



Bachelor of Occupational Therapy



Why study occupational therapy?

As an occupational therapist, you can help improve the lives of those who experience barriers to participation in everyday activities.

If you are passionate about promoting people's health and wellbeing through occupation and working with individuals, groups and communities, then occupational therapy is for you.

Career opportunities

Established in response to demand from the profession, CSU's Bachelor of Occupational Therapy prepares you for work in hospitals and community healthcare settings, rehabilitation units, human resource management, government policy units, private practice and consultative services.

Practicing in rural areas is addressed throughout the course, with the intention of encouraging the development of skills for those interested in working in rural practice.

What is CSU's Bachelor of Occupational Therapy?

Offered as a four-year full-time degree, CSU's Bachelor of Occupational Therapy aims to develop an understanding of the theoretical and practical components of occupational therapy, with a focus on both general and specialist knowledge and skills.

Studied on Albury-Wodonga Campus, this degree prepares you for professional practice or further study, with an emphasis on current practice issues including quality management, ethics, research and communication skills.

Students may choose to exit the course following successful completion of the first two years of study with the Associate Degree in Health Science.

An Honours stream is integrated within the four-year program and comprises specific Honours research subjects that replace pass degree subjects. To transfer into the Honours stream at the beginning of year three, students will need to obtain grades of Credit or above in at least 50% of Level 1 and Level 2 subjects.

Some reasons for studying occupational therapy at CSU:

- practical experience constitutes approximately one quarter of the course
- students can choose to exit the course after two years with the Associate Degree in Health Science
- a four-year Honours program is integrated in the course
- accreditation by World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) gives you the passport to practise in Australia and overseas.





Pat Hower Graduate in occupational therapy

"It did not take long for me to realise that I had made the right decision in choosing to study at Charles Sturt University. The small class sizes mean that, unlike universities in the bigger cities, you get to know everyone in your year on a first-name basis. You also get great face-to-face time with all your lecturers, who are only too happy to help outside designated lecture/tutorial time slots.

"I completed practical placements in Warrnambool, Ballarat, Melbourne and Bega, which were great experiences and a lot of fun.

"I graduated knowing I was thoroughly prepared to begin work in my chosen profession and start the next chapter of my life. I began my career working as an occupational therapist at an inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Dubbo, which provided me with great experiences. I am now working as an occupational therapist at Albury Base Hospital, and I am loving it.

"The University offers a great social calendar with weekly events that are always entertaining, to say the least. Orientation Week is a great way to break the ice and meet people from your chosen course and all the other courses offered on campus. Meeting people at CSU is easy because most students have relocated from across Australia, not knowing anyone and looking to make friends quickly. I made lifelong friends at uni and will always look back on my time at CSU as some of the most enjoyable days of my life!"

For more information about courses and how to apply, please contact info.csu:

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www.csu.edu.au

What will I learn?

Studies in foundation sciences provide an understanding of human function. This knowledge is then applied to a range of occupational therapy situations using a problem-solving approach. Subjects are grouped according to six key learning areas:

- human occupation and performance
- occupational therapy theory and practice
- research and evaluation
- social and cultural perspectives of occupation
- communication and professional responsibilities
- biological and behavioural sciences.

Professional reasoning and assessment processes guide students in developing strategies to enable the people they will work with to be able to do the things they want to do, where and how they want to do them.

Students also benefit from our dedicated and enthusiastic occupational therapy staff members, the small class sizes, and close links CSU has with practitioners, services and the community.

Practical experience

You will complete 1,000 hours of practice-based placements in a range of settings, primarily in NSW and Victoria. Students will have the opportunity to complete a number of placements in remote, rural, regional and metropolitan locations in different states and territories across Australia. During the final year of the course students can also apply for an overseas placement.

Practical learning experiences are an important part of the course. Practice-based placements give you an opportunity to apply knowledge and develop practical skills. Placements are arranged in a variety of organisations, both rural and urban.

Students will need to purchase any required equipment and uniform items. You are also responsible for any travel to and from fieldwork placements and accommodation expenses.

Your course is recognised by industry

CSU's Bachelor of Occupational Therapy is fully accredited by national and international bodies including OT Australia, the Australian Association of Occupational Therapists, and the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). Accreditation by WFOT enables graduates to be employed in Australia and overseas.

Practice-based placement requirements

Prior to commencing practice-based placements, you will be required to obtain a NSW Criminal Record Clearance, a First Aid Certificate that complies with HLTFA301B, a recognised Mental Health First Aid Certificate, and to sign a Prohibited Employment Declaration. In addition, and in accordance with NSW Health guidelines for health care workers (www.health.nsw.gov.au), students are required to maintain a written record of immunisations. You will be provided with details and paperwork early in your first session.

Student conference

Student learning culminates with the final year occupation therapy student conference, which focuses on contemporary practice issues and is organised and presented by final year students. The conference is attended by friends, family and occupational therapy practitioners, and marks the transition from student to professional occupational therapist.