

PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAMME 1st CYCLE DEGREE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Course information and outline

1 General information about the study programme

The first-cycle degree Professional Higher Education Study Programme *Occupational Therapy* lasts 3 years (6 semesters), comprising 180 ECTS credits in total. The professional title awarded to the first-cycle degree graduate is *diplomirana delovna terapevtka* or *diplomirani delovni terapevt (VS)*; abbreviation: *dipl. del. ter.(VS)*.

2 Goals of the programme and general competences

The ultimate goal of the programme is to enable a student to understand human behavior and performance in everyday human occupations – self-care, work and leisure in a variety of settings. A student holding a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy will possess a broad range of core skills encompassing profession-specific and generic enabling skills. They will be able to work autonomously in the field of occupational therapy using reflection, critical and analytical thinking in problem solving. They will also participate in research and discipline development within the context of the Slovene health system.

The diploma holder will possess the following general competences:

- ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice,
- ability to analyse, synthesise, solve and anticipate professional problems and outcomes,
- ability to adapt to new situations,
- ability of peer and cross-professional collaboration,
- ability of adequate oral and written communication,
- ability to apply basic research methods and procedures in the field of occupational therapy,
- ability to critically assess their work and evaluate the selected methods and procedures,
- ability to act in compliance with professional ethical principles and values,
- ability to gather, interpret and critically evaluate information,
- ability of independent knowledge acquisition,
- responsibility for and commitment to life-long learning,
- ability to autonomously devise and execute occupational therapy processes,
- ability of autonomous decision-making and performance of occupational therapy procedures.

3 Admission requirements and selection criteria

60 full-time students may enroll in the programme per year.

Admission to the study programme of Occupational Therapy is open to the holders of:

- a) matura
- b) vocational matura or any four-year secondary school final exam.

If the number of applicants exceeds the maximum availability of places, the applicants are selected according to their secondary school achievement weighted in the following way:

Applicants under a) above will be selected according to:

- overall score in the leaving exam (matura) 60%
- grade average in years 3 and 4 40%

Applicants under b) above will be selected according to:

- overall score in vocational matura or final exam 40%
- grade average in years 3 and 4 30%
- grade average in years 3 and 4 in Slovene and in a foreign language 30%

4 Recognition of knowledge and skills acquired prior to admission

Recognition of the student's prior knowledge and skills may be granted if they match the contents and educational goals of the subjects in the Occupational Therapy study programme and were acquired through other study programmes of the relevant degree. A decision regarding the recognition and crediting of the applicants' knowledge and skills is at the discretion of the Student Affairs Commission of the Faculty of Health Sciences. It is based on the students' individual application and the provision of certificates and other documents attesting to the acquired knowledge.

Recognition of prior knowledge will be based on the following criteria:

- the admission requirements,
- the comparability of the extent of education (the workload per subject),
- the comparability of content.

The knowledge acquired prior to admission will be recognised if:

- the admission requirements are equivalent,
- previous education covers at least 75% of the extent of the subject to be recognised and matches at least 75% of the content of the subject to be recognised.

If the Commission determines that the extent and contents of the acquired knowledge are adequate, the ECTS will be granted accordingly to the subject to be recognised.

The number of ECTS will be granted accordingly.

The student's informal learning and skills can be recognised if the contents, scope and level of prior education partially or fully correspond to the general or subject-specific competences as defined by the Occupational Therapy programme. In the validation process, the Student Affairs Commission follows the Rules and Guidelines for Validation of Informally Acquired Knowledge

and Skills, adopted by the Senate of the University of Ljubljana.

5 Promotion requirements

To advance to the subsequent year of the undergraduate programme, the student must fulfil all the obligations defined by the programme and syllabi - obligatory attendance of study activities - lectures, skills lab and clinical practice, and earn the required number of credits per year. The minimal number of credits:

- second year entry requires 54 ECTS from the first study year; mandatory: passed obligations for Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology,
- third year entry requires 60 ECTS from the first and at least 54 ECTS from the second study year.

