

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
School of Occupational Therapy
Doctor of Philosophy in Occupational Therapy

Greetings!

Thank you for your inquiry about the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in occupational therapy. We are very proud of our PhD program; we offered the first course in 1994! Please see the PhD content on the School of OT website at www.twu.edu/ot for additional information. (Note: The website is currently in revision to reflect our transition into a blended delivery format with a combination of on campus and web-based learning.) The program has an emphasis on the use of occupation to promote adaptation. Specific research areas are identified by each of the doctoral teaching faculty. Applicants are expected to review individual faculty members' lines of research and identify which faculty member they want to be their mentor and direct their doctoral research. This is an essential step toward ensuring that students' research interests are consistent with the learning experiences that will be available to them in the doctoral program. These mentoring relationships are vital to the advancement of occupational therapy knowledge and the development of the occupational therapy researchers that are needed for the future.

Applicants can find information on faculty research interests on the PhD/OT webpage. The next step is to contact faculty directly to explore opportunities for participation in their area of research. As the PhD Coordinator, I will be happy to talk with you initially about the program and address any of your questions. We can do that by email (sschultz@twu.edu) or by phone. My cell is 214.207.6943. If I am not available, be sure to leave days/time frames that would be best to reach you. I am happy to contact you during evening hours as well. We recognize that most of our applicants are practitioners and will continue to be so during their doctoral studies.

This curriculum was originally designed for part-time students and we continue that focus. Full time enrollment can also be arranged. Applicants must have an initial certification by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy and must have completed a master's degree in either OT or a related field. International applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy degree from a program approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapy. International applicants are not required to be certified by NBCOT.

The PhD curriculum was initially taught by video-conference between Dallas and Houston. The core courses met every Friday: one course in the morning/one in the afternoon. Students enrolled in two courses each semester up to dissertation. The program has been highly successful with more than 36 PhD graduates. The majority of our graduates are currently full-time faculty.

Some exciting changes are in the offering. The program began offering courses in a hybrid or blended delivery format starting Summer, 2009. Courses are being converted each succeeding semester. There are two required "long weekend" on-campus workshops each semester. The workshops occur near the beginning and near the end of each semester. Fall semester workshops are currently scheduled in Dallas and the spring workshops in Houston. The specific dates are announced with three months notice. The two workshops address both of the semester's courses. The remainder of the semester's learning content is completed using Blackboard as the primary platform. Other internet/technology such as Skype, podcasts, and webinars, etc., is incorporated.

The blended delivery will build upon our previous successes. The faculty will continue to be those with the expertise expected for doctoral level instruction. Students are admitted as a cohort each fall (average of 10 students). Two cohort courses are taught each semester. On-campus meetings will also be expected during the individualized study and dissertation courses. These meetings will be arranged between the student and faculty member. We believe this is vital to the mentoring relationship. The average time for students to complete the PhD is currently 4.0 years. We expect that this average will be maintained in the blended delivery as well.

The Graduate School will advise the PhD Coordinator when your TWU Graduate School application is complete and you have met the requirements for admission to the Graduate School. At that point, your application will be reviewed by the School of OT PhD admission committee. The applicant's entire application is considered along with scores on the GRE. The second stage of application is an interview with the doctoral admissions committee. Applicants are expected to have identified one of the doctoral teaching faculty members as his or her preferred research mentor prior to the admission interview. The committee will include the program coordinator and the proposed research mentor and a third committee member. The purpose of the interview is for the admission committee and the applicant to determine the goodness of fit between the program and the applicant's objectives. Interviews are conducted via telephone.

Scroll down in this document for the application steps and supporting materials.

Thank you for your interest in the doctoral program. We are committed to producing PhD level graduates who will make a significant contribution toward advancing occupational therapy through academia, research, and clinical practice. Our graduates are currently highly productive faculty members, department chairs, and practice leaders/consultants.

We invite you to join them!

