



**School of Allied Health Professions**  
Department of Occupational Therapy

## **Department of Occupational Therapy Strategic Plan 2024-2029**

**Updated and Adopted July 9, 2026**

### ***Department of Occupational Therapy Mission Statement***

The mission of the Occupational Therapy Program at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center—New Orleans is to:

- Educate students to become reflective and empathetic practitioners who provide excellent occupation-based intervention while maintaining high ethical standards.
- Foster a spirit of inquiry and scholarly development so both faculty and students experience intellectual growth and cultivate habits that support life-long learning.
- Provide service at university, local, state, and national levels to promote occupation-based health and wellness for clients, communities, and populations.

### ***Department of Occupational Therapy Vision***

To create a community of practitioners grounded in effective, occupation-based practice that facilitates participation in everyday living for all people in the unique cultures of New Orleans, South Louisiana, and beyond.

To improve the quality of life of underserved populations through faculty and professional staff-led clinics,

and to be leaders in Louisiana in contributing to the body of knowledge of the occupational therapy profession through publication and presentation of capstone and faculty-driven research.

### ***Department of Occupational Therapy Core Values***

- We value and encourage INQUIRY and LIFE-LONG LEARNING.
- We RESPECT the rights of others and view individuality as an opportunity for enrichment and growth.
- We value SERVICE and ADVOCACY to the community and our profession.
- We encourage INNOVATION and the use of creative talents to achieve excellence.
- We promote ADAPTABILITY and RESILIENCY to prevail in the presence of change and uncertainty.
- We value ACADEMIC INTEGRITY and PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR.
- We value the promotion of QUALITY OF LIFE and PARTICIPATION.
- We value the use of COLLABORATION and INTERPROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE in education and practice.

### ***Occupational Therapy Program Strategic Plan Long-Term Goals***

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| <b>School of Allied Health Profession's Mission - Pillar One: Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| To foster innovative learning environments and experiences for the next generation of allied health professionals, we are dedicated to shaping competent and compassionate professionals, advancing clinical practice, research, and ethical care. |
| <b>Long-Term Program Goals</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1. Improve students' clinical skills and feelings of competence related to practice.                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2. Improved use of technology in teaching.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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| 3. Increased content related to the use of technology in practice, including apps, wearables, 3D printing, and functional reality.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4. Student competence with and ethical use of artificial intelligence for OT practice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5. Provide students with opportunities to learn emerging practice areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6. Effective use of competency-based assessment (CBA) in appropriate courses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7. Increase student participation in course/instructor evaluations to greater than 80% and use student feedback to improve courses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8. Maintain current high level of teaching effectiveness in the 23-month curriculum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9. Increase teaching and assessment of the OT/OTA partnership across multiple courses and throughout the curriculum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10. Increase the number of graduates who pass the NBCOT certification exam the first time taken.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 11. Add an entry-level OTD program to our current MOT program, providing both points of entry into the profession and opportunities for students who want deeper scholarship.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12. Maintain current level of FW sites in a changing local work climate and communicate this information for student advising.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13. Maximize quality of fieldwork sites through utilizing those that align with the Department of OT's mission and vision.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 14. Support the academic success of students during all phases of the curriculum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 15. Support students in managing their wellness during the occupational therapy program.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 16. Maintain the number of applicants to at least 100 per admissions cycle.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 17. Collaborate with the SAHP Asst Dean for Admissions in creating an efficient, transparent, and equitable admissions process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>School of Allied Health Profession's Mission - Pillar Two: Research and Scholarship</b><br>To advance research and discovery on health issues focusing on rehabilitation across the lifespan, we are dedicated to excellence in research initiatives focused on interdisciplinary rehabilitation, leveraging clinical partnerships and community engagement. |
| <b>Long-Term Program Goals</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 18. Increase number of faculty submissions to peer reviewed publications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 19. Increase number of faculty submissions to peer reviewed publications that are accepted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| 20. Students will actively engage in the research process, including dissemination, through participation in group capstone projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 21. Increase the number of clinical and educational research projects undertaken with disciplines across the SAHP.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 22. Increase the number of faculty submissions to national and regional peer-reviewed conferences.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 23. Increase the number of faculty submissions to national and regional peer-reviewed conferences that are accepted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 24. Explore research collaborations with OTPs in the community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>School of Allied Health Profession's Mission - Pillar Three: Service</b><br>To promote interprofessional education and collaboration across multiple healthcare disciplines, we aim to provide exceptional, equitable healthcare services and personalized support for individuals with developmental and acquired disabilities, promoting their growth and independence.     |
| <b>Long-Term Program Goals</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 25. Provide occupation-based care to enhance the quality of life for underserved populations through capstone group projects and faculty service. Current outreach includes Eden Center, the Rebuild Center, Hunt Correctional Institute, Louisiana Children's Museum, Tigers & Tots, LSVT BIG Support Group, Easterseals Chartwell Center, and Bastion Community of Resilience. |
| 26. Increase active OT faculty clinical practice to enhance clinical services to the community by improving the faculty practice infrastructure and improving the patient's clinical experience.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 27. Provide quality faculty practice in areas of expertise and areas of need in the greater New Orleans area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 28. Collaborate with clinics and providers from other Schools within LSUHSC – N.O. Current collaborations include the SOM's Nephrology Clinic and ALS Clinic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 29. Improve faculty practice clinic efficiency and accuracy to maximize financials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>School of Allied Health Profession's Mission - Pillar Four: Leadership</b><br>To cultivate leadership skills and opportunities within the allied health professions, we are committed to developing leaders who will drive innovation, advocate for health equity, and inspire positive change in healthcare systems and communities.                                         |
| <b>Long-Term Program Goals</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| 30. Increase student comfort and competence with advocating for occupational therapy in changing reimbursement environments.                                                |
| 31. Provide educational opportunities to the local occupational therapy community.                                                                                          |
| 32. Facilitate student leadership of their own educational experience.                                                                                                      |
| 33. Improve faculty retention and feelings of competence.                                                                                                                   |
| 34. Support faculty in their professional goals regarding teaching, research, service, and promotion.                                                                       |
| 35. Create opportunities for financial contributions to the Department's general Foundation account to support student events and a culture of recognition of achievements. |
| 36. Ensure adequate monies in the Jo Thompson Foundation account to fund the annual award for a student who best epitomizes the leadership attributes of Jo Thompson.       |