

Jefferson Department of Occupational Therapy

On Demand Information Session

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MSOT, Center City OTD, Center City

- Full-time
- Weekdays, on campus
- Modular learning model
- Integrates classroom and fieldwork experience

MSOT, East Falls

- Full-time
- Weekends, on campus & on-line
- Blended learning model
- Integrates classroom and fieldwork experiences

OTD (3+3), East Falls

- Full-time
- Weekdays, on campus
- Modular learning model
- Integrates classroom and fieldwork experiences

Level I Fieldwork



Students are placed in a variety of settings including hospitals, schools, community agencies



Students interact with people of all ages with physical, cognitive and emotional health conditions



Students gain experience in skilled observation and have the opportunity to practice clinical skills

Center City Schedule:

- Integrated in first year of coursework, on select weekdays

East Falls Schedule:

- Part-time fieldwork during semesters 3, 4 & 5

Level II Fieldwork

TIME FRAME:

Full-time Fieldwork
(Two 12-week
rotations)

PURPOSE:

Apply knowledge and
skills in two distinct
settings with
different client
populations

EXPECTATION:

Perform as entry-
level practitioner

OTD Capstone

Eligibility

- Successful completion of:
 - Didactic coursework
 - Level I and Level II fieldwork
 - Competency exam

Description

- Faculty mentored
- Minimum of 640 hours on part-time basis
- Also taking additional coursework

Expected Outcomes

- **Advanced skills** in one or more of the following:
 - Leadership
 - Advocacy
 - Research skills
 - Education
 - Clinical practice skills
 - Administration
 - Theory development
 - Program and policy development

JOB TITLE

Occupational Therapist

OUTLOOK

Occupational therapy has been consistently ranked high as one of the top jobs and a recession-proof job:

CNBC, August 2019:

[The 11 most meaningful college majors and how much they pay:](#)

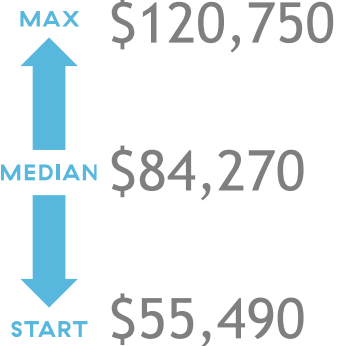
Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy tied for No. 5

U.S. News & World Report, January 2019:

[The 25 Best Jobs of 2019:](#) Occupational Therapist is No. 13

[The Best Medical Jobs That Don't Require Medical School](#)

SALARIES



<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapists.htm#tab-5>



- **American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)**
 - <https://www.aota.org/>
 - Advances occupational therapy practice, education, and research through standard setting and advocacy
 - **National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)**
 - <https://www.nbcot.org/>
 - Provides initial and renewal certification for occupational therapy in the United States
- 



Leanne Bahn

SPRING GROVE, PA
BSMS, CLASS OF 2020

I chose Jefferson because of the faculty members and their involvement in the American Occupational Therapy Association and research. I also believed (and still do!) that the ranking of #6 in the country reflected well on the program. The program is also located in the best city, Philadelphia, where sports and cheesesteaks abound.

"I couldn't have asked for a better education. I felt very prepared to go on my Level II fieldwork placements. Many of my clinical instructors had never had Jefferson students before and were impressed by how well Jefferson had prepared students for clinical rotations."

Your faculty wants you to succeed. Go talk with them. Find one that has experience in a practice area you are interested in and learn everything you can from them. You will learn so much!



Sarah Blaise

READING, PA
BSMS, CLASS OF 2020

I chose Jefferson because the culture of the school, faculty, and community made me feel most welcome and optimistic about my ability to learn not only the entry-level skills, but the nuance needed for successfully building my professional self for my career ahead.

“By continuously being exposed to evidence based practice and seeing therapeutic use of self-modeled, I have come to value those aspects of the profession and am excited to take what I have learned and share it. At Jefferson I truly know that the department and faculty invests in my success as a person and a professional, and that I have access to a dedicated team for support and mentorship.”

