

Assessment Report Professional Doctorate of Occupational Therapy 2023-2024

The UA/UAMS Doctorate of Occupational Therapy degree in the Department of Communication Disorders and Occupational Therapy ensures that degree candidates meet the minimum academic and clinical practicum requirements established by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Program goals are based on the knowledge and skills recommended by the ACOTE to prepare graduates to pass the National Board for the Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) board exam.

Graduate students are expected to demonstrate knowledge and skills related to the 1) foundations of occupational therapy professional practice; 2) screening, assessment, evaluation, and diagnosis of deficits and disorders that impact occupational performance; 3) evaluation, treatment planning and implementation, discharge planning, and ongoing community support. Students must pass multiple clinic rotations (Level 1 and Level 2 fieldwork) to graduate followed by passing the national NBCOT board examination to qualify for licensure in any state. Final data for employment of the inaugural 2022 graduating class is not available at the time of this report.

The OTD program has had a very successful year, filling 2 remaining faculty positions in 2023. Currently one tenure-track faculty position is open with an active search committee. The annual accreditation report was completed and the program is in compliance with all standards.

Clinical Education:

Goal: 100% of students will pass Level 1 and Level 2 Fieldwork experiences.

Summer 2023:

Level 1C – 24 students placed and passed

Fall 2023:

Level 2A – 22 students placed and 21 passed

Highlighted placement: Tulane Medical Center, New Orleans, LA

Level 1A – 24 students placed and passed

Visted sites across the care continuum to gain broad exposure to practice settings. The program did not have sufficient clinical placements for a weeklong placement at one site.

Spring 2024

Level 2A – 22 students placed and 22 passed

OTHER NOTES:

- The program continues to increase the number of clinical sites available to students. We have 166 recorded fieldwork and capstone sites in Exxat. This number has decreased from 224 due to a significant number of contracts expiring in 2024.

- Fieldwork educators frequently complement our students on professional behaviors – particularly on their eagerness to learn and be involved in the OT process.

Plan: No changes in the measure of success as this aligns with accreditation requirements. We will continue to increase the number of clinical contracts and renewals to meet student needs.

Program Goals Learning Outcomes and Student Performance

Goal: Occupational therapy doctoral students will exhibit excellent professional behaviors by progressively demonstrating personal responsibility & accountability for their learning & professionalism.

Outcome:

- The Assessment of Professional Behaviors (APB) form was redesigned through a collaboration of the Chair of the Progressions Committee, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, and the Graduate Coordinator, with input from all faculty to better describe expected professional behaviors and promote self-reflection and goal setting by students.
- Beginning in January 2023, students completed this self-assessment of professional behaviors using the new Assessment of Professional Behaviors (APB) form & process and reviewed these with their Faculty Advisor. Students will complete a reassessment at least annually. This form will also be used for formative feedback when there are small concerns that arise throughout the semesters.
- A common theme this year from clinical fieldwork educators was that our students demonstrated excellent self-initiation, professional behaviors, analytical problem-solving skills, interprofessional relationships and teamwork. “Your students are an asset to your OTD Program and will be great therapists in the future.”
- Use of this revised form and process will be monitored over the next academic year to evaluate its effectiveness for providing formative feedback to help students develop their professional behaviors and identity.

PLAN: Align existing ABP with 2023 ACOTE Standards and create procedure to evaluate student professional development throughout the program.

Goal: 95% of students will pass the Culminating Assessments, indicating integration and application of learning across courses.

Outcome: Culminating Assessments (CA) are completed in Spring Yr 1 & 2, & Fall Yr 1 semesters (not in summer due to the shorted time frame or Fall Yr 2 as students leave for Level 2 FW), require advancing knowledge & performance skills.

Class 2025: Fall Yr 1: 100% pass rate
 Spring Yr 2: 100% pass rate

Class 2026: Spring Yr 1: 100% pass rate

Plan: Culminating Assessments for all semesters will be reevaluated and likely revised to better articulate and consistently measure clinical competencies required for success on fieldwork.

Goal: 100% of students will earn a passing score on final OTKE given before capstone experience, in August (beginning in 2022)

OT students take the Occupational Therapy Knowledge Exam (OTKE), a practice exam for the OT national board exam before leaving for their first Level 2 Fieldwork and then again after completion of the second Level 2 Fieldwork. The 2024 cohort data is not yet available as they are scheduled to take the OTKE June 4th, 2024.

Plan: The NBCOT exam changed in format in January 2024 resulting in a new OTKE format. Students will take this exam in summer 2024. Due to new exam format; no direct comparison data will be available.