in an engaging online learning environment throughout a ten-week academic term. This model provides the flexibility required by working professionals who may study at their convenience in an asynchronous learning environment.

Mission and Outcomes of the Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program

The mission of the post-professional doctoral degree program in occupational therapy is to allow registered occupational therapists to expand their academic and clinical experience to become advanced practitioners promoting health, wellness and participation across many populations and groups, and to become advanced leaders in their profession.

Student Outcomes

Successful graduates of the PP-OTD program will be able to successfully demonstrate each of the following learning outcomes.

Graduates will become:

- global citizens specializing in the promotion of health, wellness and participation across the lifespan.
- innovators of contemporary practice both in emerging and traditional settings.
- engaged in scholarship in any area of practice or in a leadership role.
- leaders in occupational therapy practice through entrepreneurship.

Curriculum

Term I

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	902	Quantitative Analysis	4	0	4
OT	903	Reflective Practice	4	0	4
			8	0	8

Term II

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	901	Post-Professional Doctoral Project I	4	0	4
OT	905	Qualitative Analysis	4	0	4
			8	0	8

Term III

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	904	Doctoral Project II: Project Design and Proposal	4	0	4
OT	906	Wellness, Participation and Health Promotion	4	0	4
			8	0	8

Term IV

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	907	Doctoral Project III: Project Implementation	4	0	4
OT	908	Entrepreneurship	3	0	3
			7	0	7

Term V

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	909	Issues with Contemporary and Future Practice	3	0	3
OT	910	Doctoral Project IV: Doctoral Project Completion and Defense	4	0	4
			7	0	7

Total Quarter Credit Hours = 38

If Needed

Course No.		Course Title	C	L	T
OT	990	Doctoral Project Continuation	1	0	1

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.

Subject to change.

Degree Progress Checklist

Check off each completed course.

T1	OT	902	_____
	OT	903	_____
T2	OT	901	_____
	OT	905	_____
T3	OT	904	_____
	OT	906	_____
T4	OT	907	_____
	OT	908	_____
T5	OT	909	_____
	OT	910	_____
If Needed	OT	990	_____

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

Students are advised to take courses in the order and in the term 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 901 Post-Professional Doctoral Project I

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

This course is designed to guide post-professional doctoral students in further exploring the topic for their post-professional doctoral project. Students will begin to gather theoretical, empirical or clinical evidence to support their focus of studies. Instructors will help scaffold their learning in upcoming courses and terms.

OT 902 Quantitative Analysis

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

This course is designed to support post-professional doctoral students in developing their post-professional doctoral project and to assist them in defining their mode of inquiry. The course has been designed to guide students through a range of issues and considerations which should inform their general approach to research. It will give students advanced knowledge of post-graduate research and quantitative methodologies. Students will learn to apply a range of research tools and will be equipped to plan and organize their research.

OT 903 Reflective Practice

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

The objective of this course is to expand the post-professional doctoral student's ability to utilize methods of reflective practice. Critical reflection is essential to becoming a successful leader. This course will introduce theories of learning, knowledge generation, framing and reframing, theories of action, reflection-in-practice, and conceptual innovation, and provide students with opportunities to experiment with these theories in real life through practical exercises in which they reflect on real situations that they have faced in their past professional experience. Through these practical exercises, students will have the opportunity to reflect on their thinking capacities in the context of their occupational therapy practice.

OT 904 Doctoral Project II: Project Design and Proposal

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisite: OTD 901

In this course, post-professional doctoral students design their project. Students work with faculty and mentors to develop a project proposal.

OT 905 Qualitative Analysis

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

This course is designed to guide post-professional doctoral students in further exploring their post-professional doctoral project and to assist them in defining their mode of inquiry. This course presents an overview of qualitative research methods and prepares students in the data collection skills, data analysis techniques, interpretation and dissemination of findings, and general knowledge necessary to undertake independent research using qualitative methodology.

OT 906 Wellness, Participation and Health Promotion

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

This course is designed to incorporate evidence-based practice for the management of clients in the area of wellness and health promotion. This course provides students with a strong theoretical foundation for wellness, health promotion and maintenance of participation in meaningful activities across the lifespan. The emphasis is on theories and research to promote and preserve wellness lifestyles in client populations using epidemiological principles, disease risk appraisal and reduction, and other tools. Roles in advanced occupational therapy practice as they relate to the health of diverse populations are identified and explored.

OT 907 Doctoral Project III: Project Implementation

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisite: OTD 904

Students gather data, implement a service or programs, or further develop theoretical constructs as part of their doctoral project.

OT 908 Entrepreneurship

3 Class Hours 3 Quarter Credit Hours

Students will learn to distinguish, generate and form opportunities, deliver the theoretical and practical leadership to create economic, therapeutic, and social value through the application of scholarly research. Students will assess the feasibility of the doctoral projects while functioning as drivers of opportunities, developing viable business or intervention models. Emphasis will be spent on the predictive and creative approaches to all aspects of launching, growing and expanding a business or interventions within complex, loosely-coupled organizations. This course will provide a broad skill-set for business within an occupational therapy context yet allow for highly customized paths for students to apply entrepreneurship principles to their doctoral project.

