

Diploma in Occupational Therapy

Graduates of the Diploma in Occupational Therapy will be competent professional occupational therapists who are able to assess, treat and assist individuals to perform important daily human activities such as self care, work and leisure by using a range of treatment techniques and approaches. Being client-centred, occupational therapists apply their clinical skills and knowledge to enhance the quality of life of clients in all age groups.

Occupational therapists use activities to facilitate human performance and improve health. They can specialize in varied areas such as in the case of children with learning disabilities, occupational therapists employ activities which develop sensory integration, thinking, writing and social skills so that they can function within the school environment. Conversely, to treat injured workers after hand surgery, splinting and hand therapy techniques are used so that workers may return to gainful employment.

The Occupational Therapy course will suit people who:

- ❖ have a strong interest in the health sciences;
- ❖ like the challenge of being facilitators of positive change in people's lives; and
- ❖ command a passion and desire to help those with physical, psychological and emotional problems.

Course Aims

The Graduates will be able to:

- ❖ understand the history, philosophy and practice of the occupational therapy profession;
- ❖ integrate knowledge, skills and attitudes to practice competently as beginner practitioners;
- ❖ plan, implement and evaluate occupational therapy programmes for clients from different healthcare settings;
- ❖ work within a variety of healthcare and social service areas to enhance the functioning of people with physical disabilities and/ or psychosocial dysfunction; and
- ❖ develop skills to foster professional identity and accountability, and become a life-long learner.

Duration

3 academic years on a full-time basis

Career Prospects

There are many career opportunities available for graduates. Over time, occupational therapists may choose to specialise in the clinical, administrative or academic field. They may become clinical specialists in physical rehabilitation, community healthcare, paediatrics or psychosocial rehabilitation; work in private practice; occupy management positions; or take on a lectureship. There is also a world trend to work in health promotion and wellness programmes.

The Singapore Association of Occupational Therapists conducts continuing educational courses and seminars for members on a regular basis. Post-graduate educational opportunities include degree conversion courses, masters and doctoral programmes, which are available both locally and through overseas universities in Australia or the United Kingdom.

The Occupational Therapy course at Nanyang Polytechnic has achieved accreditation by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists; therefore, graduates are eligible to practise world-wide, subject to local regulations.