

# 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, Fri/Saturday on campus (twice a month) & 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 560 hours on part-time basis
- Also taking additional coursework

### Expected Outcomes

- In-depth exposure 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
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## GRADUATION RATE \*

88-93%

## PLACEMENT RATE 12/2019\*

100%

## RANKINGS

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

\*[www.nbcot.org](http://www.nbcot.org) and  
<https://www.jefferson.edu/academics/colleges-schools-institutes/rehabilitation-sciences/departments/occupational-therapy.html>

## AWARDS

- **AOTA 2020-2021 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

# 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!

# Anita Ching

PHILADELPHIA, PA  
MSOT - EAST FALLS, CLASS OF 2021



*I chose Jefferson for its leadership, commitment, and distinction in the Philadelphia healthcare system.*

*“During my time at Jefferson, I have been involved in creating and delivering health graphic novels on a cultural trip to Morocco. I have helped older adults from the East Falls Village get “fitted” for their car and completed screenings for general health, balance, and strength to ensure safety within the home and community. Also, I have worked alongside my peers and faculty mentor to present at the AOTA conference”*

*Becoming an occupational therapist combines my love for creativity and the science of helping others. I have seen the positive impact an occupational therapist can have on a person’s life. My desire to become an occupational therapist stems from seeing the joy on a person’s face when they can participate in meaningful activities.*



# Marissa Morello

STATEN ISLAND, NY

MSOT - EAST FALLS, CLASS OF 2022

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!



## Dr. Adel Herge

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR &  
DIRECTOR, BS/MSOT PROGRAM & 3+3 OTD Onsite Coordinator East Fall  
Campus

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

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

### COURSES

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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

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

### COURSES

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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

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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

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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, PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR,  
OTD PROGRAMS

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

### AWARDS & HONORS

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Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, 2013  
Alpha Eta Society, 2013  
OTA Service Commendation, 2013-2016; 2016-2019

### COURSES

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

# Dr. Tina DeAngelis

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR, OTD PROGRAM

## Research & Clinical Interests

- Project HOME (Housing Opportunities Medical Education) for individuals who experience serious mental illness and chronic homelessness
- Addressing the social determinants of health (SDoH) that impact the Philadelphia community
- Homelessness/Unhoused, behavioral health, and wellness
- Serious mental illness (SMI), substance use, and OT interventions
- Doctoral curriculum design
- Chair AOTA Commission on Education (2019-2022)

*“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 to deliver occupation based individual and 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. Lydia S. Navarro-Walker

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR &  
DOCTORAL CAPSTONE COORDINATOR, OTD PROGRAM - CENTER CITY

OTD, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA  
BS, College Misericordia, Dallas, PA  
AS, University of Puerto Rico Humacao, Humacao, Puerto Rico

### CERTIFICATIONS

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AOTA Credentialed Leader in Academia  
Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence for Health & Human Services  
Professionals  
Kinesio Taping Practitioner

### COURSES

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Doctoral Coursework  
Management of Doctoral Capstones (Experiences and Projects)

# Dr. Lydia S. Navarro-Walker

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & DOCTORAL CAPSTONE COORDINATOR, OTD PROGRAM - CENTER CITY

## Research & Clinical Interests

- Emotional Intelligence (development of) in Occupational Therapy Master's and Doctoral Students
- Addressing Trauma Informed Care in Occupational Therapy with Survivors of Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence
- Equity, Justice, and Inclusion in Higher Education
- Development and cultivation of evidence and outcome-based capstone collaborations

*“One of the greatest gifts I am afforded in my position, is collaborating with students to incorporate the principles of trauma informed care, emotional intelligence, and equity, justice, and inclusion in occupational therapy. I also value the opportunity to challenge and mentor students to deliver occupational therapy services in a manner that is just, challenges preconceptions, and seeks to dismantle biases. Every collaborative opportunity with our students gives me hope the we can impact and influence, for the better, the future of service delivery for all people (of different races, ethnicities, gender, sexual orientation, religious backgrounds, socio-economic status, etc.).”*

# 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
- ✓ Observation Hours - recommended, not required, for Fall 2021 cycle only
- ✓ 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](mailto:Devin.Sullivan.phillips@Jefferson.edu)

## Financial Aid

[jefferson.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid.html](http://jefferson.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid.html)

Email Address for Center City: [Financial.Aid@Jefferson.edu](mailto:Financial.Aid@Jefferson.edu)

Email Address for East Falls: [FinancialAid@Jefferson.edu](mailto:FinancialAid@Jefferson.edu)



**Jefferson**

Thomas Jefferson University