In exceptional circumstances, as defined in the Statute of the University of Ljubljana, the Student Affairs Commission can approve enrolment into:

- study year 2, if the student has achieved at least 45 ECTS from the first study year,
- study year 3, if the student has achieved 60 ECTS from the first study year and at least 45 ECTS from the second study year.

Repeated enrolment requirements

A repeated enrolment is granted only if the student has earned at least 30 ECTS during the current study year:

A repeated enrolment or transfer is allowed only once during the entire course of studies.

6 Completion of the course

To be awarded a qualification following the Occupational Therapy first-cycle degree programme, a student must complete all subjects' obligations, submit and defend a diploma project and earn 180 ECTS.

7 Transfer between programmes

The Higher Education Act, Criteria for Transfer between Study Programmes and other regulations define transfer between programmes as the process by which students may transfer from one programme of education and training to another university degree programme, having received partial or full recognition of knowledge, skills and competences acquired.

Transfer between first cycle degree programmes

When a student wishes to transfer from any other first-cycle undergraduate programme accredited in the Republic of Slovenia to the proposed Occupational Therapy programme, the transfer is subject to:

- admission requirements,
- places available,
- completion and recognition of the obligations of the former programme,
- acquisition of the minimum number of ECTS required for degree completion in the new programme.

Transfer from two-year higher school programme

Under the Vocational and Professional Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no.12/96), it is possible to transfer from the Occupational Therapy programme accredited prior to 1994 to the third year of the proposed Occupational Therapy programme.

The transfer criteria are laid down by the Senate of the College of Health Studies and will comply with the criteria adopted by the Council for Higher Education of the Republic of Slovenia.

If the number of applicants exceeds the maximum availability of places, the applicants are selected according to their grade average in the former programme.

Transfer from one first-cycle or university degree programme to another

- Transfer is possible from the higher professional education programmes of Occupational Therapy and other higher professional education and university health programmes accredited in Slovenia. In transferring, all the fulfilled and recognised requirements of the prior programme determine the academic year of further study.
- Transfer is also possible from all university or higher professional education programmes of Occupational Therapy run in the EU member states. In transferring, all the fulfilled and recognised requirements of the prior programme determine the academic year of further study.

Transferring between study programmes is at the discretion of the Student Affairs Commission of the Faculty of Health Sciences. All transfers are subject to individual review and follow the Regulations Statute of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ljubljana.

8 Grading system

Assessment strategies and methods complement the learning outcomes. Students' theoretical knowledge and/or practical skills are assessed for each individual subject by the end of the course. The assessment modes (oral or written examination, tests, seminar papers, diaries, reports, etc) are defined in the subjects' syllabi. The assessment regimes are defined in the Rules on Knowledge Assessment, adopted and approved by the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The grading scale is in accordance with the Statute of the University of Ljubljana:

- 10 – excellent, extraordinary results with negligible mistakes
- 9 – very good, above average knowledge with some mistakes
- 8 – good, fairly good knowledge
- 7 – satisfactory, adequate knowledge with some major mistakes
- 6 – sufficient, knowledge meets minimum standards
- 5 to 1 – fail, knowledge does not meet the minimum standards

9 Study programme syllabi and the anticipated head lecturers

The programme is comprised of 23 compulsory and 22 elective subjects. Presented in Table 1 is a list of subjects with anticipated head lecturers. Table 2 presents the sequence of subjects per each study year, the number of contact hours, the proportion of different study modes and the number of credits assigned to each subject.

