program objectives

The Doctor of Science (DSc) program is designed to prepare graduates who will:

- Integrate professional and health literature in practice and academic environments for educating and mentoring pre- and post-professional practitioners
- Develop and evaluate programs in existing and emerging practices that promote health and wellness and prevent disability through a holistic approach
- Lead systems change in practice through advocacy, policy, and service delivery
- Serve as rehabilitation consultants in such areas as business, industrial, judicial, legislative, health care, and community settings in health, policy, and rehabilitation

The program includes two specializations. The pediatric specialization emphasizes early intervention, school-based practice, and assistive technology. The orthopedic specialization emphasizes general adult orthopedics and rehabilitation. The program is available in a web-based format that utilizes distance education. Some courses include an on-campus component.

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Doctor of Science (DSc) Program

The University of Oklahoma advances a diverse, equitable, and inclusive university community by embracing each person’s unique contributions, background and perspectives. OU Norman, OU Tulsa and the OU Health Sciences Center OKC recognize that fostering an inclusive environment for all, with particular attention to the needs of historically marginalized populations, is vital to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our institutional mission and enhances the OU experience for all students, faculty and staff. Our Values include Empathy, Accountability, Civil Dialogue, Collaboration, Equity, Integrity, and Mutual Respect.

Funding opportunity available inside

OU is an EO/AA institution. Individuals with disabilities and protected veterans are encouraged to apply.
Doctor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences (DSc) Program

The Doctor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences (DSc) program prepares occupational therapists and physical therapists to be effective, responsible, and reflective members of interprofessional teams in their areas of specialization and to be innovative leaders in practice. The program includes the following two specializations: pediatric and orthopedic. The pediatric specialization emphasizes early intervention, school-based practice, and assistive technology. The orthopedic specialization emphasizes general adult orthopedics and rehabilitation. This program is available in a web-based format that utilizes distance education. Some courses include an on-campus component.

Our Curriculum

The DSc curriculum has four components: core courses, specialization courses, cognate courses and research-oriented doctoral thesis. The program requires 67 hours for students with a professional bachelor’s degree, 58 credits for students with a professional master’s or doctoral degree, 49 credits for students with a post professional master’s degree in a related field, and 34 credits for students with a master of science in rehabilitation sciences degree from our program.

A message from our program director

Welcome to the Doctor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences (DSc) program at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC). Our program is designed for professionals seeking advanced education in teaching, service, leadership, and research. Specifically, our mission is to prepare occupational therapists and physical therapists to be effective, responsible, and reflective members of interprofessional teams in their areas of specialization (pediatrics or orthopedics), and to be innovative leaders in practice. As an academic health center, OUHSC comprises two campuses, the Schusterman Center in Tulsa and the OUHSC in Oklahoma City, affording our faculty and students unique interprofessional learning, leadership, and research experiences. With state of the art facilities and innovative distance education technology, we utilize a hybrid of both traditional and web-based distance education. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of our program, I want to thank you for your interest in our DSc Program. We look forward to working with you!

Sandra Arnold

Sandra H. Arnold, P.T., Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Director of Lee Mitchell Tolbert Center
Director of Doctor of Science (DSc) Program

We are excited to announce the receipt of a $1.2 million training grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The grant, Expanding Beyond Inclusion Participation (EBIP), is directed by Dr. Beth DeGrace, PhD, OT/L, FAOTA and students are instructed by the DSc faculty. The project will train a total of 54 occupational therapy and physical therapy students at both the professional entry and graduate level in translating research to best practice using a wrap around mentor the mentee model that also involves community practitioner partners. The focus of this innovative, interprofessional grant is to improve services for children with disabilities receiving special education and related services in the school setting, with an emphasis on individualizing interventions to maximize academic achievement, friendships and a sense of belonging; areas known to be related to health and quality of life. For more information, kristi.kennedy@ouhsc.edu

Visit our web site
https://alliedhealth.ouhsc.edu/ebip