Assessment Plan

Department of Occupational Therapy
Graduate College
Kean University

Mission:
Our mission is to provide a rigorous, quality professional education based on a firm foundation in both liberal arts and the sciences. This education benefits the community threefold expanding the number of qualified occupational therapists state-wide, improving the delivery of quality health care in all practice domains, and developing occupational therapists that are sensitive to and reflective of current industry needs.

The multicultural environment at Kean and throughout the state demands the recruitment of a diverse group of qualified students for this program. This sensitivity will afford students the opportunity to learn and practice within a diverse environment reflective of the local community. As the program is dedicated to the intellectual, cultural, personal, and professional growth of each student, the student-to-faculty ratio remains low to afford students the opportunity for individual attention.

The program is enriched by the varied clinical interests and background of its faculty, which provides the necessary background for developing entry-level occupational therapists. The faculty is committed to providing educational experience that fosters the development of competent, self-directed professionals who will serve as active members of their communities. To best prepare students for their roles as professionals, faculty draw from experiences in established, as well as emerging practice settings, while providing experiential learning for development of skills in the areas of professional development, clinical practice, technology, and research.

The occupational therapy program is committed to an ongoing collaboration with the local, national, and international occupational therapy community. These collaborations are an essential mechanism for assisting our students to acclimate to the realities of the clinical world, as well as to develop the skills necessary to provide quality health care in a diverse and advancing community. Community partners include:

- Clinical faculty and staff of Kean University and neighboring institutions
- Local and regional agencies that provide health care services to individuals, groups, and families
- State organizations, such as the New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association
- National organizations, such as the American Occupational Therapy Association
- International Organizations, such as the World Federation of Occupational Therapists
Assessment Process:

The curriculum is divided into four stages. The first stage, The Basics, consists of the pre-professional level of the program. The last three, Foundations of Occupational Therapy, the Bridge from Theory to Practice, and Practice, comprise the professional level of education. All courses in the program are developed from the essential standards as determined by our accrediting body (ACOTE). Assessment occurs throughout all phases of the professional program from a variety of methods (examination, group presentation, group projects, level 1 assessment, level 2 fieldwork assessment etc). Students must also maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average while in the program. Upon graduation, students must pass the NBCOT examination to become a registered occupational therapist.

Pre-professional Level

1. The Basics
The goal of this stage is to provide a broad base for future learning, geared toward the study of occupational therapy. The basis of the theoretical foundation is developed through the undergraduate degree requirements and the prerequisite courses in the biological and behavioral sciences.

Professional Level
The overall goal of the professional phase of the program is to assist the student in the movement along the continuum of theory to practice. Each stage has a more specific objective related to this overall goal.

2. Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy
The goal of this stage is to provide the knowledge and understanding of the various theories, concepts and frames of reference on which the practice of occupational therapy is based. Within this stage, didactic and active learning experiences provide the student with the opportunity to have a firm grounding in theoretical knowledge. Courses include the Occupation Across the Lifespan, Clinical Conditions, Theory, Gross Anatomy, Kinesiology, Neuroscience, and Foundations of OT, Activity Group Process.

3. The Bridge from Theory to Practice
The goal of this stage is to provide an opportunity to begin to relate theory to practice. Active learning experiences and case study simulations are introduced to assist the student to incorporate theory into the beginning level practice. The student participates in three (3) Level I fieldwork experiences with different populations during this stage of the program. In addition, students develop research, management and supervisory skills essential to practice. Courses include seminars in occupational therapy, research, administration, supervision and advocacy. The curriculum content areas covered in this stage are occupational therapy theory and practice at an in-depth level, research, current issues and professional ethics.
4. Practice

The goal of this stage is to provide the opportunity for integration of occupational therapy practice. At this stage, the main focus is on the application of theory to practice through classroom simulations and fieldwork experiences. The academic and clinical faculty serves as role models, provide direct instruction, and facilitate the student’s development in becoming a self-directed professional, leader and contributor to the body of knowledge of the profession.