Table 1: A list of subjects and the anticipated head lecturers

No.	Subject	Head lecturer
1	Anatomy with Physiology and Pathology	Raja Gošnak Dahmane
2	Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology	Sonja Hlebš
3	Social Sciences in Health Care	Blaž Ivanc
4	Introduction to Research Methodology	Matic Kavčič
5	Human Functioning and Environmental Factors	Mojca Jevšnik
6	Human Functioning and Health	Nevenka Gričar
7	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	Cecilija Lebar
8	Human Functioning and Occupational Therapy Intervention	Vitoslava Marušič
9	Life Transitions and Health	Barbara Domajnko
10	Basics of Clinical Medicine and First Aid	Damjan Slabe
11	Neuromotor System, Development, Diseases and Disorders	Darja Rugelj
12	Occupational Therapy in Neurology	Zorana Sicherl
13	Ergonomics	Katarina Kacjan Žgajnar
14	Occupational Therapy in Locomotor System Diseases	Vitoslava Marušič
15	Occupational Therapy in Mental Health	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič
16	Gerontic Occupational Therapy	Katarina Galof
17	Clinical Practice	Alenka Oven
18	Organisation and Management in Occupational Therapy	Alenka Oven
19	Occupational Therapy in Professional Rehabilitation	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič
20	Occupational Therapy and Leisure Time	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič

21	Clinical placement I	Cecilija Lebar
22	Clinical placement II	Vitoslava Marušič
23	Diploma Work	Cecilija Lebar
24.	Professional elective subjects	
24.1	Group Dynamics	Alenka Oven
24.2	Feeding and Oral Control	Zorana Sicherl
24.3	Assistive Technology	Vitoslava Marušič
24.4	Residential Communities	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič
24.5	Occupational Therapy Media	Alenka Oven
24.6	Ergonomics in living environment	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič
24.7	Sensory Integration	Nevenka Gričar
25.	General elective subjects	
25.1	English Language	Tina Levec
25.2	German Language	Irena Kuštrin
25.3	Didactics of Health Education	Andreja Kvas
25.4	Informatics in Health Care	Jelena Ficzko
25.5	Aerobics and other group exercises	Nina Hiti
25.6	Management in Health Care	Andrej Starc
25.7	Seniors, Assistive Devices and Technology	Katarina Galof
25.8	Health Care from Consumers' Perspective	Barbara Domajnko
25.9	Computer Lab Practicum	Jelena Ficzko
25.10	Supervision in Health Care	Darja Thaler
25.11	Inter-professional Collaboration	Matic Kavčič
24.12	Breastfeeding and lactation	Renata Vettorazzi

24.13	Cell-biological basis of regenerative medicine	Peter Veranič
24.14	Preventing musculoskeletal problems among health professionals	Darja Rugelj
24.15	Linguistic and cultural diversity awareness in healthcare	Tina Levec

Table 2: A list of subjects, the sequence of subjects per each study-year, the total student workload per year and per programme, total number of contact hours and contact hours per year, the proportion of different study modes and the number of ECTS credits assigned to each subject

1st YEAR		Contact hours							TSW	ECTS	
1st semester		L	S	SP	LP	CP	CPI	OM			CH
1.	Anatomy with Physiology and Pathology	70			25				85	180	6
2.	Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology	55		35					90	180	6
3.	Social Sciences in Health Care	60	30						90	180	6
4.	Introduction to Research Methodology	30		15					45	90	3
5.	Human Functioning and Environmental Factors	40	20						60	120	4
6.	Human Functioning and Health	15	30		25				80	150	5
	1st semester total	270	80	50	50	-	-	-	450	900	30
2nd semester											
7.	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	55	30		20	40			155	300	10
8.	Human Functioning and Occupational Therapy Intervention	60	20		50				140	270	9
9.	Life Transitions and Health	15	60						75	150	5
10.	Elective subjects								90	180	6
	2nd semester total	130	110	-	70	40	-	-	460	900	30
	1st year total	400	190	50	120	40			910	1800	60

