



Dr. Nicole Scheiman

MSOT Program Director

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### **MSOT 511 – Foundations of OT**

With over 25 years of clinical experience, Dr Scheiman brings extensive expertise in OT foundations and fundamentals.

### **MSOT 524 – Activity and Occupational Analysis**

Dr. Scheiman's advanced certifications in lymphedema therapy, exercise, kinesiology taping, and environmental modification and ergonomics, combined with her decades of clinical practice, uniquely equip her to teach students how to analyze and adapt to activities to promote occupational performance across diverse populations.

### **MSOT 535 – Administration, Management, and Leadership**

Drawing from her extensive leadership experience as a clinical supervisor, rehabilitation manager, program director and national speaker, Dr. Scheiman empowers students to develop the administrative and leadership skills essential for modern OT practice.

### **MSOT 562 – Leadership and Transition to Professional Practice**

As a seasoned OT educator and mentor with a strong record of guiding students into successful careers, Dr. Scheiman leverages her expertise in clinical supervision, professional development, and national credentialing to prepare students for confident entry into the workforce as competent, ethical and reflective occupational therapy practitioners.

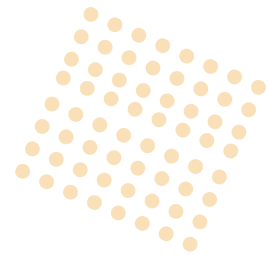


# MSOT 511

## Foundations of Occupational Therapy

### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 3  
Length: Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Learn what occupational therapy is all about, including where it came from and how it continues to grow as a profession.



### Key Element #2

Explore the big ideas that guide OT practice, like our philosophy, core values, and models we use to help people live better lives.



### Key Element #3

Understand how OTs get licensed and certified, and what it means to practice as a professional in the real world.



### Key Element #4

Discover how OTs promote health and prevent illness by understanding how things like income, education, and environment affect people's ability to live full and meaningful lives.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Foundations of OT helps you build the professional identity, language and mindset you'll carry throughout your career, while exploring how occupational therapy supports health and well-being across diverse communities.

### Student Feedback

"Foundations of Occupational Therapy: This class provided me with the history behind occupational therapy practice, what it truly means to be an occupational therapist, and the impactful role we play in the individual's care."

- Kristen B.

I love introducing students to the heart of occupational therapy — exploring our profession's history, philosophy, and core values. Watching their "aha" moments as they see how OT changes lives is inspiring every time. -  
Dr. Scheiman

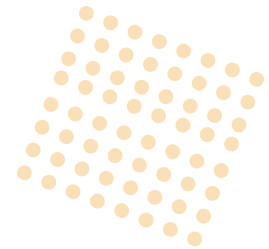


## MSOT 524

### Activity and Occupational Analysis

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 2  
2nd Semester  
Method: hybrid



#### Key Element #1

Learn how to break down everyday activities to understand what makes them easy or hard for different people.



#### Key Element #2

Discover how to adjust tasks and environments to help clients be more successful and independent in their daily lives.



#### Key Element #3

Explore how a person's habits, skills, and surroundings affect how they do activities—from cooking to getting dressed.



#### Key Element #4

Get hands-on practice analyzing and adapting activities, so you're ready to create personalized, effective OT interventions.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Every great OT needs to know how to break down everyday activities to understand what helps - or hinders - occupational performance. This course teaches you how to analyze, adapt and design meaningful activities to meet your client's unique needs.

#### Student Feedback

"This course taught me how to break down everyday tasks to turn simple activities into meaningful interventions, ultimately leading me to begin thinking like an occupational therapist."

- Cara G

**I love helping students break down everyday tasks to uncover the science and creativity behind meaningful occupations. It's exciting to see them connect clinical reasoning with real-life activities. -**

**Dr. Nicole Scheiman**



## MSOT 535

### Administration, Management, and Leadership

#### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 2  
3rd Semester  
Method: hybrid



#### Key Element #1

Discover what leadership looks like in occupational therapy, whether you're leading a team, a program, or a project.



#### Key Element #2

Learn about different leadership styles and find your own strengths so you can lead with confidence in school, fieldwork, and future jobs.



#### Key Element #3

Understand how OT leaders create positive change, promote fairness, and make sure everyone has a voice and access to care.



#### Key Element #4

Build practical skills for managing people, solving problems, and working as part of a collaborative healthcare team.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Whether you're leading a treatment session or managing a clinic, OT professionals are leaders. This course helps you discover your own leadership style and equips you to inspire change, advocate for justice, and lead with purpose.

