

PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAMME 1st CYCLE DEGREE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Course information and outline

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)*.

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.

Admission requirements and selection criteria

40 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 finale: 40 %
- grade average in years 3 and 4 30 %
- grade average in years 3 and 4 in Slovene and in a foreign language 30 %

Recognition of knowledge and skills acquired prior to admission

Recognition of the student's prior learning or current competencies (in ECTS) acquired through other study programmes may be granted if they match the contents and educational goals of the Occupational Therapy programme. In compliance with the criteria regarding prior learning recognition adopted by the University of Ljubljana, the Study Committee of the College of Health Studies shall make a decision regarding the recognition and crediting of the applicants' knowledge and skills on the basis of students' individual applications 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 and match at least 75 % of the content of 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 Study Committee follows the Rules and Guidelines for Validation of Informally Acquired Knowledge and Skills, adopted by the Senate of the University of Ljubljana on 29 May 2007.

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:

- for enrolment into the second year is 54 ECTS earned in the first study year,
- for enrolment into the third year is 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 Study 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.

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.

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 Study Committee of the College of Health Studies. All transfers are subject to individual review and follow the Regulations Statute of the College of Health Studies, Ljubljana.

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 College of Health Studies. 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

Study programme syllabi and the anticipated head lecturers

Table 1: A list of core 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	Asja Nina Kovačev
4	Introduction to Research Methodology	Majda Pahor
5	Human Functioning and Environmental Factors	Martin Bauer
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	Majda Pahor
10	Basics of Clinical Medicine and First Aid	Damijan Slabe
11	Neuromotor System, Development, Diseases and Disorders	Darja Rugelj
12	Occupational Therapy in Neurology	Marija Tomšič
13	Ergonomics	France Sevšek
14	Occupational Therapy in Locomotor System Diseases	Vitoslava Marušič
15	Occupational Therapy in Mental Health	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič
16	Gerontic Occupational Therapy	Marija Tomšič
17	Clinical Practice	Alemka 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
21.1	Clinical placement I	Cecilija Lebar
21.2	Clinical placement II	Vitoslava Marušič
22	Diploma Work	Cecilija Lebar
23.	Professional elective subjects	
23.1	Group Dynamics	Alenka Oven
23.2	Feeding and Oral Control	Marija Tomšič
23.3	Assistive Technology	Vitoslava Marušič
23.4	Residential Communities	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič
23.5	Occupational Therapy Media	Alenka Oven

23.6	Ergonomics in living environment	Alenka Plemelj Mohorič
24.7	Sensory Integration	Nevenka Gričar
24.	General elective subjects	
24.1	English Language	Tina Levec
24.2	German Language	Irena Kuštrin
24.3	Didactics of Health Education	Andreja Kvas
24.4	Informatics in Health Care	Jelena Ficzko
24.5	Aerobics and other group exercises	Nina Hiti
24.6	Management in Health Care	Andrej Starc
24.7	Seniors, Assistive Devices and Technology	Marija Tomšič
24.8	Health Care from Consumers' Perspective	Majda Pahor
24.9	Computer Lab Practicum	Jelena Ficzko
24.10	Supervision in Health Care	Darja Thaler
24.11	Inter-professional Collaboration	Majda Pahor
24.12	Breastfeeding and lactation	Silvestra Hoyer
24.13	Cell-biological basis of regenerative medicine	Peter Veranič

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

1st YEAR										
1st semester		L	S	LP, SP	CP	CPI	OM	ΣCH	TSW	ECTS
1.	Anatomy with Physiology and Pathology	70		25				95	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	20	30	25				75	150	5
1st semester total		275	80	100	–	–	–	455	900	30
2nd semester										
7.	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	60	30	20	40			150	300	10
8.	Human Functioning and Occupational Therapy Intervention	65	20	50				135	270	9
9.	Life Transitions and Health	15	60					75	150	5
10.	Elective subjects							90	180	6
2nd semester total		140	110	70	40	–	–	450	900	30
1st year total		415	190	170	40			905	1800	60

2nd YEAR										
3rd semester		L	S	LP, SP	CP	CPI	OM	ΣCH	TSW	ECTS
1.	Basics of Clinical Medicine and First Aid	60		15				75	150	5
2.	Neuromotor System, Development, Diseases and Disorders	45		30				75	150	5
3.	Occupational Therapy in Neurology	50	60		40			150	300	10
4.	Ergonomics	25		10	10			45	90	3
5.	Occupational Therapy in Locomotor System Diseases	35	30	20	20			105	210	7
	3rd semester total	215	90	75	70	–	–	450	900	30
4th semester										
6	Occupational Therapy in Mental Health	50	25	10	20		5	105	210	7
7.	Gerontic Occupational Therapy	50	50		20			120	240	8
8.	Clinical Practice				225			225	450	15
	4th semester total	100	75	10	265	–	5	450	900	30
	2nd year total	315	165	85	335		5	900	1800	60