2nd YEAR		Contact hours							TSW	ECTS	
3rd semester		L	S	SP	LP	CP	CPI	OM			CH
11.	Basics of Clinical Medicine and First Aid	55			20				75	150	5
12.	Neuromotor System, Development, Diseases and Disorders	45			30				75	150	5
13.	Occupational Therapy in Neurology	50	25		35	40			150	300	10
14.	Ergonomics	25			10	10			45	90	3
15.	Occupational Therapy in Locomotor System Diseases	35	30		20	20			105	210	7
	3rd semester total	210	55	-	115	70	-	-	450	900	30
2nd semester											
16.	Occupational Therapy in Mental Health	50	20		10	20			110	210	7
17.	Gerontic Occupational Therapy	45	50			20			125	240	8
18.	Clinical Practice					225			225	450	15
	4th semester total	95	70	-	10	265	-	-	460	900	30
	2nd year total	305	125	-	125	335	-	-	910	1800	60

3rd YEAR		Contact hours							TSW	ECTS	
5th semester		L	S	SP	LP	CP	CPI	OM			CH
16.	Organisation and Management in Occupational Therapy	25	25		20				80	150	5
17.	Occupational Therapy in Professional Rehabilitation	30	25			20			75	150	5
18.	Occupational Therapy and Leisure Time	10	15			10		10	45	90	3
19.	Clinical Placement I			10			340		70	420	14
20.	Elective subjects								45	90	3
	5th semester total	65	65	10	20	30	340	10	315	900	30
6th semester											
21.	Clinical Placement II.			10			165		35	210	7
22.	Elective subjects								135	270	9
23.	Diploma Work	5	10		90				315	420	14
	6th semester total	5	10	10	90	-	165	-	485	900	30
	3rd year total	70	75	20	110	30	505	10	1005	1800	60

Professional elective subjects		Contact hours							TSW	ECTS	
		L	S	SP	LP	CP	CPI	OM			CH
1.	Group Dynamics	5	15		20	5			45	90	3
2.	Feeding and Oral Control	10			15	20			45	90	3
3.	Assistive Technology	25			5	15			45	90	3
4.	Residential Communities	10	10			25			45	90	3
5.	Occupational Therapy Media	15	20		40	15			90	180	6
6.	Ergonomics in living environment	15	10					20	45	90	3
7.	Sensory Integration	25			5	15			45	90	3

General elective subjects		Contact hours							TSW	ECTS	
		L	S	SP	LP	CP	CPI	OM			CH
1.	English Language	20		25					45	90	3
2.	German Language		30		15				45	90	3
3.	Didactics of Health Education	20		25					45	90	3
4.	Informatics in Health Care	45							45	90	3
5.	Aerobics and other group exercises	5			40				45	90	3
6.	Management in Health Care	30		15					45	90	3
7.	Seniors, Assistive Devices and Technology	10			15			20	45	90	3
8.	Sensory Integration	25			5	15			45	90	3
9.	Health Care from Consumers' Perspective	10	35						45	90	3
10.	Computer Lab Practicum				45				45	90	3
11.	Supervision in Health Care	15	30		45				90	180	6
12.	Inter-professional Collaboration	30		60					90	180	6
13.	Breastfeeding and lactation	20				25			45	90	3
14.	Cell-biological basis of regenerative medicine	30			15				45	90	3
15.	Preventing musculoskeletal problems among health professionals	8	12		15				55	90	3

	Linguistic and cultural diversity awareness in healthcare	15		20						55	90	3
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Abbreviations:

L – lectures

S – seminar

SP – seminar practice

LP – laboratory practice

CP – clinical practice

CPI – clinical placement

OM – other modes of study

CH – contact hours

TSW – total student workload (TSW is the sum of contact hours – CH and student's independent study)

ECTS – European Community Subject Credit Transfer System

10 Data on the possibility of programme elective subjects and mobility

The programme offers 22 elective subjects divided into two study blocks of professional and general elective subjects. A student may attain 6 ECTS credits through elective subjects in the first year, and the remaining 12 ECTS in the third year.

