

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
**Master of Occupational Therapy Program**  
**OCTH 5180 – Professional Development Seminar II**  
**Spring 2026**

Instructor: Heidi Cage, OTR, MOT, CBIS

Email: [hcage@uttyler.edu](mailto:hcage@uttyler.edu)

Office: H310

Office Hours: available by appointment\*

Phone: 903-730-3924

\*prefer email to set meeting appointments

**Course Description:** Series of courses focused on professional behaviors, professional case studies, community service, reflective practices. Pediatrics learning experiences (30 hours) in community-based organizations and simulated case studies to build a foundation of knowledge and practice that adheres to ethics of care and cultural competence.

Credits: 1

**Textbooks:**

\*Gateley, C.A. & Borcharding, S. (2023). *Documentation manual for occupational therapy. Writing SOAP notes.* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) Thorofare, NJ: Slack, Inc. ISBN: 978-1638220602.

\*Schell, B. A. B., Gillen, G., & Scaffa, M.E. (Eds.) (2014). *Willard and Spackman's occupational therapy* (13<sup>th</sup> ed.) Philadelphia, PA: LWW. ISBN 978-1451110

\* Textbooks already purchased

**Course Objectives:**

1. Enhance and develop professional oral and written communication skills.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of the role of social, cultural, economic factors and their impact on populations and contemporary lifestyles.
3. Understand the ethical and practical considerations that affect health and wellness needs of those at risk for social injustice, occupational deprivation and disparity in the receipt of services.
4. Analyze and discuss the intersection of occupational therapy and the sociopolitical climate over time and to the present day.
5. Evaluate and address the various contexts of health care, education, community, political and social systems as they relate to occupational therapy practice.
6. Discuss and evaluate personal and professional abilities and competencies as they relate to job responsibilities and professional growth.
7. Participate and engage in active observation in fieldwork and service learning with a focus on pediatric settings.
8. Engage in documentation tasks to reflect client, context and/or practice setting.
9. Successfully complete required OSHA training and demonstrate the consistent ability to adhere to safety regulations, using sound judgment to ensure safety.
10. Apply foundational knowledge, previous professional experiences and new academic learning to fieldwork and community engagements to meet the needs of clients in various contexts and cultures reflecting ethical practice.

## **Connection to the MOT Curriculum**

### **Clinical Reasoning and Reflective Practice Application**

This course will synthesize knowledge gained in Occupations Evaluation, Conditions and Interventions II (Pediatric Practice). While on a Level 1 fieldwork experience or service learning opportunity, students will be completing journals, experience summary and case study. Students will begin self-reflection, clinical reasoning and active development towards professional identity. This seminar is the second in a series of five courses which supports and addresses professional behavior development

### **Learning Activities Required for Course Credit/Grading**

Assignments & Participation	70%
Service-Learning Assignments/Training	30%

### **Specific Content Areas**

Professional skills – oral & written communication  
Documentation  
Professional behaviors  
Level 1 Fieldwork or Service-learning experience

### **Grading Policies**

Written assignments are graded on content, style, clarity, conciseness, and comprehensiveness. Written assignments are expected to reflect the guidelines in the Publication Manual of the American Psychology Association (APA) 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Some of the required assignments in this course may be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin or other plagiarism software.

Class preparation: All students are expected to complete assigned readings and review online materials before taking quizzes and/or attending software.

Late assignments: Assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus. The grade will reflect 10% off each day late, not accepted after day 3 for anything other than completed. All assignments must be completed, with or without credit, to receive a grade in the course.

### **Grading Scale**

A = 90-100% total points  
B = 80-89% total points  
C = 70-79% total points  
D = 60-69% total points  
F = less than 60% total points

**Date of Final Exam:** TBD

**Date to withdraw without penalty:** January 26

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance to class and fieldwork activities are mandatory and may not be able to be made up. If fieldwork time is missed it is up to the student to reschedule the experience, the student is solely responsible for information missed in the event of an absence.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **UT Tyler Honor Code**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

### **UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University**

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quit lines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Spring Census Date is January 27.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware.

These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid.

## State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email [enroll@uttyler.edu](mailto:enroll@uttyler.edu) to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#). Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career\*. The six courses dropped include those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

\* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

### 1. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's test paper,
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

2. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.
3. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
4. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

### **Artificial Intelligence:**

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

**AI is not permitted in this course at all.** I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

### **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903-565-5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903-656-5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903-566-7254)

### **Pregnant and Parenting Student Resources**

- At UT Tyler, we recognize that there are many students who may be pregnant, or are parents and caretakers. With this in mind, a Parenting Student Liaison is available on-campus to support current and incoming students who are parents or legal guardians of children under 18 years of age or are pregnant. In conjunction with the Division of Student Success, the Parenting Student Liaison will make sure your needs are being met!
- Please complete the self-reporting form to notify UT Tyler that you are pregnant or are a parenting student who may need additional support.
- [Self-Reporting Form](#)

For more information, please contact the Parenting Student Liaison, Ashton Maisel, at [amaisel@uttyler.edu](mailto:amaisel@uttyler.edu)

### **ACOTE Standards**

#### **Assessment Measures**

1. Assignment

2. Demonstration
3. Alternative Assessment: 1:1 Advisor Meeting
4. Fieldwork

ACOTE Standard		Syllabus Objective Number	Assessment Measure Number
B.2.8	Use sound judgment in regard to safety of self and others and adhere to safety regulations throughout the occupational therapy process as appropriate to the setting and scope of practice.	2,7, 9. 10	1,3
B.2.9	Discuss and evaluate personal and professional abilities and competencies as they relate to job responsibilities.	1,5,6,8	1,8
B.2.10	Demonstrate knowledge of the current published American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics and AOTA Standards of Practice and use them as a guide for ethical decision making in professional interactions, client interventions, employment settings, and when confronted with personal and organizational ethical conflicts.	3,4	1,6