My advice for new students is to create and maintain a healthy support system. You’ll need your family and friends and people around you to keep you grounded when you feel overwhelmed. You need to invest in the meaningful relationships you have in addition to investing in your education here. Times won’t always be easy, but having a good team you can count on will help you get through it all. And for what it’s worth- we (all the students who have come before you) believe in you!

Frances Calingo

CONGERS, NY

MSOT - CENTER CITY, CLASS OF 2021



I was drawn to the variety of research interests and expertise at the Center City campus. I loved how Jefferson faculty specialized in traditional settings, like acute spinal rehabilitation or schools, as well as community settings like Project HOME (a safe haven for folks experiencing chronic homelessness), and Nationalities Service Center (an organization that provides services to immigrants and refugees.) The breadth of professional experience struck me as unique, and I knew I wanted to be in a learning environment where I could explore my practice options.

"I firmly believe that at the end of my time at Jefferson, I will become a culturally competent and strengths-based Occupational Therapist. The classes are set up in a 'spiral curriculum,' which just means that each semester's material builds upon the previous, and students are introduced to many relevant concepts that are later explored in depth. This model produces many 'aha!' moments in which I am able to piece together information into the big picture."

You are allowed to be human and make mistakes. Being successful in this program does not mean getting straight A's or making every deadline. Being successful means that you learn how to be an empathic, critically-thinking practitioner.



Eileen Young

SOUTH BRUNSWICK, NJ
MSOT - CENTER CITY, CLASS OF 2020

Jefferson OT impressed me from the very beginning of the application process, with their professionalism and simultaneous ability to make you feel at home. Their high national ranking and ideal location initially drew me in, but it was the passion and innovation I saw that confirmed my decision. Sometimes, it just comes down to a gut feeling.

“When reflecting on my time at Jefferson, it is the diverse set of knowledge, strong values, and life-long relationships that stick out to me among the rest. The faculty work diligently to ensure that we are prepared, not only to be competent therapists, but intentional ones. Everything we do at Jefferson has a purpose, and I have learned so much about our profession because of it.”

My advice to new students is to come in with an open mind. While you may have an idea about what OT is, be prepared to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for what this profession has to offer. And if you are feeling nervous, trust in your strengths and know that you have a meaningful experience ahead of you!



Rachel Larson

BARRINGTON, NH

MSOT - EAST FALLS, CLASS OF 2022

I was several years out of undergrad, and I wanted to be able to continue to work. I couldn't picture myself going back to being a full-time 9-5 student, and I appreciated the flexibility of the hybrid program.

"I think that the East Falls program has an incredible resource in the faculty, who are really invested in developing clinicians with strong professional identity, equipped to treat in an evidence-based, occupation-focused, client-centered manner."

Ask the admissions or OT department to set up a phone call with a current student! We are friendly and willing to share our experience. Second, coursework is intense, and some seasons are busier than others, so I recommend strategizing carefully about how much you are able to work and still be able to take care of your other responsibilities and have good self-care. Maintain good communication with your employer so they know what's going on!





Marissa Morello

STATEN ISLAND, NY
MSOT - EAST FALLS, CLASS OF 2021

I chose Jefferson because of the hybrid program which allows me to continue working while still getting the most out of my education. I loved the ability to attend all of my classes during the on campus weekends, and then having the flexibility during the week to complete assignments and work at my own pace.

“During my two semesters here, I have already seen so much personal growth and change in myself that is directly related to this program. The professors and faculty are incredibly supportive and go above and beyond to help us succeed and develop into the best occupational therapists we can be.”

Attend the lunch sessions where you can listen to guest speakers, join a committee, get involved with a project, or make your own. Also come prepared to class knowing the material so you can use the time to ask questions, and participate in labs so you can make the most of the time you are on campus.