In the first year, the student may choose between 1 professional and 6 general elective subject. In the third year, the student may choose between 6 professional and 9 general elective subjects.

Conditions for the implementation of elective subjects

The professional elective subjects will be offered if at least 10 students apply, and the general elective subjects will be offered if at least 30 students apply.

External election

A student can earn at least 9 ECTS by taking subjects from any other undergraduate study programme at the Faculty of Health Sciences or other members of the University of Ljubljana which are in agreement with the faculty of origin.

Mobility

A student can transfer 30 ECTS earned from either obligatory or elective units from any Occupational Therapy programme of higher or university education in the European Union member states.

11 Course description

Anatomy and Physiology with Pathology (6 ECTS)

Structure and functions of the human body, health and environmental effects; fundamentals of pathological changes.

Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology (6 ECTS)

Bones, joints, skeletal muscles, muscle contractions, movement; employing appropriate movement.

Social Sciences in Health Care (6 ECTS)

Psychological, sociological and legal aspects of health care.

Introduction to Research Methodology (3 ECTS)

Definition of basic concepts – science, discipline, research, scientific and professional literature; methods of statistical analysis.

Human Functioning and Environmental Factors (4 ECTS)

Social medicine, public health care; the concept of health and illness; hygiene; impact of the environment on human health.

Human Functioning and Health (5 ECTS)

Health promotion; the teaching process; health care didactics; channels of receiving; permanent education.

Introduction to Occupational Therapy (10 ECTS)

History of the profession; occupational therapy components; professional beliefs and values; scientific rationale of the profession; concepts, models and approaches; professional ethics.

Human Functioning and Occupational Therapy Intervention (9 ECTS)

Areas of human functioning; the occupation-person-environment relation; analysis of occupation, tasks, activities; activity in therapeutic treatment.

Life Transitions and Health (5 ECTS)

Man as an active social being; life stages in view of various theories; life transitions; health vulnerabilities in individual life stages; social roles and relations in health care; the importance of occupational therapy in society.

Basics of Clinical Medicine and First Aid (5 ECTS)

Basics of internal diseases, surgical pathologies, and traumas; first aid for traumas and sudden onset of diseases.

Neuromotor System, Development, Diseases and Disorders (5 ECTS)

Structure and function of neuromotor, sensory and cognitive systems; developmental disorders and defects; neurological diseases; neurological defects.

Occupational Therapy in Neurology (10 ECTS)

Theoretical models, approaches, techniques, and activities of occupational therapy in the field of neurology; a patient-oriented approach; occupational therapy process for people with neurological diseases, developmental disorders and defects.

Ergonomics (3 ECTS)

Work; the work environment; stress in the workplace; biomechanics of the skeleto-muscular system; lifting and carrying heavy loads; risk factors; fatigue; accidents at work.

Occupational Therapy in Locomotor System Diseases (7 ECTS)

Pathological processes and diseases of skeleto-muscular system; treatment of diseases, injuries, locomotor system irregularities; occupational therapy models, approaches and treatment concepts; the occupational therapy process.

Occupational Therapy in Mental Health (7 ECTS)

Mental health; mental health disorders; treatment of people with mental disorders; occupational therapy treatment process for people with mental health disorders; treatment contexts.

Gerontic Occupational Therapy (8 ECTS)

Old age and its characteristics; occupational therapy models; approaches and strategies in geriatric health care; seniors' quality of life.

Clinical Training (15 ECTS)

Acquaintance with persons of various ages experiencing problems in performing daily activities/occupation; Implementation of the occupational therapy process.

Organisation and Management in Occupational Therapy (5 ECTS)

General theory of systems; organisation as a system; organisation of occupational therapy; management; quality; quality criteria in occupational therapy; education as a factor of quality.

Occupational Therapy in Professional Rehabilitation (7 ECTS)

The importance of work for the individual; occupational therapy within the context of the workplace; the occupational therapy process; documentation in occupational therapy; professional and vocational rehabilitation of people with difficulties in performing activities along with limited participation; legislation in the field of professional and employment rehabilitation.