#### Student Feedback

"This class helped me gather a better understanding of what a leader is and how to play to my strengths and use my weaknesses when working with a team." - Jordan K

**I love guiding future OTs to become confident leaders and problem-solvers. Watching students develop skills in leadership, advocacy, and program management is incredibly rewarding. -**

**Dr. Nicole Scheiman**



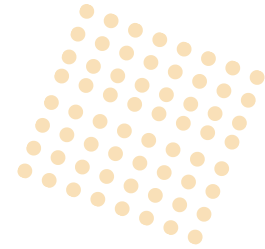


## MSOT 562

### Leadership and Transition to Professional Practice

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 2  
6th Semester  
Method: hybrid



#### Key Element #1

Create a personalized plan for your career that helps you stay on track with your goals as you move from student to practicing OT.



#### Key Element #2

Build and refine your professional portfolio, including your resume and documentation of your clinical and academic accomplishments.



#### Key Element #3

Learn how to stay current in the field by developing habits of lifelong learning and professional growth.

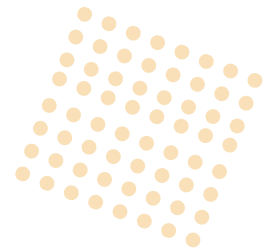


#### Key Element #4

Get prepared for life after graduation, including job searching, interviewing, and stepping confidently into your first OT role.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

This course is where everything comes together – you'll prepare for life after graduation by refining your professional portfolio, clarifying your goals, and developing a plan to confidently launch your OT career.



**I love supporting students as they grow from learners into professionals — sharpening leadership skills, strengthening professional identity and preparation, and preparing to step boldly into their OT careers.-**

**Dr. Nicole Scheiman**



Dr. Katie Everson

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### **MSOT 512: Ethics in OT Practice**

With experience in clinical ethics consultation and interprofessional care, Dr. Everson guides students through meaningful conversations about values, justice, and professionalism. Her teaching empowers students to be thoughtful, informed, and courageous when facing ethical decisions. She creates a safe space for students to explore challenging topics and reflect on their emerging professional identity.

### **MSOT 525: Assistive Technology in OT**

With a background in neurorehabilitation and school-based practice, Dr. Everson has integrated assistive tech into care plans for clients of all ages. She brings a passion for innovation, universal design, and creative adaptation into her lab sessions. Her teaching encourages students to think outside the box—and build what's missing.

### **MSOT 540: OT Process and Evaluation - Mental Health**

Drawing from her clinical experience in inpatient psychiatry, pediatrics, and school-based mental health, Dr. Everson empowers students to master the evaluation process. She brings a trauma-informed, client-centered lens to every lab and lecture. Her teaching helps students build the clinical reasoning, empathy, and hands-on skills needed to thrive in mental health practice.

### **MSOT 541: OT Process and Evaluation - Mental Health**

With experience leading therapeutic programs in psychiatric hospitals and recovery centers, Dr. Everson helps students learn the art and science of mental health OT. Her approach blends evidence-based strategies with hands-on learning and real client stories.

She equips students to lead with authenticity, confidence, and a deep respect for the people they serve.

#### **MSOT 544: Communities and Populations**

As a program developer and community advocate, Dr. Everson helps students envision OT in schools, shelters, neighborhoods, and beyond. She has created trauma-informed and sensory-based programs for families and communities. Her teaching inspires students to think boldly, act locally, and bring OT to the places it's needed most.

#### **MSOT 552: Culminating Competency & Fieldwork Prep**

Dr. Everson supports students in translating classroom learning into confident clinical action. With years of experience supervising students and collaborating with OTAs, she provides targeted feedback and structured support. Her goal is to help every student feel prepared, capable, and empowered for the transition to fieldwork.



# MSOT 512

## Ethics in OT Practice

### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 1  
Semester 1  
Method: online



### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Whether you're advocating for a client or facing a tough call in practice, ethical reasoning is essential to being a trusted OT. This course gives you the language, tools, and confidence to navigate complex situations with integrity. You'll learn how to align your actions with OT values and advocate for clients in a changing healthcare system.

#### Student Feedback

"I really enjoyed the ethics course because it not only explained what ethics are and the guidelines to follow, but also included real-life scenarios that could play out in various ways, giving us the chance to reason through them and discuss the appropriate actions to take." - AS



### Key Element #1

Learn how to navigate ethical dilemmas using the AOTA Code of Ethics and real-world case examples.