Sarah Yemane

PHILADELPHIA, PA
OTD, CLASS OF 2022



I chose Jefferson because of its commitment to providing students with the best education and clinical training possible. I looked into other schools after making the decision to pursue a graduate degree in occupational therapy, however Jefferson always seemed to be the best fit.

“I am a career changer, and in all honesty, I was nervous when first entering Jefferson. However, those feelings were short lived as I felt the support of my cohort and Jefferson faculty right away. By the end of my first semester, I completed both challenging courses and my first Level I fieldwork experience. It is hard to believe I have been here less than a year, but I am glad I made this decision.”

My advice to new students is to try your best in your classes, but remember you are not expected to be an expert on day 1. Some incoming students may have an idea of the population they want to work with after graduate school; but keep an open mind about this and soak up all the information you can during your fieldwork placements. My final piece of advice is to simply enjoy this time in your life, the time will fly by faster than you can imagine!



Gabriella Santos

UNION, NJ
OTD, CLASS OF 2020

I chose Jefferson because when I came to visit the professors really seemed invested in all the students. I loved how they had experience in different practice areas. Now being in school for almost three years I can say that the professors truly make the program and listen to feedback from students to continue to improve.

“Jefferson has opened up so many doors for me. I was able to go to Morocco for a fieldwork level I placement and Ecuador for fieldwork level II. I have grown my leadership skills and knowledge in occupational therapy. I have also had the experience to make so many friends and colleagues with similar interests and drive!”

My advice for new students is to keep an open mind about all the different practice areas in OT! Also to know what works for you, just because one person took 2 hours to finish an assignment does not mean you need to, everyone works and studies at their own pace and does things differently and that is okay! OT school is what you make it, so get involved and get excited to learn!



Dr. Adel Herge

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR &
DIRECTOR, BS/MSOT PROGRAM

OTD, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA
MS, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
Post-baccalaureate Certificate, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
BS, Cabrini College, Radnor, PA

AWARDS & HONORS

Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, 2017
Jeanette Bair Writers Award, 2013
Jefferson Award for Excellence in Interprofessional Education, 2010

COURSES

Occupation-based practice
Interprofessional team work
Professional development
Evidence-based practice
OTD Capstone faculty mentor

Dr. Adel Herge

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR, OTD PROGRAM

Research & Clinical Interests

- Intellectual disability and aging
- Intellectual disability and dementia
- Caregivers of persons with intellectual disability
- Interprofessional education

“Jefferson students are very impressive! I have been teaching here for many years and have consistently taught students who are enthusiastic about their career choice, love learning, seek out additional learning experiences and opportunities and make the most of their time in the curriculum. Its a delight to see how many our graduates go on to exciting careers as clinicians, researchers, entrepreneurs and academicians. Its a joy to be able to prepare the next generation of occupational therapists and to watch them grow personally and professionally while they are in the program and beyond.”



Dr. Stephen Kern

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR,
MSOT PROGRAM - CENTER CITY CAMPUS

PhD, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
MS, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
BS, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

AWARDS & HONORS

James B. Erdmann PhD Award for Excellence in Interprofessional Education, 2018
Alpha Eta Society, 2006
FAOTA Roster of Fellows, 2000

COURSES

Environmental competence
Clinical leadership
Fieldwork supervisor
OTD Capstone faculty mentor

Dr. Stephen Kern

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR, MSOT PROGRAM - CENTER CITY CAMPUS

Research & Clinical Interests

- Environmental supports and barriers to participation in meaningful occupations for individuals experiencing chronic health conditions
- Occupational justice
- Interprofessional education/practice and collaboration
- Merging of design, participation, and health
- Facilitating refugee resettlement, health, and participation in meaningful daily occupation

“Because I teach students in the Master of Science (MSOT) Program, specifically, in their first and final semesters, I love seeing the change in their thinking about the breadth of practice areas in which, by using their OT skills they can enhance the level of participation of individuals & populations through the application of meaningful everyday activities. I love that I have some part in the building of their professional identity as it promotes the quality of services that they provide over their careers. I also love that I facilitate setting the stage for professional leadership & advocacy.”