OT 909 Issues with Contemporary and Future Practice

3 Class Hours 3 Quarter Credit Hours

This course provides students the opportunity to expand the focus of the doctoral project to bigger audiences by allowing students to develop insight into their role in facilitating change to the profession. Examination of contemporary and future practice opportunities will be explored.

OT 910 Doctoral Project IV: Doctoral Project Completion and Defense

4 Class Hours 4 Quarter Credit Hours

Prerequisite: OD 907

Students analyze and interpret data and or evaluate their program as well as define and summarize any theoretical constructs relevant to their doctoral project. Students present the final doctoral project and defend it to their doctoral committee comprised of mentors, faculty and community stakeholders.

OT 990 Doctoral Project Continuation

1 Class Hour 1 Quarter Credit Hour

This course is designed for post-professional doctoral students to continue to develop their Doctoral Project. The primary advisor will be available to advise and assist students as they progress in the development of their final project. This course is offered on a pass/fail basis.

Questions & Answers

1. For whom is the Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate degree program designed?

The PP-OTD courses are offered completely online. There are no times when students are required to meet in a traditional on-campus classroom. Faculty may schedule (at their discretion) online discussions or other activities through the online learning software that may require you to attend a synchronous virtual class at a specific time. These sessions may be recorded for students to access at a later time. However, most online work is expected to be completed based on the student's schedule within the context of the course requirements.

2. Do I need to be a registered occupational therapist to enter the PP-OTD program?

Yes, this program is tailored only to practicing occupational therapists, who have achieved certification status to practice as an occupational therapist by the NBCOT. In addition, candidates for this program must have an earned master's degree in occupational therapy to begin the program. For specific information regarding admissions, please contact the admissions department. Special note: International students do not need to be NBCOT-certified unless their goal is to practice in the United States. Those candidates should first obtain national certification as a registered therapist by NBCOT before applying for this program. If the international candidate does not intend to practice as a registered occupational therapist in the United States, they may enter the program without meeting the requirement of NBCOT exam completion.

3. What are the entrance requirements for the PP OTD program?

Mindful of the increased rigor of a Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate, admission to the program is selective and focuses on identifying and selecting prospective students who academically prepared for success.

Acceptance Criteria:

A candidate for admission to the PP OTD program must have or submit the following:

- Admissions essay defining the focused topic for doctoral work (see guidelines in Appendix I)
- CV that demonstrates work experience in the field of occupational therapy
- Transcripts from an ACOTE-accredited MSOT program
- Minimal GPA of 3.0 in an ACOTE-accredited MSOT program.
- Submit a copy of current certification as an occupational therapist from the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy to the Admissions Officer.
- Submit an official transcript showing completion of a master's degree in Occupational Therapy from an ACOTE-accredited educational institution.

4. How do online courses work?

Online courses at New England Institute of Technology are developed by a faculty-led team of management, construction, learning, and technology experts. The courses are designed to be interesting, relevant and engaging, and to have a real impact on students in their lives and on their careers. In an online delivery system, there are no formal or scheduled times when students are required to meet. The majority of the course work is expected to be completed based on the student's personal and professional schedule within the context of the course requirements. Faculty post weekly lectures and assignments online along with associated due dates. Faculty may also schedule online discussions or other class activities through the Canvas learning management system that may require you to be available to participate at a specific time.

5. How is taking an online course different from an on-campus course?

Online courses offer you flexibility in the scheduling of your class and study time. However, online courses

also require self-discipline and self-motivation to do the work that is expected of the course. Since there will be no “lecture” time and no class time to attend, you will need to dedicate an appropriate amount of time to review the course content on the Canvas learning management system, complete the readings, participate in the online discussion forums, and complete other assignments. Instead of meeting at a fixed time and location, your online course will run on a weekly schedule starting on a Monday and ending on a Sunday evening. Generally, there are no set meeting times during which the entire class meets. Despite this flexibility, you are required to login to your course regularly as described in the course syllabus. Additionally, there may be some assignments when specific due dates must be met.

6. Do online courses take more time than on-campus courses?

No. Online courses require the same amount of work as an on-campus course. However, the time you spend in an online course will be different than in an on-campus course. For example, more time may be spent on reading and completing the assignments and responding to electronic posts from both the instructor and other students and less time will be spent on driving to and from campus and no time will be spent in class.

7. Do I need special computer skills in order to take an online course?

You'll need basic familiarity with your computer, for example: emailing, using the Web, and downloading and attaching documents. No special equipment is required: just a modern Windows-based computer, an office suite such as Microsoft Office, and a broadband internet connection.

