

Administrative Procedures

Philosophy and Criteria for Baccalaureate Degrees

Rancho Santiago Community College District programs are consistent with the college mission, vision, and core values.

Baccalaureate Degree

The philosophy of the baccalaureate degree at Santa Ana College is consistent with the philosophy of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. The occupational therapy assistant program, in keeping with the philosophical principles of Rancho Santiago College District, provides the student with a rich, skill-based learning environment that recognizes the diversity each student brings to his or her education. The program supports and encourages the intellectual and personal growth of each student. The program has as its philosophical base, the belief in the significance of occupation as an organizing principle in encouraging and maintaining the quality of ones' life. The baccalaureate degree will be awarded to students who have demonstrated critical thinking skills, creative capabilities, effective communication skills, and positive social attitudes. In addition to these accomplishments, students graduating with a baccalaureate degree shall possess sufficient depth in the major to contribute to preparation for career positions and advanced levels of study. The depth will be provided with completion of an accredited OTA program (42 major specific units at Santa Ana College), and a minimum of 30 upper-division units specific to the major. The college catalog will clearly differentiate upper-division and lower-division course work. Upper-division courses will be open only to those students enrolled in the baccalaureate degree program.

- A. Upper-division courses require lower-division knowledge and apply that knowledge as demonstrated measures of application of critical thinking, writing, oral communication, and computation.
- B. Upper-division courses will typically have prerequisites that have been established using content review of the entry skills necessary to be successful as outlines in the California Code of Regulations.
- C. Upper-division courses may encompass research elements, workforce application, and capstone projects.

Major Specific Upper-Division Courses

Students completing this program will be able to demonstrate:

- A. Development of therapeutic treatment plans based on a thorough understanding of available evidence.
- B. Defining roles and working with disciplines outside of healthcare.
- C. Ability to critically analyze professional journal articles including statistical analysis.
- D. In-depth understanding of healthcare systems and how regulations affect the practice of occupational therapy.
- E. Analyzing the unique value of occupational therapy with various populations and in different settings.

General Education

General education at Santa Ana College introduces the content and methodology of knowledge to include a broad spectrum of classes. The lower-division general education for the baccalaureate degree meets the regulations for IGETC or CSU Breadth, as described in the college catalog. The baccalaureate degree will consist of ten (10) units of upper-division general education courses. These upper-division courses will enhance the foundational knowledge gained by students in lower-division general education classes and will further develop communication, leadership, and computational skills that will supplement the major specific skill set used in occupational therapy settings. Students completing this program will demonstrate the following:

- A. A broad understanding of mathematics (with an emphasis on statistics), science, social science, humanities, and the arts.
- B. Effective written and oral communication.
- C. A multicultural global perspective.
- D. Critical-thinking skills that apply analytical and creative approaches to problem solving.
- E. The ability to analyze research completed in the major area of study.
- F. The ability to adapt to new environments, technologies, and changes in the major area of study.
- G. Social awareness and responsibility as a participating member of society.

General education courses specific to the Bachelors of Science in Occupational Studies will meet the following criteria:

- A. Provide an integrative learning experience that will make connections among other disciplines.
- B. Contextualize to the major and national workplace.
- C. Will be offered in a minimum of two disciplines outside of Occupational Studies.
- D. At minimum of 1 (one) course will have an emphasis in written or oral communication or on computation and analytical skills.
- E. Courses will only be open to those students enrolled in the baccalaureate program.