

# BE THE FUTURE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



WESTERN NEW ENGLAND  
UNIVERSITY



# CHANGE LIVES—START WITH YOURS.

Occupational therapy is evolving in exciting ways—and you can lead that change. Today's focus on team-based healthcare enables practitioners to place the client at the center of the interprofessional therapeutic team. With a Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) degree from Western New England University, you can become a transformative leader in this rewarding and growing field. If you aspire to make a higher degree of impact, earn the profession's highest degree.



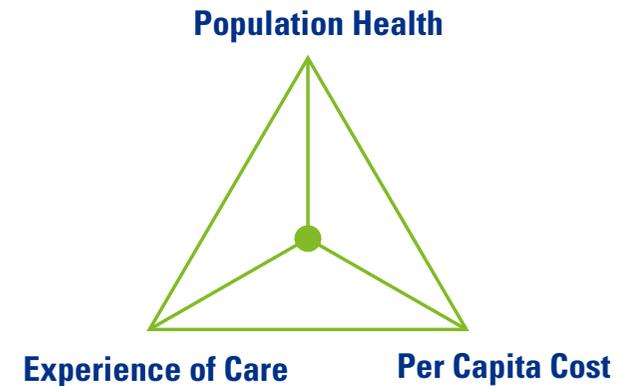


## LEARN MORE THROUGH IMMERSIVE, INTEGRATED FIELDWORK

Our OTD program is completed in three years, over 9 consecutive semesters (including summers). Admission to the program is available to students with a completed baccalaureate degree. The curriculum consists of classroom instruction, laboratory simulation, and weekly field experiences in practice settings that are aligned with course content. These preliminary Level I Fieldwork opportunities prepare students for the more advanced post-coursework Level II Fieldwork experiences (24 weeks), and the scholarly 14-week Doctoral Experiential capstone.

Western New England University's OTD program is the first entry-level doctoral program to be implemented and accredited in western Massachusetts. The curriculum design promotes advanced knowledge beyond generalist practice, including evidence-driven clinical practices and policy perspectives on population health promotion, cost-containment, and outcomes-driven management.

## The IHI Triple Aim





## A FOCUS ON DISCOVERY-DRIVEN LEARNING

What if your learning was planned so that you attended engaging classes and hands-on simulation laboratories on one day, and then were supervised to apply that knowledge in a real-time clinical setting on the next day? The OTD program's integrated curriculum design does just that.

During the first two years of the program, course and clinical lab content are seamlessly blended into weekly Level I Fieldwork experiences. This level of fieldwork permits you to explore and advance clinical reasoning skills in both traditional and community-based settings. Under the direction of clinical faculty who model interprofessional practice, you will be exposed to a range of populations, cultures, and human abilities/disabilities in diverse practice environments.

During the third year of the program, you will participate in two separate 12-week, on-site Level II Fieldwork experiences designed to fully prepare you to become an entry-level practitioner. The OTD program works collaboratively with designated healthcare sites to set objectives and design experiences that enhance your readiness for practice in that type of practice delivery setting.

The Doctoral Experiential (DEx) is a capstone project that takes place in the final semester and includes a 14-week customized community experience and scholarly project. The DEx consists of a series of foundational knowledge and mentorship courses that prepare you to self-direct an experiential and scholarly project that is framed around the concepts of leadership, transformative learning, and interprofessional education/practice. This culminating experience fosters advanced critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills that include the assessment of needs; management of resources; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; and the delivery of a site-specific outcome.