### Key Element #2

Explore how personal values, professional standards, and legal frameworks influence OT decision-making.



### Key Element #3

Build your skills in ethical reasoning and communication through interactive discussions and applied tools.



### Key Element #4

Gain confidence handling challenging conversations with clients, families, and interprofessional teams.

**"Guiding students through tough conversations about integrity, justice, and professional responsibility reminded me daily of the privilege we have as occupational therapists to impact lives with compassion and accountability. I loved watching students grow in their ability to navigate gray areas, find their voice, and anchor their practice in values that will shape them into ethical, reflective, and resilient practitioners."** - Dr. Katie Everson





# MSOT 525

## Assistive Technology in OT

### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 2  
Semester 2  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Get hands-on with low-tech and high-tech tools that enhance independence for people across the lifespan.



### Key Element #2

Learn how to assess, select, and adapt assistive technology to meet client goals in real-world contexts.



### Key Element #3

Design, build, and modify devices in lab experiences that challenge your creativity and clinical reasoning.



### Key Element #4

Explore funding, access, and training strategies to support successful AT use in home, school, and community settings.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Whether you're recommending a reacher or programming a speech-generating device, assistive technology transforms lives. This course helps you think like a problem solver and advocate for accessibility and inclusion. You'll explore how technology can break down barriers to participation and promote occupational justice.

### Student Feedback

This course provided insight into how creative occupational therapy can be, allowing me to learn ways that technology can lead my future clients to independence. - Cara G.

**"Assistive Technology gives students the chance to see how creativity, problem-solving, and compassion come together to empower independence. Every device or adaptation—whether simple or advanced—represents the heart of occupational therapy: enabling people to live fully and meaningfully."- Dr. Katie Everson**



# MSOT 540

## OT Process and Evaluation - Mental Health

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 4  
Semester 4  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Gain hands-on experience with tools used to assess mental health and behavioral conditions in real-world OT practice.



### Key Element #2

Learn how to use both standardized and non-standardized assessments to understand client needs and guide treatment planning.



### Key Element #3

Build skills in writing strong documentation and measurable goals that reflect mental health evaluation findings.



### Key Element #4

Practice delivering client- and family-centered care using occupation-based evaluations across diverse populations.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Whether you're assessing someone in crisis or evaluating strengths in everyday life, OT starts with understanding the whole person. This course builds your confidence to use both standardized tools and therapeutic observation to uncover what truly matters to clients. You'll learn to write meaningful goals and guide treatment with purpose, compassion, and clarity.

### Student Feedback

"This course strengthened my abilities to select appropriate mental health assessments and interventions and understand individuals on a deeper level."

**"Teaching Mental Health Evaluations has been incredibly rewarding because it allows me to watch students connect theory with real human experiences. Supporting them as they learn to administer assessments, interpret results, and truly listen to the person behind the evaluation reminded me why occupational therapy is so impactful. I loved seeing students build confidence in their clinical reasoning while developing empathy, respect, and a deep appreciation for the complexity of mental health." - Dr. Katie Everson**

WHAT  
**STARTS  
HERE**

**CHANGES  
WORLD**



## **MSOT 541**

### **OT Process and Evaluation - Mental Health**

**COURSE SPECS**

**Credits: 5  
Semester 4  
Method: hybrid**



#### **Key Element #1**

Explore evidence-based interventions that support people living with mental and behavioral health conditions.



#### **Key Element #2**

Design and lead occupation-based groups to support individuals, families, and populations in recovery and wellness.



#### **Key Element #3**

Strengthen your therapeutic use of self, communication, and group facilitation skills through interactive lab experiences.



#### **Key Element #4**

Develop and document meaningful outcomes using strategies grounded in OT theory and current mental health research.

#### **Why this Course is important to Real World OT**

Whether you're running a therapeutic group or building a treatment plan, OT interventions help people rebuild their lives. This course teaches you how to lead with empathy, adapt with creativity, and deliver evidence-based care in mental health settings. You'll gain real experience facilitating groups, writing goals, and seeing how OT restores hope and function.

#### **Student Feedback**

This class provided me with education and skills that would be beneficial when working with the aging adult, as well as a student entering fieldwork and as a new and future clinician. -  
Kristen B.