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**Educational Goals of the Program**

Upon completion of the occupational therapy program, the students will be able to:

1. Explain and apply knowledge of the history and underlying philosophical beliefs and assumptions of occupational therapy.
2. Apply the theories of normal human development and knowledge of disease processes, injuries and developmental disorders as they impact occupations across the life span.
3. Apply theories, frames of reference, and conceptual models of practice in the evaluation and intervention process in order to analyze and effect meaningful occupation.
4. Use the clinical reasoning and evaluation processes to choose and adapt therapeutic intervention in collaboration with a client or population in a specific context.
5. Promote change through the use of purposeful activity and occupations to promote health and wellness and to restore, compensate for, or prevent disability.
6. Work within a variety of service models including health care, educational, community and social systems with populations and individuals of diverse backgrounds.
7. Apply principles of management, supervision and advocacy in a variety of practice settings.
8. Apply knowledge of the social, economic, political and demographic factors that influence the delivery of health care and occupational therapy practice.
9. Understand and promote the role of occupational therapy in a variety of practice settings.
10. Understand the fundamentals and value of research to ensure continued competency and best practice and to promote the ongoing development of the profession.
11. Work collaboratively with others in and outside the profession to advocate for the consumer, promote access to occupational therapy services, advance the profession and ensure a high quality of professional care.
12. Implement problem solving skills and self-evaluation to become competent, ethical self-directed professionals and lifelong learners.

The KU occupational therapy program is accredited by ACOTE. The essentials of our curriculum are determined by the ACOTE standards. Upon completion of course work and two mandatory level 2 field experiences, our students must pass the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Exam.
*Direct and indirect measures completed for the first 5 SLO.

1. Students who graduate from the occupational therapy program should be able to:

**SLO1:** Explain and apply knowledge of the history and underlying philosophical beliefs and assumptions of occupational therapy.

Direct Measure: NBCOT exam, in-class examinations
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey, fieldwork level 1 and level 2 evaluations,

1. **SLO2:** Apply the theories of normal human development and knowledge of disease processes, injuries and developmental disorders as they impact occupations across the life span.

Direct Measure: NBCOT exam; in class examinations
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey, fieldwork level 1 and level 2 evaluations

1. **SLO3** Apply theories, frames of reference, and conceptual models of practice in the evaluation and intervention process in order to analyze and effect meaningful occupation.

Direct Measure: NBCOT exam; in class examinations, level 1 and level 2 evaluations; clinical papers
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey; Employer survey of graduating student; focus group results of program

1. **SLO4** Use the clinical reasoning and evaluation processes to choose and adapt therapeutic intervention in collaboration with a client or population in a specific context.

Direct Measure: NBCOT exam, level 1 and level 2 evaluations, clinical papers, in class exams
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey; Employer survey of graduating student; focus groups results of program

1. **SLO5** Promote change through the use of purposeful activity and occupations to promote health and wellness and to restore, compensate for, or prevent disability.

Direct measure: NBCOT exam, level 1 and level 2 evaluations, clinical papers, in class exams
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey; Employer survey of graduating student, focus group results of program

* KU Student Outcomes: *Kean University graduates should be able to:
1. Think critically, creatively and globally;
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; and
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof. pgms)

**General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

*Student Learning Outcomes – Knowledge:* Students will demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and content by:
(K1) applying the scientific method to comprehend natural concepts and processes;
(K2) evaluating major theories and concepts in social sciences;

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(K3) relating historical references to literature; and
(K4) evaluating major theories and concepts in the fine arts.

Student Learning Outcomes – Skills: Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to:
(S1) write to communicate and clarify learning;
(S2) communicate effectively through speech;
(S3) solve problems using quantitative reasoning;
(S4) think critically about concepts in multiple disciplines; and
(S5) show information literacy.