

Our Philosophy and Mission



Philosophy: We believe in the development of occupational therapists into highly skilled practitioners through exposures of education processes with a balance between didactic/academic and experimental/clinical environments.

Mission: To provide occupational therapist with the knowledge and abilities to advance their skills in the practice area of physical rehabilitation to become an advanced practitioner in this practice setting through:

1. Using Evidence Based Practice when evaluating and providing interventions to clients
2. Effectively evaluating the outcomes of services delivered
3. The use of scholarly activities/opportunities
4. Engaging in collaborative inter-professional and cross sectoral partnerships
5. Increasing awareness of the unique occupational needs of Veterans and active duty service members



Important Information

Fellowship Website:

<https://www.va.gov/tampa-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/neurorehabilitation-occupational-therapy-fellowship-program/>

Contact Information:

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NEUROREHABILITATION OT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



The OT Fellowship will be a paid position with health benefits, accrued annual/sick leave and federal holidays. Must be a US Citizen.

Clinical Training:

- Consists of managing a caseload in the Polytrauma and Spinal Cord Injury units with emphasis on conditions of the central nervous system such as SCI and brain injury
- One on one mentoring sessions with highly experienced clinical mentors/faculty
- Didactic curriculum component with established scholarly activities

Opportunities:

- Interdisciplinary patient rounds
- OT journal club meetings
- Evidence based practice work group meeting
- Staff in-service presentations
- Physical Medicine and Rehab grand rounds
- Mentoring doctoral and masters OT students on on Level II fieldwork
- On-site Medical Library, didactic resources and materials

Curriculum:

The JAHVH Neurorehabilitation OT Fellowship Program will focus on the participant's development of knowledge, competency, and the participant's development of knowledge competency and advanced practice skills in the following core elements:

- Advanced Knowledge
- Evaluation
- Interventions
- Interpersonal Skills
- Outcomes
- Ethical practice
- Scholarly Practice

The fellow will complete two distinct rotations (Spinal Cord Injury Unit and Polytrauma/TBI Unit) that will emphasize:

1. Initial focus on the acquisition of knowledge pertaining to neurological conditions, developing clinical reasoning skills in relation to evaluation and intervention.
2. Progression in developing and using evidence-based practice skills as well as measuring outcomes when providing holistic Occupational Therapy services to clients.
3. Integrate the didactic knowledge and experiential practice to develop interpersonal, scholarly and professional skills in leadership, management, and performance improvement.

Fellowship Program Description:

The Occupational Therapy Department at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital has developed a Fellowship Program dedicated to advancing the knowledge and skills of an Occupational Therapist seeking to develop into a highly skilled practitioner through exposure of education process with a balance between didactic/academic and experiential/clinical environments.

This unique opportunity offers a newly licensed graduate, Occupational Therapist the opportunity to fast track an American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) board certification in Physical Rehabilitation. At the completion of the one year long program the fellow will be eligible to apply for a Board Certification in Physical Rehabilitation(BCPR) with a reduced number of years of practice; 3 years of experience instead of the normal 5-year requirement.

The OT Fellow will gain valuable insight and experience through mentoring and didactic/scholarly learning opportunities.

Highlights:

Large, complex medical facility including:

- State of the Art rehab equipment such as:
- Saebo Products such as Mobile Arm Supports, and Orthotics
- Robotic Assisted Therapy Devices
- Bioness Hand Rehabilitation System
- PrimusRS BTE
- Electronic Fee
- Adaptive Keyboards and Switches
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices
- Electronic Aids of Daily Living
- Ceiling and floor-based Lifts

Dedicated Large OT Staff:

- Clinician Average Experience of 17.5 years in Clinical Practice
- Highly Dedicated and Experienced Mentors and Subject Matter Experts
- On-site faculty with designations of Assistive Technology Professional, Certified Hand Therapist, and Certified Brain Injury Specialist, with many years of experience



Goals of the Program:

To educate and train a post professional Occupational Therapy graduate to:

1. Meet the rehabilitation needs of Veterans and active duty service members by becoming advanced practitioners of Physical Rehabilitation OT.
2. Critically assess and appraise the current literature, integrating the latest relevant evidence into advanced practice to improve a client's occupation based outcomes.
3. Demonstrate the use of evidence-based outcome measures tools to evaluate and guide occupational-based interventions, treatment and plan of care development that is client-centered and holistic (physical, emotional and psychosocial skills).
4. Demonstrate understanding of the 2020 AOTA ethical principles and their implication on practice, such as client-centered services, fiscal, regulatory and systems.
5. Demonstrate the ability to access and establish collaborative partnerships with stakeholders to maximize the occupational participation of clients in physical rehabilitation.
6. Participate in scholarly activities such as performance or quality improvement project, case study development/presentation, and manuscript development.
7. Exhibit the highest standards of professionalism.