**"Teaching Mental Health Interventions has been such a joy because it brings creativity, connection, and compassion into the classroom. I loved watching students design and lead groups, try out therapeutic activities, and discover how interventions can restore hope, meaning, and resilience. Seeing their confidence grow as they realized the power of occupation in supporting recovery and well-being has been one of the most inspiring parts of my teaching journey." - Dr. Katie Everson**





# MSOT 544

## Communities and Populations

### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 3  
Semester 4  
Method: online



### Key Element #1

Discover how occupational therapy can make a difference in community and population health beyond the clinic walls.



### Key Element #2

Design programs that promote equity, wellness, and occupational justice across diverse settings and populations.



### Key Element #3

Collaborate with community partners and use real-world data to support meaningful systems-level change.



### Key Element #4

Learn how social, cultural, and environmental factors impact participation—and how OTs can lead advocacy efforts for change.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Whether you're creating a wellness program or advocating for underserved groups, OT has the power to shape communities. This course expands your impact beyond one-on-one care and prepares you to lead systemic change. You'll learn to analyze health disparities, build partnerships, and design OT services that promote equity and belonging.

#### Student Feedback

"This course broadened my perspective of OT by focusing on advocacy and inclusion within our community. Overall, I took away that occupational therapy can support whole communities, not just individuals."

**"Teaching Communities and Populations has been one of my favorite experiences because it highlights the heart of occupational therapy—meeting people where they are and creating change on a broader scale. I loved watching students step outside the classroom to engage with real communities, advocate for underserved populations, and design programs that promote equity, wellness, and participation. Seeing them recognize their role not just as future practitioners, but as leaders and changemakers, was truly inspiring." - Dr. Katie Everson**



## MSOT 552

### Culminating Competency & Fieldwork Prep

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 2  
Semester 5  
Method: hybrid



#### Key Element #1

Apply everything you've learned by designing and delivering a real-time, evidence-based intervention for a standardized patient.



#### Key Element #2

Strengthen your ability to communicate, collaborate, and co-treat with OTAs and the interprofessional team.



#### Key Element #3

Practice leading therapeutic groups using occupation as both the means and the outcome of intervention.



#### Key Element #4

Build your readiness for Level II Fieldwork with practical skills in documentation, discharge planning, and clinical reasoning.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

This is your final step before Level II Fieldwork—and your chance to bring everything together. You'll demonstrate your skills in planning, adapting, documenting, and communicating like a real OT. It's a safe space to test, refine, and grow your confidence before entering the field full time.

#### Student Feedback

"Going into the Culminating Competency, I felt very nervous that I wouldn't know a lot of information, but I felt like I knew more information than I thought I did. I think it's just a matter of being more confident in myself as well as having more practice and information on fieldwork."

**"Designing the culminating competency and bootcamp was a fun opportunity for all faculty to work together to create a space where students could pull everything together, challenge themselves, and step confidently into their fieldwork experiences fully prepared." -**

**Dr. Katie Everson**





Dr. Nicole LaRue

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### **MSOT 515: Occupation-Based Kinesiology**

Dr. Nicole LaRue, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, brings almost two decades of clinical experience in adult rehabilitation and neuromuscular conditions. She integrates her expertise in biomechanics and practical assessment into a lab-rich teaching style. Her passion lies in helping students translate movement science into real-world occupational therapy scenarios. Dr. LaRue emphasizes clinical reasoning and client-centered analysis of movement.

### **MSOT 516: Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice and Research**

Dr. Nicole LaRue, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, is an experienced educator and researcher in occupational therapy. She guides students through the complexities of clinical research with clarity and relevance. Dr. LaRue emphasizes research as a tool to support clinical decisions and improve client outcomes. She fosters a learning environment where curiosity and evidence-based thinking drive future innovation in OT.

### **MSOT 526: Research Data Analysis and Dissemination**

Dr. Nicole LaRue, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT, is passionate about helping students become contributors to the evidence base of occupational therapy. With experience in qualitative inquiry and translational research, she helps students understand not only how to analyze data but also how to communicate findings effectively. Dr. LaRue fosters academic writing and presentation skills that prepare students for conferences and publication.

### **MSOT 530: Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation: Physical Disabilities**

Dr. Nicole LaRue, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT draws on extensive experience in acute and outpatient rehabilitation to teach real-world evaluation strategies. She is known for helping students connect textbook learning to complex client scenarios. Dr. LaRue integrates

simulation, technology, and hands-on learning to build assessment confidence. Her mentorship emphasizes accuracy, critical thinking, and professional communication.