8. What are the hardware and software requirements for the program?

	Recommended Minimum
Operating System:	Windows 10 or Macintosh OS X (10.14)
Processor:	2+ GHz
Memory:	4GB
Plug-ins:	Adobe PDF Reader, Flash Adobe PDF Reader, Flash and others as required by specific courses
Players:	QuickTime, Java Player, QuickTime, Java
Browser:	Chrome, IE, Safari, Edge, Firefox (all latest versions)
Display:	1024x768
Software:	Office 365 (2016)
Internet Connection:	FiOS/DSL/CABLE DSL/CABLE
Email Account:	New England Tech student email account
Sound Card:	Required

Online students must be capable of installing and maintaining their own computer's hardware and software. New England Tech does not assist students with the setup of their computers. Information about obtaining the software (if any) will be made available to you at the start of each course.

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.

9. How do I get assistance with technical issues?

New England Institute of Technology's online courses are designed to help acclimate you to technology and build your skills and your confidence as you go. We provide 24x7 support via phone, email or chat to help you with computer or online system issues in the learning management system. NEIT is unable to help students with computer problems. Tablet computers can be useful for doing course readings, watching course videos, and catching up on course discussions, but a tablet will not be sufficient for doing all your course work. Be sure you have regular access to a traditional laptop or desktop computer with appropriate capacity to support online assignments.

10. How large will my classes be?

Classes will average between 10 and 15 students per course.

11. How long is an academic term?

Academic terms at New England Institute of Technology are 10-weeks long, with four terms offered per year, starting in January, April, July, and October.

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

The shortest time to complete the program is 5 academic terms or 15 months. Most students find that taking 2 course per term is manageable with a full time job.

13. How many courses do I have to take each term?

You can take one or both courses per term to complete the program in 15 months. It's entirely up to your own needs and schedule. Note that if your employer offers tuition benefits, there may be a limit on how much they will reimburse. If you're planning to apply for federal financial aid, a typical course load is 4 credits. Some courses are 3 credits so careful planning is encouraged.

14. Are there participation requirements?

Yes. Depending upon the course, each week you may be required to participate in various activities such as discussion boards or other similar assignments. All course activities will be counted towards your final grade. Required student participation will be identified in the course syllabus.

15. How will I submit my course assignments and take exams?

You will receive information from your professor regarding how to submit your assignments through the Canvas learning management system. Exams and test will be administered via the Canvas learning management system. In some cases, your professor may require a proctored exam. If a proctored exam is required, you will be required to submit a proctor form to your professor prior to gaining access to the exam. All tests, exams, and assignment requirements will be identified in the course syllabus at the beginning of each term.

16. Will my course be assigned to a faculty member?

Faculty are essential to the online learning experience at the New England Institute of Technology. All online courses in the PP OTD program are taught by faculty with appropriate academic and professional credentials, as well as extensive practical experience. Additionally, all NEIT faculty teaching online courses receive specific training in online delivery methods.

17. How can I access specific course-related help when I need it?

Your professor will be available to you via email, Canvas discussion boards, and by phone. Responses to a question will generally be delivered within 24 hours. Preferred methods of contact as well as contact information will be identified at the beginning of each course in the course syllabus.

18. Will I be assigned an advisor?

Yes. Students in the PP OTD program will be assigned a Student Success Coach from the Student Success Office in the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. The New England Tech Student Success Coach provides guidance, encouragement and support to students and is the primary point of contact for all student concerns and information about New England Tech policies and procedures.

19. Do I have access to other college services?

Online students have access to all college services including the Academic Skills Center, the Bookstore, the Career Services Office, the Financial Aid Office, the Registrar's Office, the Office of Student Support Services, Library, Student Accounts, the Office of Teaching and Learning and the Response Desk.

20. Do I need to maintain a specific grade point average?

Yes. A GPA of 3.0 will be required for all terms.

21. What happens if I do not earn a B in one of the courses?

All student will be required to earn a grade of a B or better in all coursework. Any student unable to attain a B in a course will be required to repeat the course. Students may only retake one course in the program, before being dismissed from program. Re-entry to the program will only be considered if done within one year of voluntary withdrawal from the program. A guide for re-entry is provided in the PP-OTD Student Manual.

22. Is a doctoral thesis required to complete the program?

No. Students are required to complete an Individualized Doctoral Project and will be required to defend the project to a doctoral committee.

23. Is NEIT accredited?

NEIT is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education. Accreditation by NECHE is recognized by the federal government and entitles NEIT to participate in federal financial aid programs. Some academic departments have specialized professional accreditations in addition to accreditation by NEASC. For more information on accreditation, see NEIT's catalog.

24. Can I transfer the credits that I earn at NEIT to another college or university?

The transferability of course credit 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.

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

No. All credits must be taken at NEIT to comply with residency policies.

26. How many credits do I need to qualify for Financial Aid?

Many financial aid options are available. Our Financial Aid Office is dedicated to providing students with all the information and guidance necessary for them to take full advantage of the financial resources available to them from various federal, state, and private programs.

27. How much does my program cost?

New England Tech's Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate program is competitively priced. Please see the [tuition and fees](#) page for detail.

28. How do I purchase textbooks and other required materials?

Students may purchase their textbooks either through the Bookstore or through online merchants. Textbooks and other required materials will be identified by the professor in the course syllabus at the beginning of each term.

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