Dr. Audrey Zapletal

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
& DIRECTOR, MSOT PROGRAM - EAST FALLS CAMPUS

OTD, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
MS, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
BS, Boston University, Boston, MA

AWARDS & HONORS

Honorary Service Award, Camp Dream Street, 2018
Fred & Sadye Abrams Award for Excellence in Laboratory Teaching, 2011
Thomasina Award for Bravery in Teaching, 2007

COURSES

Evolving professional seminar
Functional anatomy
Assessment & interventions: adults

Dr. Audrey Zapletal

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR, MSOT PROGRAM - EAST FALLS CAMPUS

Research & Clinical Interests

- Understanding the impact of using standardized patients and high-fidelity simulation encounters in occupational therapy education
- Evaluating instructional methods and methods of developing teaching teams to enhance occupational therapy education and training
- Enhancing participation of children with physical disabilities in a camp setting

“Jefferson students are passionate about serving different communities; they are creative in how they think about helping people move forward in their life roles. They are curious and motivating! They appreciate learning from others, including experts outside of OT, and integrate this information into their own practice. They are leaders who have the ability to transform the field.”



Dr. Tina DeAngelis

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR &
DIRECTOR, OTD PROGRAM

EdD, Widener University, Chester, PA
MS, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
BS, Misericordia College, Dallas, PA
AS, Harcum College, Bryn Mawr, PA

AWARDS & HONORS

Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, 2013
Alpha Eta Society, 2013
OTA Service Commendation, 2013-2016

COURSES

Mental health/behavioral health courses
Doctoral coursework
OTD Capstone faculty mentor

Dr. Tina DeAngelis

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR, OTD PROGRAM

Research & Clinical Interests

- Project HOME (Housing Opportunities Medical Education) for individuals who experience serious mental illness and chronic homelessness
- Young adults aging out of foster care (LGBTQ)
- Homelessness, behavioral health, and wellness
- Serious mental illness (SMI), addiction, and OT interventions
- Adult and active learning in occupational therapy education

“I value and appreciate the opportunity to learn from and hopefully impact in some small way the profession of the future. Students bring in new and innovative ideas. They challenge me. I thrive on this collaborative. I also work with our students with my colleague to deliver occupation based group health and wellness OT programming to sites in our community needing our services due to a variety of social determinants that impact the Philadelphia community. Its a win-win situation!”



Dr. Amy Carroll

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

OTD, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
BS, Towson University, Towson, MD

CERTIFICATIONS

Knowledge Translation Practice, Toronto, CA

COURSES

Visionary practice development and evaluation
Health literacy
Knowledge translation

Dr. Amy Carroll

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Research & Clinical Interests

- Knowledge translation and dissemination
- Program and curriculum development
- Health literacy
- Cross cultural clinical education
- Pediatric occupational therapy

“I love Jefferson students because the students are passionate about gathering new knowledge and about creating solutions to the challenges faced in their every-day practice.”

Dr. Marie-Christine Potvin

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

PhD, McGill University, Montreal, CA
MHS, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
BS, McGill University, Montreal, CA

AWARDS & HONORS

VOTA Clinical Practice Award, 2006
The Judith Kornbluth-Gelfand Pediatric Fellowship, 2010

COURSES

Evidence-based practice
Children and youth assessment and intervention
Critical inquiry



Dr. Marie-Christine Potvin

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Research & Clinical Interests

- Social participation and quality of life of children with autism and their family members
- Academic success of youth and young adults with disabilities
- Empowerment and quality of life of parents of children with disabilities
- Inclusive practices in public schools and institution of higher education
- Interprofessional collaboration to enhance children's outcomes

“Our students are passionate about our profession and their own learning. On the East Falls campus, we have many 2nd (and even 3rd) career students who bring a wealth of experiences and knowledge to the classroom. This enrich learning for everyone.”