### **MSOT 531: Occupational Therapy Intervention: Physical Disabilities**

Dr. Nicole LaRue, OTD, OTR/L, is a certified NDT practitioner with years of experience designing interventions for adults with complex physical needs. She brings expertise in PAMS, neurorehabilitation, and interdisciplinary care models. Dr. LaRue's teaching is grounded in occupation-centered, evidence-informed practice. Her labs emphasize creativity, adaptability, and clinical excellence, giving students confidence to lead in diverse practice environments.

### **MSOT 536: Capstone**

Dr. Nicole LaRue, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT has led community-based OT programming and interdisciplinary outreach projects throughout her career. Her expertise in instructional design and health literacy informs her teaching, helping students develop materials that truly meet the needs of their audiences. She supports student creativity while grounding their projects in evidence and OT theory. Dr. LaRue emphasizes practical impact and professional growth.



## MSOT 515

### Occupation-Based Kinesiology

#### COURSE SPECS

**Credits: 3**  
**Semester 1**  
**Method: hybrid**



#### Key Element #1

Students learn to analyze movement using principles of kinesiology, biomechanics, and motor learning with an OT lens.



#### Key Element #2

Skill development includes goniometry and manual muscle testing through simulation and practical exams.



#### Key Element #3

Assignments focus on applying theoretical knowledge to assess occupational performance and modify interventions.



#### Key Element #4

Students gain hands-on experience with upper and lower extremity assessments, muscle identification, and functional movement analysis.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Understanding body mechanics is fundamental to evaluating and improving functional movement in occupational therapy. This course bridges theory with hands-on practice, ensuring students gain the technical competencies required in clinical assessments. Mastery of these skills helps OTs accurately identify movement limitations and tailor interventions that support occupational performance. It also sets the groundwork for orthopedic and neurologic rehabilitation strategies.

#### Student Feedback

I really enjoyed how hands-on it was and how the professors accommodated to our learning styles to help understand the human body.

**Kinesiology is one of my passions—I love exploring how the body moves and how that movement relates to function. Helping students master skills like goniometry, ROM, and MMT while connecting them back to occupation is deeply rewarding. It's exciting to see them realize biomechanics is not just about movement, but about meaningful participation in life.**



# MSOT 516

## Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice and Research

### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 3  
Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Students are introduced to research design, evidence appraisal, and ethical research principles applicable to OT.



### Key Element #2

The course explores both qualitative and quantitative methods, with a focus on developing scholarly reasoning.



### Key Element #3

Assignments include CITI training, PICO question development, annotated bibliographies, and literature reviews.



### Key Element #4

Students engage in both group and individual projects to synthesize literature and translate research into practice.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

This course builds the foundation for evidence-based practice—a core responsibility of any OT practitioner. It prepares students to analyze and apply research findings to clinical decision-making. With the field of OT increasingly focused on outcomes and accountability, the ability to critically appraise literature is essential. Students also learn how to ethically conduct research and contribute to the profession's evolving knowledge base.

### Student Feedback

This class really helped me understand how to read and apply research articles in a practical way. I feel more confident in backing up my clinical reasoning with evidence.

**This course is students' first introduction to research, and I enjoy making it a true building-block experience. I love showing them how evidence directly impacts decision-making and client care. It's exciting to spark those "aha" moments when evidence-based practice becomes real and relevant.**





# MSOT 526

## Research Data Analysis and Dissemination

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 3  
Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Students apply statistical and coding strategies to both qualitative and quantitative research data in occupational therapy.



### Key Element #2

Emphasis is placed on scholarly writing, including how to structure and format the methods, results, discussion, and conclusion sections of a research report.



### Key Element #3

Students critically examine how research data is interpreted and shared within OT and interdisciplinary contexts.



### Key Element #4

The course culminates in a complete research manuscript and formal presentation preparation to support dissemination.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Disseminating research is vital for advancing the OT profession and ensuring clinical practices remain evidence-informed. This course bridges the gap between data collection and publication, giving students real-world skills in scholarly communication. It builds confidence in using data to support decision-making and policy development. Students also gain insight into how OT research influences practice trends and service delivery models.

#### Student Feedback

This course made statistics feel approachable and showed me how important data is for supporting OT practice. I now feel prepared to share findings with both clients and colleagues.

**Research is hard—there's no denying that—but I enjoy encouraging students to push through the challenges. Watching them thrive, expand their horizons, and grow into contributors to OT scholarship is one of the most fulfilling parts of my teaching. It's inspiring to see their confidence grow as they analyze and present data.**





# MSOT 530

## Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation: Physical Disabilities

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 3  
Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Students use standardized and non-standardized assessments to evaluate occupational performance in adults with physical disabilities.