Occupational Therapy and Leisure Time (3 ECTS)

Areas of human functioning – leisure time; the importance of leisure time for health and wellbeing; leisure time in different life stages; the occupational therapy process.

Clinical Practice I (14 ECTS)

Application of theoretical frameworks, models, approaches; occupational therapy process in various fields of practice; analysis of the client's performance of the activity; harmonization of the activity's requirements and the clients' capabilities; organisation and management of occupational therapy practice.

Clinical Practice II (7 ECTS)

Selection of one field of human functioning; synthesis of prior knowledge and experience; the occupational therapy process; in-depth analysis of the contextual factors of human functioning.

Diploma Work (14 ECTS)

Research methods; identification of a professional or research problem; project planning; establishment of working group; written – oral reporting; composing a thesis.

The topics for diploma projects are issued by mentors prior to the students' enrolment into the third study year. The topics cover various fields of occupational therapy. For example: development of a therapeutic device, adaptation of the environment, implementation of a theoretical model in practice, verification of the effectiveness of a therapeutic method, etc.

Professional elective subjects

Group Dynamics (3 ECTS)

A group; a therapeutic group; group interaction; working with a group.

Feeding and Oral Control (3 ECTS)

The importance of feeding; the phases of the development of feeding skills; feeding problems and feeding of persons with neurological problems.

Assistive Technology (3 ECTS)

Assistive technology; the areas of assistive technology application; person-activity-assistive technology models; the process of application of assistive technology and evaluation of the outcomes.

Residential Communities (3 ECTS)

The concept of a residential community; institution – residential community; occupational therapy in residential communities.

Occupational Therapy Media (6 ECTS)

The importance of creativity; therapeutic media; analysis of a medium; adaptation of a medium to an individual's needs and capabilities, selection of an appropriate occupational therapy medium (a doll, theatre activities, musical activities, etc.).

General elective subjects**English Language (3 ECTS)**

Upgrade of English medical terminology.

German Language (3 ECTS)

Basic German medical terminology.

Didactics of Health Education (3 ECTS)

Communication; health and health education at the primary, secondary and tertiary level; approaches, teaching methods and pedagogies; the role of a health professional; teaching and training for healthier life-styles; formal and informal education; didactics, lesson planning and supervised lesson.

Informatics in Health Care (3 ECTS)

The basics of computers and computer networks; medical data acquisition, processing and presentation; healthcare information systems, telecommunication, internet, electronic resources of healthcare information; data confidentiality and security.

Management in Health Care (3 ECTS)

Selected theories, concepts and methods applicable to the management of processes, human and other resources, and the introduction of innovative, developmental forms and adjustments in various medical systems and different settings.

Seniors, Assistive Devices and Technology (3 ECTS)

Assistive devices; legislation in the field of assistive devices; the rights to assistive device. Evaluation instruments – the basis for the application of assistive device; individual fabrication of assistive device.

Sensory Integration (3 ECTS)

The theory of sensory integration; the structure and functioning of individual sensory systems; evaluation of sensory integration; treatment of persons with sensory integration conditions.

Health Care from Consumers' Perspective (3 ECTS)

Health care of the individual using high technology; subjective experience; integral comprehension of health care; macro-theoretical frameworks and the phenomenology of illness; new professionalism; responsibility for health.

Computer Lab Practicum (3 ECTS)

Student's presentation of a professional problem through information communication technology; the choice of adequate programme tools; planning, implementation and documentation of outcomes.

Supervision in Health Care (6 ECTS)

Motivation theories; teamwork; professional inter-personal relations; communication; supervision.

Inter-professional Collaboration in Health Care (6 ECTS)

Fields of work of health professionals in the Slovenian health care system; specific competences of individual professions; interdisciplinary teamwork.