Sincerely yours,

*Sally Schultz, PhD, OTR, LPC-S
Professor & Coordinator
PhD Program – Dallas/Houston*

“Shaping Practice through Research!”

TWU PhD in Occupational Therapy Application Process

Step #1 Identify Research Mentor

Applicants are expected to review the doctoral teaching faculty members' lines of research and identify the research mentor they want to work with throughout their doctoral studies. Specific research areas are identified by each of the doctoral teaching faculty (see TWU PhD/OT webpage). Applicants should speak directly with members of the PhD teaching faculty to explore research opportunities and reach initial agreement with one of the faculty members to be his or her research mentor. Identification of a mentor is an essential step toward ensuring that students' research interests are consistent with the learning experiences that will be available to them in the doctoral program. Mentoring agreements are finalized after students are accepted into the program. These individualized mentoring relationships are vital to the advancement of occupational therapy knowledge and the development of the occupational therapy scholars that are needed for the future. The mentor will advise the student's progression in the program and become the student's research chair for dissertation.

Step #2 Apply to TWU - Graduate School

- Complete online graduate Texas Common Application: www.applytexas.org. (The state system allows applications for fall admission sometime around mid-October of the preceding year.)
- Request official transcripts sent to TWU. Transcripts must show that your bachelor's and master's degree was awarded. If either transcript includes course work that was transferred from another institution, you must request a separate transcript for each institution from which you transferred courses. The TWU Office of Student Records checks transcript very carefully. A missing transcript for an English course completed 10 years ago at a community college, can delay your admission, cause you to miss deadlines for scholarships, and result in late fees, etc.

TWU does not accept electronic transcripts. Request transcripts sent to:

TWU-Admissions/Student Records

P.O. Box 425649

Denton, TX 76204

(Overnight or return-receipt mail can be sent to 304 Administration Drive in Denton)

- Request that the GRE testing service www.gre.org send your verbal & quantitative scores to TWU. *(TWU has no time limit on age of scores. The GRE testing company will only forward a score if it was earned within the past five years. However, an applicant may supply an older score to TWU if she or he has the original GRE Score Report document –TWU will not accept a copy. If you do not have an original, and your scores are more than 5 years old, you will need to retake the GRE.)*
- International applicants must also satisfy the TWU requirements for Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) – Satisfactory scores are posted on the TWU Graduate School web page.

Step #3 Apply to TWU - School of Occupational Therapy PhD/OT Program

- Request three letters of recommendation (any combination of academic/professional). Letters should be emailed to sschultz@twu.edu. Applicants will be notified by email when recommendation letters are received.
- Complete the School of OT PhD Application & Essay (appended to this document). The essay is a (1000 word maximum) statement on your professional goals and research interests as they relate to your desire for a doctorate in occupational therapy.
- Email: PhD/OT Application Form, Essay, and current Resume to Dr. Sally Schultz at sschultz@twu.edu.

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
School of Occupational Therapy
Application for Doctor of Philosophy Program
(Please fill in below information and email as an attachment to sschultz@twu.edu)

Last Name, First Name:

Mailing Address:

Preferred Phone #:

Work Phone # (optional):

Email address: *(this is the primary means for communicating with applicants)*

Undergraduate degree (identify B.S., BA, etc.) & major:

Institution:

Month/Year awarded:

Master's degree (identify M.A. MOT, etc.) & major:

Institution:

Month/Year awarded:

Other degrees: (identify M.A. MOT, etc.) & major:

Institution:

Month/Year awarded:

NBCOT initial certification # & date awarded:

Briefly describe below your practice experience as an OT:

(Include populations, settings, programs, etc.) Please do not exceed the space provided on this page. (See following page for essay directions)

Doctor of Philosophy in Occupational Therapy

Application – Essay: *Statement on your professional goals as they relate to your desire for a Doctoral of Philosophy in occupational therapy. Complete on this page and send as attachment to sschultz@twu.edu . (Limit to maximum of 1000 words – format to Times Roman 12 pt. font)*