### Key Element #2

Clinical reasoning is developed through observation, interview, and testing to form occupational profiles and identify needs.



### Key Element #3

Instruction includes performance skills, performance patterns, and client factors impacting engagement.



### Key Element #4

Students learn documentation practices, problem list development, and outcome measure selection.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

This course provides the core skills for evaluating adults with physical dysfunction—one of the most common populations OTs serve. Students learn how to interpret assessments and link findings to functional goals. Accurate evaluation is critical for creating targeted interventions and for communicating effectively with healthcare teams. It also prepares students to justify services and align with reimbursement standards.

### Student Feedback

This class gave me the foundation I needed to complete evaluations in physical rehab settings. I learned how to gather the right information quickly to support safe and effective treatment.

**Physical disabilities is my jam! I love teaching about diagnoses and watching the light bulbs come on when students realize, “This is how I assess that—and this is where I go with it.” Helping them integrate performance patterns, client factors, and contexts into evaluation highlights the art and science of OT.**



# MSOT 531

## Occupational Therapy Intervention: Physical Disabilities

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 3  
Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Students learn to design and implement interventions using frames of reference across settings like acute care, rehab, home health, and outpatient.



### Key Element #2

Emphasis is placed on evidence-based treatment planning, grading activities, adapting environments, and using assistive technologies.



### Key Element #3

Students participate in simulated client encounters and real-world collaborations to support discharge planning and interprofessional care.



### Key Element #4

Skills addressed include PAMS, functional mobility, ADLs, therapeutic use of self, and interventions for dysphagia and prosthetics.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

This is the capstone intervention course for physical disabilities, bringing together all prior coursework to develop real-world treatment plans. Students practice clinical reasoning through simulated and collaborative activities, preparing them for Level II fieldwork. The course emphasizes holistic and ethical care through use of assistive technology, adaptation strategies, and discharge planning. It promotes a strong understanding of OT's role across settings and disciplines.

### Student Feedback

I gained so many hands-on treatment strategies from this class. It taught me how to turn evaluation findings into meaningful interventions for clients.

**I love teaching treatment because it's where students begin to see the heart of OT practice. Helping them plan interventions, apply clinical reasoning, and use their OT skills shows how rewarding treatment can be. It's exciting to guide them in connecting theory and practice through evidence-based approaches.**



## MSOT 536

### Capstone

#### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 3  
Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



#### Key Element #1

Students design evidence-based educational materials and activities for a selected population, incorporating health literacy principles.



#### Key Element #2

Emphasis is placed on instructional design theory, outcome evaluation, and reflection.



#### Key Element #3

Assignments include a professional CEU course, an educational handout, and a real-world interactive teaching session with community partners.



#### Key Element #4

Students prepare a professional poster and deliver a final presentation to community members and peers.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

This course helps students translate research into practical, accessible tools that educate clients, caregivers, and communities. It strengthens professional communication, instructional skills, and reflective practice. The focus on health literacy ensures OT materials are inclusive and effective for diverse populations. It prepares students to be leaders in community education, advocacy, and client empowerment.

#### Student Feedback

Capstone allowed me to dive into a topic I am passionate about and really develop my professional identity. It showed me I can contribute something unique to the field of OT.

**I enjoy setting the standard for how to teach, design, and assess—skills that are essential to the OT process. This course allows students to bring together evidence, instructional design, and reflection while creating projects with real-world impact. Mentoring them through this journey is always inspiring.**





## MSOT 545

### Occupation-Based Kinesiology

#### COURSE SPECS

**Credits: 3**  
**Semester 1**  
**Method: hybrid**



#### Key Element #1

Students learn to analyze movement using principles of kinesiology, biomechanics, and motor learning with an OT lens.



#### Key Element #2

Skill development includes goniometry and manual muscle testing through simulation and practical exams.



#### Key Element #3

Assignments focus on applying theoretical knowledge to assess occupational performance and modify interventions.



#### Key Element #4

Students gain hands-on experience with upper and lower extremity assessments, muscle identification, and functional movement analysis.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Understanding body mechanics is fundamental to evaluating and improving functional movement in occupational therapy. This course bridges theory with hands-on practice, ensuring students gain the technical competencies required in clinical assessments. Mastery of these skills helps OTs accurately identify movement limitations and tailor interventions that support occupational performance.

#### Student Feedback

This was one of the most inspiring courses. It challenged me to think outside the box and see myself as a leader who can bring new ideas and programs to the profession.