35

Students per Cohort

1:8

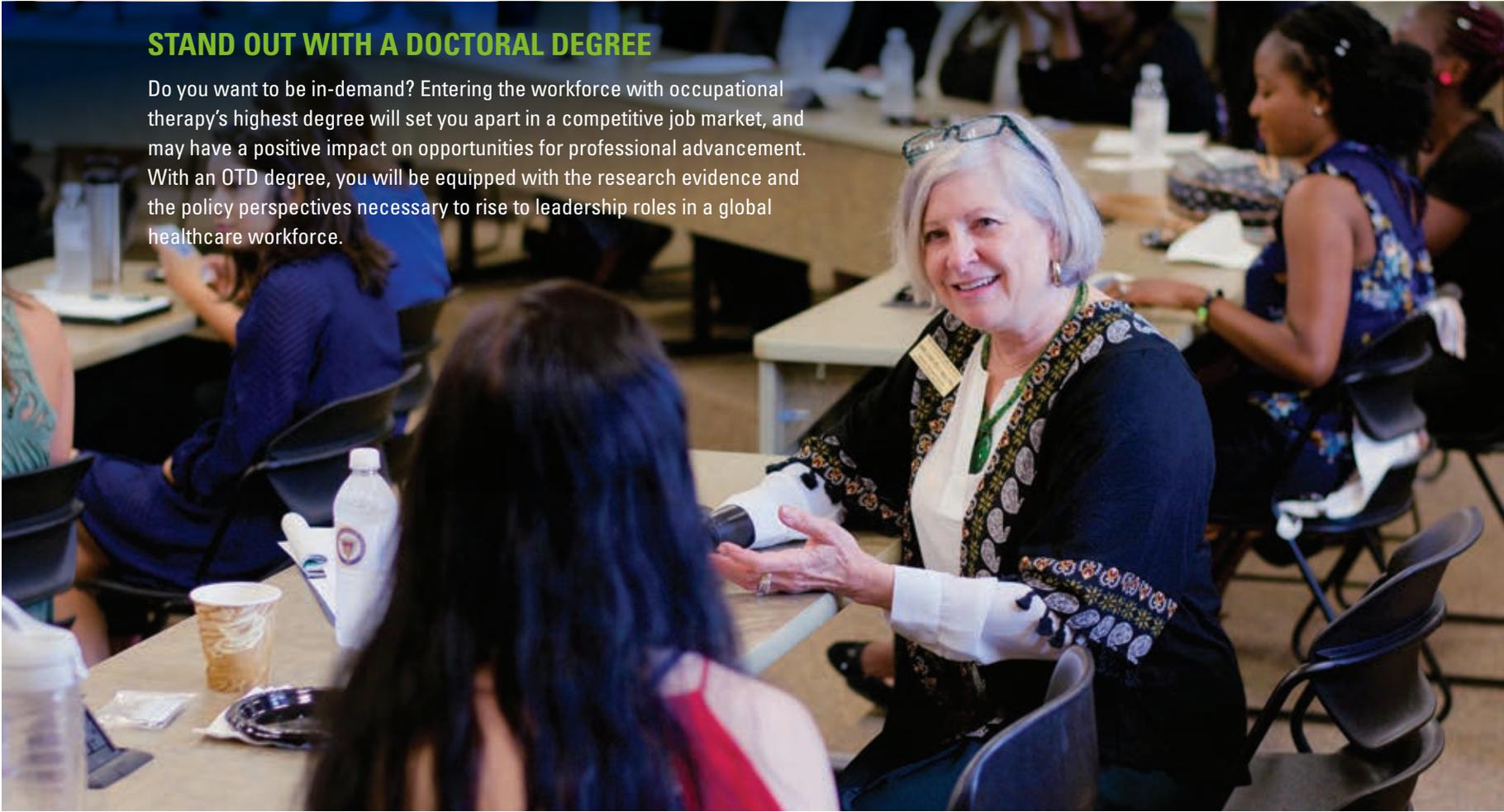
Faculty-to-Student Ratio  
in Clinical Labs

1:5

Faculty-to-Student Ratio in  
Doctoral Experiential Projects

## STAND OUT WITH A DOCTORAL DEGREE

Do you want to be in-demand? Entering the workforce with occupational therapy's highest degree will set you apart in a competitive job market, and may have a positive impact on opportunities for professional advancement. With an OTD degree, you will be equipped with the research evidence and the policy perspectives necessary to rise to leadership roles in a global healthcare workforce.





## LEARN FROM OUR EXPERT FACULTY PRACTITIONER SCHOLARS

Our outstanding faculty will take a personal interest in you and your career goals. Through their experience as practitioners, scholars, innovators, entrepreneurs, and as members of professional organizations, they serve as excellent examples from which to model your own career trajectory.

- Our leadership team has extensive academic, clinical, administrative, and accreditation experience.
- The OTD faculty team has wide-ranging academic expertise and clinical experience, including acute and sub-acute inpatient services; acute and community-based mental health care; outpatient rehabilitation; school-based practice; early intervention; and long-term residential care.
- All faculty members have advanced professional education and doctoral degrees (e.g. Ph.D., Ed.D, OTD ).



- Individual faculty members also have advanced knowledge or hold specialty credentials in such specialties as Upper Extremity Orthotics and Prosthetics, Dementia Care, Hand Therapy, Driving Simulation and Community Mobility, and School-based Practice.
- Faculty scholarship includes peer reviewed book chapters, journal articles, case studies, poster presentations, lectures, and workshops. Examples of faculty scholarship includes, but is not limited to:
  1. Telehealth for Adults with Upper Limb Difference
  2. Caregiver Concerns in Alzheimer’s Disease
  3. The Role of Occupational Therapy in Primary Care
  4. Driving Assessment/Simulation in Older Populations
  5. Technology Applications for Self-monitoring
  6. Social-Emotional Learning in School-aged Children
  7. Functional Assessment of Children with Autism
  8. Modalities in Upper Extremity Intervention

## **TECHNOLOGY TO LEAD TOMORROW**

Western New England University has made major investments in creating state-of-the-art facilities for the OTD program. In three custom designed and equipped performance laboratories that simulate the look and feel of practice settings, you will develop competencies in assessment, intervention, and the use of assistive technology to prepare you for practice.

Labs are equipped for computer-based course delivery that can be viewed from multiple 80” display screens. Students utilize program-issued tablets to maximize active learning opportunities. To continue learning after classes end, these tablets are available for on-demand review of power-point slides or listening to lectures (voice lecture-capture technology), and for reviewing laboratory simulations in preparation for laboratory practica (video-recording technology).





## PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION LABS

Our three clinical laboratories and off-campus Health and Wellness House permit students to experience occupational therapy practice for children and youth and the adult and aging populations. Each of the performance and participation labs are specifically designed to provide applied learning opportunities in realistic environments that simulate hospital rooms, pediatric settings, outpatient rehabilitation centers, nursing facilities, and community-based agencies.

Simulated practice settings allow you to administer evaluation protocols and practice interventions with clients who would typically seek treatment in those settings. In the Adult and Aging Labs, the health conditions and diseases that might be simulated include upper extremity fractures, multiple sclerosis, hip replacements, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, arthritis, neurocognitive disorders, and many more.



In the Children and Youth Performance Laboratory, you will learn to assess and provide interventions for infants and children with congenital, genetic, and acquired health conditions including limb differences, autism, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and intellectual and learning disabilities, among others.

Regardless of the population being studied, you will learn to use a client-centered approach and to select assessment tools, and identify evidence-based intervention methods. You will experience what it is like to:

- measure impairments in posture, balance, joint range of motion, sensation, cognition, visual-perception, etc.
- develop interventions to reduce deficits in daily functional use including driving, dressing, cooking, shopping, computer use, etc.
- collect data on barriers to performing life roles and participating in home, work, play, and social/cultural activities
- provide strategies and adaptive devices to assist task completion in hygiene, home maintenance, work performance, play, leisure activities, etc.
- monitor and manage post-operative wound care
- evaluate the environment and set goals for classroom participation for children in wheelchairs
- choose and apply appropriate thermal or electrical modalities to support a return to work
- assess feeding/eating and provide parental support for at-risk infants and young children
- select and fabricate splints to mobilize the fingers/hand/wrist
- observe balance and develop planning to support safe community mobility in the well elderly population





## A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN AND LIVE

On-campus housing is available for graduate students at the Gateway Village apartment complex. The capacity of an apartment varies from one to three residents with private bedrooms. Students also have access to an array of dining options at the new University Commons and the amenities of the Alumni Healthful Living Center. A variety of off-campus housing options are available in the area.

Western New England University offers you a beautiful campus in an ideal location. We have invested more than \$90 million in facilities since 2011 and have been ranked #11 in the Top 30 Most Beautiful campuses to visit in the fall by [onlineschoolscenter.com](http://onlineschoolscenter.com).

Springfield is centrally located at “The Crossroads of New England,” giving you educational, historical, cultural, and fun places to explore. These include the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum, a thriving downtown entertainment district highlighted by MGM Springfield, the MassMutual Center and Symphony Hall, and nearby artsy towns of Northampton and Amherst, MA. Our campus is an easy drive to Hartford, Boston, New York City, and New England’s endless beaches and mountains. The region is served by Springfield/Hartford Bradley International Airport, Logan Airport in Boston, and Amtrak and buses at Springfield’s Union Station.

Western New England University is renowned for its sense of community and student support. As an OTD student, you can participate in the University’s chapter of the Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA), and the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity chapter (COTAD). In addition, there are a wide variety of activities on campus and serving the local community through the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.



# READY TO APPLY?

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Visit [wne.edu/otd](http://wne.edu/otd) to learn more about applying to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program and our admissions process, requirements, and deadlines. To apply for Fall, candidates may submit an application for admission via the OTCAS Application (available via [wne.edu/otd](http://wne.edu/otd)). The comprehensive learner-centered educational program fosters critical thinking skills; embraces professionalism; and instills a commitment to lifelong learning, community service, and leadership.

## CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

Graduates of the OTD 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 graduate will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In addition, most states have licensure laws requiring OTs and OTAs to be licensed in order to practice (a few have certification or registration by state agencies). 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.

## ACCREDITATION

In December, 2019, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) voted to Grant the OTD Program accreditation for the maximum length of time through academic year 2026/2027, for having achieved full compliance with the academic standards.

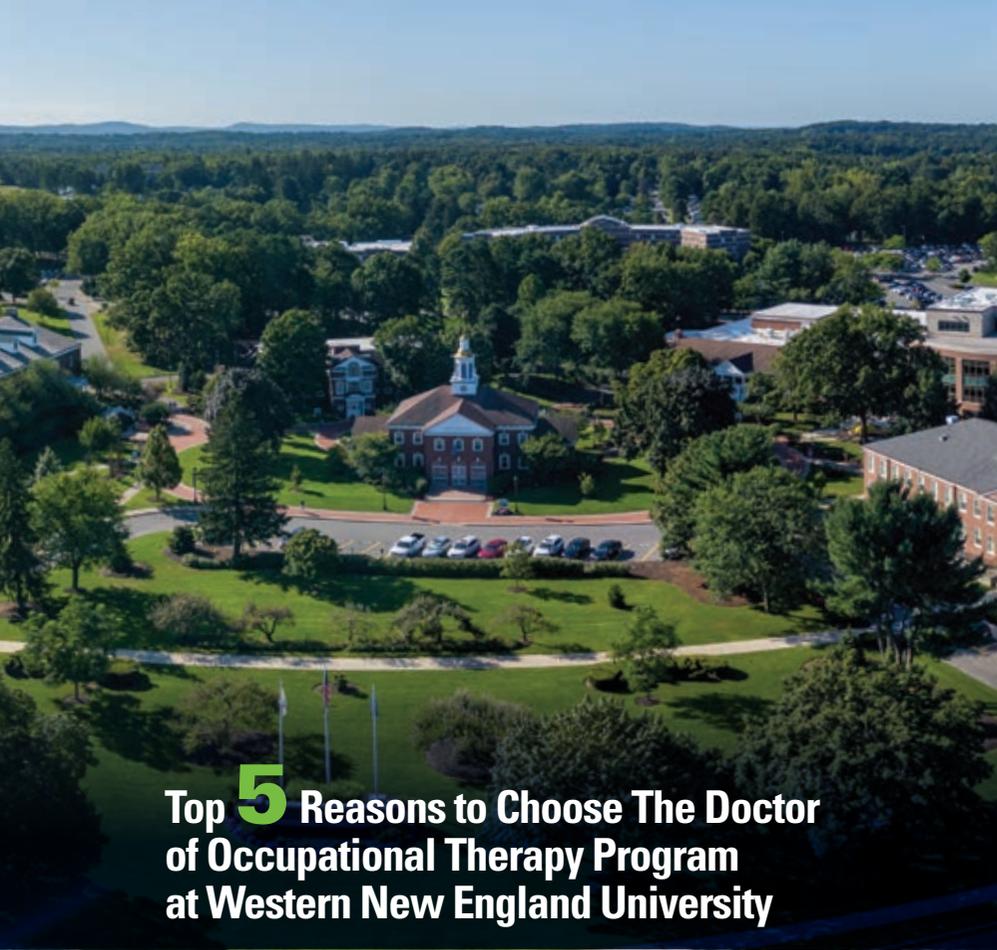
The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org).



## TAKE THE NEXT STEP

To learn more about the program, call 413-796-2113 to speak to an admissions representative or email [otdadmissions@wne.edu](mailto:otdadmissions@wne.edu).

[wne.edu/otd](http://wne.edu/otd)



## Top **5** Reasons to Choose The Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program at Western New England University

1. Earn a doctoral degree and save time and tuition
2. Be an in-demand leader in a competitive job market
3. Learn from expert faculty with doctoral degrees
4. Gain in-depth knowledge and expanded fieldwork
5. Customize your doctoral experiential project.

Office of Admissions  
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Western New England University  
1215 Wilbraham Road  
Springfield, MA 01119-2684

### VISITING THE CAMPUS

This publication cannot take the place of a personal visit. We invite you to join us on campus and meet with our faculty and administrators. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, tour our facilities, and get a sense of what makes us a special institution.

**TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [WNE.EDU/OTD](https://www.wne.edu/otd).**

Western New England University is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. The University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, genetics, or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Assistant Vice President and Director of Human Resources, Western New England University, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119-2684. Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, J.W. McCormack P.O.C.H., Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.