3rd YEAR										
5th semester		L	S	LP, SP	CP	CPI	OM	ΣCH	TSW	ECTS
1.	Organisation and Management in Occupational Therapy	25	30	20			10	75	150	5
2.	Occupational Therapy in Professional Rehabilitation	30	25		20			75	150	5
3.	Occupational Therapy and Leisure Time	10	15		10		10	45	90	3
4.	Clinical Placement I					350		350	420	14
5.	Elective subjects							45	90	3
	5th semester total	65	70	20	30	350		590	900	30
6th semester										
6.	Clinical Placement II.					175		175	210	7
7.	Elective subjects							135	270	9
8.	Diploma Work	5	10	90				105	420	14
	6th semester total							415	900	30
	3rd year total	70	80	110	30	525	10	1005	1800	60

Elective subjects		Contact hours								
23. Professional elective subjects		L	S	LP, SP	CP	CPI	OM	Σ CH	TSW	ECTS
23.1	Group Dynamics	5	15	20	5			45	90	3
23.2	Feeding and Oral Control	10		15	20			45	90	3
23.3	Assistive Technology	25		5	15			45	90	3
23.4	Residential Communities	10	10		25			45	90	3
23.5	Occupational Therapy Media	15	20	40	15			90	180	6
23.6	Ergonomics in living environment	15		20				45	90	3
23.7	Sensory Integration	25		5	15			45	90	3
24. General elective subjects										
24.1	English Language	20		25				45	90	3
24.2	German Language		30	15				45	90	3
24.3	Didactics of Health Education	20		25				45	90	3
24.4	Informatics in Health Care	45						45	90	3
24.5	Aerobics and other group exercises	5		40				45	90	3
24.6	Management in Health Care	30		15				45	90	3
24.7	Seniors, Assistive Devices and Technology	10		35			20	45	90	3
24.8	Health Care from Consumers' Perspective	10	35					45	90	3
24.9	Computer Lab Practicum			45				45	90	3
24.10	Supervision in Health Care	15	30	45				90	180	6
24.11	Inter-professional Collaboration in Health Care	30		60				90	180	6
24.12	Breastfeeding and lactation	20			25			45	90	3
24.13	Cell-biological basis of regenerative medicine	30		15				45	90	3

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 Credit Transfer System

Information on the possibility of elective programme subjects and mobility

The programme offers 16 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 4 general elective subject.

In the third year, the student may choose between 4 professional and 7 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 College of Health Studies 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.

Course description

1. Anatomy and Physiology with Pathology (6 ECTS)

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

2. Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology (6 ECTS)

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

3. Social Sciences in Health Care (6 ECTS)

Psychological, sociological and legal aspects of health care.

4. Introduction to Research Methodology (3 ECTS)

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

5. 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.

6. Human Functioning and Health (5 ECTS)

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. Gerontic Occupational Therapy (8 ECTS)

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

17. Clinical Training (15 ECTS)

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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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

24. Group Dynamics (3 ECTS)

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

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. Residential Communities (3 ECTS)

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

28. 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.).

29. Ergonomics in living environment (3 ECTS)

Ergonomics in the various stages of life, Biomechanical analysis of activities, factors of disability (physical, social, informational), the adaptation of the living environment of people with disabilities, ergonomics and assistive technology.

30. 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.

General elective subjects

31. English Language (3 ECTS)

Upgrade of English medical terminology.

32. German Language (3 ECTS)

Basic German medical terminology.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. Aerobics and other group exercises (3 ECTS)

Historical overview, group exercise, the impact on motor skills, practical design.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. 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.

40. Supervision in Health Care (6 ECTS)

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

41. 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.

42. Breastfeeding and lactation (3 ECTS)

The process of breastfeeding and lactation, psychological and sociological characteristics and their effects on lactation support systems for breastfeeding, breastfeeding techniques, strategy of returning to breastfeed.

43. Cell-biological basis of regenerative medicine (3 ECTS)

Principles of regenerative medicine, cell-biological basis for tissue regeneration, stem cells – properties, role in tissue and usage, biomaterials as scaffolds in regenerative medicine, recovery of injured tissue by scar formation or fetal regeneration, the role of inflammation in tissue regeneration, regeneration of central nervous system and peripheral.