**This class has even inspired me personally to push my own ideas into fruition. I love helping students explore how their degree can take them beyond the clinic and into leadership, advocacy, and entrepreneurship. Guiding them to imagine new models of service delivery and innovative programming is energizing.**



Katie Ballard

Assistant Professor

Fieldwork Educator Coordinator

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### **MSOT 510: Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation**

Professor Katie Ballard brings over a decade of clinical experience and a passion for teaching to the OT Process and Evaluation course. Known for making complex concepts clear and engaging, she helps students build confidence in clinical reasoning and client-centered care. Her practical, inspiring approach makes her the perfect guide for this foundational journey.

### **MSOT 514: Introduction to Practice Settings**

Professor Katie Ballard brings her passion for occupational therapy to life in this course on Practice Settings and Skills. She is devoted to preparing students to thrive in real-world practice, and this asynchronous course does just that. Drawing inspiration from the course text, she bridges theory and practice to help students see how the principles they study come alive. Her mission is to empower students to confidently navigate diverse practice environments while building a strong foundation.

### **MSOT 520: OT Process and Evaluation- Pediatrics**

With over a decade of experience as a pediatric Occupational Therapist, Professor Katie Ballard has worked with infants, toddlers, children, adolescents, and young adults. She's especially passionate about partnering with families to support early identification of developmental, neurological, and genetic disorders. In the classroom, she brings her real-world experience to life - offering students hands-on learning opportunities as well as meaningful insights from extraordinary families!



### **MSOT 521: OT Intervention Class & Lab – Pediatrics**

Professor Katie Ballard has dedicated her career to supporting children and families through every stage of development. She is especially passionate about empowering families as they navigate diagnoses and treatment. In the classroom, she brings pediatric intervention to life by combining hands-on, skill-building experiences with real-world stories and insights, helping students cultivate both clinical competence and compassionate, family-centered care.

### **MSOT 522, 532 & 542: Level I Fieldwork: Pediatrics, Physical Disabilities & Mental Health**

As the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Professor Katie Ballard is passionate about bridging the gap between classroom learning and clinical practice. She partners with fieldwork sites and educators to create meaningful, high-quality learning experiences for students. Professor Ballard carefully matches students to Level I placements that foster professional growth, clinical reasoning, and confidence in client-centered care. Her goal is to ensure that each student enters the field prepared to succeed while building strong, collaborative relationships with community partners.

### **MSOT 550 & 560: Level II Fieldwork A & B**

As the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, Professor Katie Ballard is passionate about bridging the gap between classroom learning and clinical practice. On Level II fieldwork, students experience what it's like to work full-time in OT practice. Professor Ballard thoughtfully matches students to Level II placements to provide high-quality learning experiences. Her goal is to ensure students are ready to enter real-world practice at the end of each Level II.



## MSOT 510

### Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 4  
Sequence: Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



#### Key Element #1

In OT Process and Evaluation, you'll get a practical look at how occupational therapists think and work through the OT process - starting with getting to know the client through the occupational profile.



#### Key Element #2

You'll build your critical thinking skills as you learn how to choose and use different evaluation tools, both standardized and non-standardized.



#### Key Element #3

We'll talk about what these tools measure, why they matter, and how they help us understand a person's abilities, challenges, and what's going on behind the scenes.



#### Key Element #4

By the end of this course, you will learn how to put the OT process into action in a meaningful way.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Beyond it being a requirement for the MSOT degree, this course lays the foundation for the Occupational Therapy process. Through this course students will learn essential concepts for evaluation including building an occupational profile. This underlying skill is so beneficial to future practice!

#### Student Feedback

"This class gave me a better understanding of the process of an occupational therapy evaluation in multiple clinical settings." - Jordan K.

**Katie B loves that this course introduces the student to the OT process, but also that it introduces her to the students!**



# MSOT 514

## Introduction to Practice Settings

**COURSE SPECS**  
Credits: 1  
Sequence: Semester 1  
Method: hybrid



### Key Element #1

Students are introduced to various contexts where occupational therapy occurs.



### Key Element #2

The focus is on communication skills needed for intraprofessional and interprofessional teamwork.



### Key Element #3

Topics include the therapeutic relationship and therapeutic use of self, professional communication, safety concerns for self and others, and understanding the role of various professions in healthcare and community-based teams.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Communication with clients is key to their recovery, but so is communicating with and understanding roles of other professionals and coworkers. Here, the students learn those important skills.

