Occupational Therapy Education:

Past, Present, and the Very Near Future!
Vision 2025

Occupational therapy maximizes health, well-being, and quality of life for all people, populations, and communities through effective solutions that facilitate participation in everyday living.
The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®), which has independent authority to set standards for the profession’s education programs, took action at its recent August 3–6, 2017, meeting to mandate to move the entry-level degree for the occupational therapist to the doctoral level by 2027.
By 2017 ACOTE has seen continued growth in doctoral level occupational therapy with 65 programs in existence representing over 25% of the programs, and many more programs have been attending workshops and working with consultants preparing to make the transition in the next few years. Most of this growth has been seen in the last 2 years. At this rate, it is expected that 45% to 50% of the programs will have doctoral students in the pipeline within the next 3 years. It was noted that a number of programs have identified a need to move to a doctorate but are prevented from doing so without a mandated requirement.
ACOTE also took action to mandate the entry level degree for the occupational therapy assistant at the baccalaureate level by 2027. This move will appropriately adjust the differentiation in education and identifies a single point of entry into the profession, leading to more well-defined roles for the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant.
New Proposed Standards for OTD:

- Designated Capstone Coordinator
- 50% of Full Time Faculty must have a Research Doctorate
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Interprofessional Team Dynamics
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Develop and Evaluate the Business aspects of Practice
- Demonstrate an understanding of and apply the principles of scholarship of teaching and learning for work in an academic setting
- Create grant proposals or contracts to support scholarly activities/program development
- 80 Hours of Level I Fieldwork
- Doctoral Capstone Requirements- Development with faculty/includes relevant & current evidence to support/14 weeks/Dissemination to demonstrate synthesis of advanced knowledge.
Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)

- Michigan’s first entry level OTD
- Interprofessional education opportunities
- Learner-Centered Teaching Approach
- Partnership Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor
- Doctoral Capstone in a variety of settings

Questions?
Nancy Vandewiele Milligan PhD, OTRL, FAOTA
(810) 424-5390
nanmili@umflint.edu
Collaborative Partnerships

- Level I Fieldwork Change - ACOTE Proposal to have Standardized Patients, Patient Simulation, and Faculty/CI Small group Case Studies
- Interprofessional Collaborations - PT HEART - Pro Bono Student Run Clinic at North East Soup Kitchen
- LEO Lectures - LAB Instructors
- Doctoral Experiential Component - Capstone Project
The capstone project includes an in-depth experience and project in one of the following areas:

- Leadership
- Program and Policy Development
- Research Skills
- Theory Development
- Administration
- Advocacy
- Clinical Practice Skills
The Canyon in OT Education
The Canyon in OT Education

- What do you see overall?

- Who are the Leaders? What do you think the Leaders see?

- Who are the Managers? What do you think the Managers see?

- Who are the Doers? What do you think the Doers see?

- Look at the Tornado, what are the forces that are causing the tornado?

- Have the Canyons always existed?

- What are the causes of the Divide?

- What can we do to build bridges over these canyons?