Helping people participate in life.

An occupational therapist develops skills that make an impact in helping individuals adapt to changes in physical and emotional performance. You'll develop critical thinking and reflective skills needed for life-long learning in a rewarding OT career. You’ll make an impact in the lives of your clients as they transition to employment, driving, being a parent, and living independently.

Program Snapshot

| Program type: Doctoral Degree |
| Format: On-campus or offcampus |
| Est. time to complete: 3 years |
| Credit hours: 124 |

Why Earn a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy at UND?

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate (O.T.D.) program is based on the belief that purposeful activity (occupation) may be used to prevent and mediate dysfunction and elicit maximum adaptation.

Through the O.T.D. program, you'll develop the knowledge, skills and adaptive capacity needed to address occupational challenges. Specifically, you'll be trained to:

- Customize and implement treatment programs to improve an individual’s ability to perform daily activities and occupations.
- Provide comprehensive home and job site evaluations with adaptation recommendations.
- Conduct performance skills assessments and treatment.
- Make adaptive equipment and splints, provide recommendations and usage training.
- Provide guidance to family members and caregivers.

The O.T.D. degree is offered at two campus locations, at our main campus in Grand Forks, ND and satellite campus in Casper, WY.

Pre-OT

UND's Pre-Occupational Therapy program is recommended for all incoming freshmen interested in OT. The three-year program provides the building blocks in your application to the O.T.D. program.

ACOTE Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Program received Candidacy Status through the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). For information regarding accreditation, contact ACOTE at 301.652.AOTA, or 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449.

The national entry-level certification examination for occupational therapists is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT, 800 S Frederick Ave, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-4150, 301.990.7979). Once accreditation has been granted, graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapists, administered by NBCOT. After successful completion of this exam, the graduate will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure 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.

Application Deadlines

FALL: DEC 20

Occupational Therapy Doctorate

- Gain real-world experience through practicums, fieldwork and teaching opportunities.
- Develop a career plan with consultation from your assigned departmental faculty member.
- Connect with those who share your passion through the Student Occupational Therapy Association.
- Be a leader and connect with others through numerous community service opportunities.

Occupational Therapy Careers

81K
Annual median pay for occupational therapists*

24%
Projected job growth for occupational therapists through 2026*

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupational therapists are skilled professionals whose education includes the study of human growth and development with specific emphasis on the social, emotional and physiological effects of illness and injury. They can be found working in the following environments:

- Community mental health agencies
- Home health services
- Hospitals
- Industry
- Nursing homes
- Occupational therapy outpatient clinics
- Schools
- Wellness facilities