### Student Feedback

"This class helped me to understand the diverse settings we serve in and the foundational skills needed to become a part of someone's healing journey."

- McKalah H

**The book for this course is interesting as it brings to life emerging practice settings!**



## MSOT 520

### OT Process and Evaluation- Pediatrics

COURSE SPECS

Credits: 5  
Sequence: Semester 2  
Method: hybrid



#### Key Element #1

Prepares your OT skills for work with infants, toddlers, children, and teens!



#### Key Element #2

Builds on previous learning and dives deeper into how to identify and support the unique occupational needs of children and adolescents.



#### Key Element #3

Hands-on experience using both standardized and non-standardized assessments, with a focus on providing family-centered care that really makes a difference.



#### Key Element #4

Explore how to assess childhood occupations like play, self-care, social participation, and leisure - basically, everything that makes childhood meaningful!

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

This course is where everything you've learned so far starts to come to life in the world of pediatric OT. You'll build on the foundation from last semester and start to see how the OT process applies specifically to working with children and adolescents. It's your chance to connect the dots, sharpen your evaluation skills, and learn how to truly understand and support the needs of younger clients and their families.

#### Student Feedback

““From this class I learned the specifics of how an evaluation is done and assessments are performed in pediatric settings.”

- Jordan K.

**Katie B loves educating others on  
the importance of early evaluation!**





# MSOT 521

## OT Intervention Class & Lab - Pediatrics

### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 4

Sequence: Semester 2

Method: in-house/hybrid



### Key Element #1

Students explore models and frames of reference used in pediatric settings.



### Key Element #2

Students explore models and frames of reference used in pediatric settings.



### Key Element #3

Students explore models and frames of reference used in pediatric settings.



### Key Element #4

Documentation of the occupational therapy process and discharge planning is emphasized.

### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

Through knowledge gained from pediatric evaluation, students translate what they've learned in this pediatric intervention course by developing evidence-based interventions as well as applying interventions through hands-on experience to prepare them for real-world practice!

### Student Feedback

"This class taught me how to look through the lens of a pediatric occupational therapist when picking interventions to implement during a treatment session."

- JK

**Pediatric interventions are  
the best - it looks like play!**





## MSOT 522, 532 & 542

### Level I Fieldwork: Pediatrics, Physical Disabilities & Mental Health

#### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 1 each  
Sequence: Semester 2, 3, 4  
Method: in-house/hybrid



### What Students are Saying

- Level I FW has given me a hands-on education as to what working as an occupational therapist entails.
- Level I FW helped me feel more comfortable using assessment tools. I learned how to recognize strengths and challenges as well as how to choose the right tools to guide treatment.
- I really enjoyed learning how to develop creative strategies for intervention, making OT fun and engaging while still focusing on important goals.

#### Why this Course is important to Real World OT

The Level I fieldwork experiences are completed in pediatric, physical disability, and mental health practice settings.

Through fieldwork students engage in the OT process to identify client needs, select assessments, develop goals, and plan evidence-based interventions.

#### Key Elements of FW

**\*\*Students experience real-world occupational therapy alongside their current coursework.**

**\*\*Various practice settings including hospital, home health, school-based, outpatient, and more!**

**\*\*Guidelines for documentation, reimbursement, ethics, and liability are included.**

**Our professors have a passion for OT like no other! Each one is thrilled for students to embark on their first Level I FW experience in their preferred area of practice!**



## MSOT 550 & 560

### Level II Fieldwork A & B

#### COURSE SPECS

Credits: 12 each

Sequence: Semester 2 & 3

Method: clinical



#### Key Element #1

On Level II fieldwork students embark on full-time practice for 24 weeks total.



#### Key Element #2

On Level II fieldwork students embark on full-time practice for 24 weeks total.



#### Key Element #3

Students get a chance to apply the knowledge and clinical skills they've learned to real life practice!



#### Key Element #4

By the end of one 12-week rotation, students should be entry-level practitioners at that fieldwork site.

#### Why these Courses are important to Real World OT

Students apply occupational therapy concepts and the occupational therapy process including evaluation, intervention, and outcome measurement in varying fieldwork settings. This is a comprehensive, hands-on experience designed to provide students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge and clinical skills in real-world settings. This course builds upon foundational coursework and previous fieldwork experiences.

#### Student Feedback

Level II FW brought everything together for me. It gave me the chance to apply what I've learned to more complex cases and made me feel prepared for real-world pediatric practice!-CG

Seeing students digest, expand, and fall in love with occupational therapy practice brings excitement to the Level II experience!