Mikael Avery, MArch, MS, OTR/L

CLASS OF 2014

Mike Avery is an educator, design professional and licensed occupational therapist. He has developed and taught graduate-level design courses at several Philadelphia academic institutions on topics including architecture, digital fabrication, industrial design, human factors, design research, clinical skills and interdisciplinary healthcare innovation.

Currently, as an occupational therapist, Mike works to create client-centered care plans that support an individual's participatory goals while residing in their local community. Through his clinical and design work, teaching and research, Mike is dedicated to bringing together the fields of design and health care in order to promote design that is focused on wellness, uncovers new opportunities to influence health, and reimagines the healthcare system.

Rachel Wiley, MS, OTR/L, CDP

CLASS OF 2013

Rachel Wiley is an occupational therapist and the founder and owner of Day By Day Home Therapy. Rachel is certified in Skills2Care® for caregivers of individuals with dementia, LSVT BIG for Parkinson's Disease, and she is a Certified Dementia Practitioner. Rachel is also a certified master trainer of Skills2Care® through Jefferson Elder Care and trains occupational therapists from around the country in the Skills2Care® program. She is also currently an advisory council member for Dementia Society of America.

Previously, Rachel was an adjunct faculty member in the occupational therapy departments at Thomas Jefferson University and Temple University. She also worked as the occupational therapist and Dementia Service Coordinator for the Pew Charitable Trust Grant with Jefferson Elder Care. Rachel attended Penn State University for her Bachelor's in Rehabilitation and Human Services and minor in Psychology and attended Thomas Jefferson University for her Master's in Occupational Therapy. She previously served as the Gerontology Chair for the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association's (POTA) District V Board and was the recipient of the "OT Award of Recognition" for "Innovator in Specialized Dementia Care" from POTA in 2019. Rachel has been working with individuals with dementia for over 10 years. Rachel enjoys her mom's home-cooked meals, hanging out with her dog, Abbi, and rock-climbing.



GRADUATION RATE*

88%

PLACEMENT RATE*

100%

RANKINGS

#6 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report

*Rates based on first class of students who entered OTD program in Center City 2016. Three-year data will be available May 2021

AWARDS

- **AOTA 2019-2020 Student Membership Circle Gold Award (100% Student Membership) - East Falls Campus**

EMPLOYERS OF JEFFERSON GRADUATES

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Home health agencies
- Outpatient rehabilitation clinics
- Psychiatric facilities
- Senior-care and assisted living centers
- Community health programs

Admissions Requirement Checklist

- ✓ OTCAS Application
- ✓ All Official College Transcripts
 - ✓ Average Cum and Prereq GPAs 3.5-3.7 based on program
- ✓ Recommendation Letters (3)
- ✓ Personal Statement/Essay (via OTCAS)
- ✓ Supplemental Essay (OTD Only, in OTCAS)
- ✓ Resume with employment, volunteerism, advanced academic/scholarly work, leadership, activities
- ✓ 30 observation hours, across 2 settings with licensed OT or OTA
- ✓ English Language Proficiency
 - TOEFL, if applicable
- ✓ Interview for qualified candidates

Admissions Tips

- The application is our opportunity to learn about who you are and what makes you unique!
- Three things we want to learn about you:
 1. Academic Foundation
 2. Interest in & Knowledge of Occupational Therapy
 3. Experiences, Activities, Skills, Leadership, etc.

Dean's Scholarship & GA Program

- **Dean's Scholarship**
 - Students are reviewed at time of admissions decision
 - No supplemental application required
 - Scholarships are renewable each year provided students remain in good academic standing with the college
- **GA Program**
 - Students work one-on-one with faculty member to support areas of scholarship
 - Students must qualify for federal work study to be eligible
 - Timeline: Apply summer prior to starting program

Office of Admissions

Devin M. Sullivan Phillips, Admissions Counselor

Devin.Sullivan.phillips@Jefferson.edu

Financial Aid

jefferson.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid.html

Email Address: Financial.Aid@Jefferson.edu



Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson University