



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

PGDip in Hand Therapy (10220023)

Department Occupational Therapy

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 120

NQF level 08

Programme information

The programme extends over one academic year and is presented in four blocks. (The number of blocks and duration may be adjusted after consultation between the lecturers and students.)

Note: Commencement of studies must be discussed with the head of department, as the programme is presented every second year.

Also consult General Academic Regulations G16-G29.

Admission requirements

1. Relevant Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT) (or equivalent) degree
2. Registration as an occupational therapist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)
3. Employment in a part-time/full-time position appropriate for the field of study

Examinations and pass requirements

- i. In accordance with the stipulations of the General Academic Regulations a year mark of at least 40% is required for admission to the standard examination in all postgraduate modules in the University where year marks apply.
- ii. Each paper written for the standard examination must be passed individually with 50%.
- iii. There is one examination period for the standard examination in October/ November and the supplementary examination in November/December of the same year.
- iv. If a student fails the supplementary examination, the module must be repeated.
- v. A supplementary examination in a module is granted to a student, if a student obtains a final mark of between 40%-49% in any module at the examination.
- vi. Students intending to sit for the supplementary examination due to the reasons mentioned above, must register for the supplementary examination opportunity 24 hours after the results have been made public.
- vii. If a student fails a module in the standard examination, the examination mark obtained in the relevant module at the supplementary examination will be calculated as the final mark. The marks obtained with continuous evaluation during the quarter/semester/year will not be taken into calculation. If the student passes the module in the supplementary examination, a maximum of 50% is awarded as a pass mark to the module in question.



- viii. A student who is prevented from writing the standard examination due to illness or other qualifying circumstances, may be granted permission by the dean to write a special examination in the particular module(s).
- ix. If a student is granted permission by the dean to write a special examination, the continuous evaluation mark, together with the examination mark obtained in the module in question at the special examination, will be calculated as the final mark obtained in the module.
- x. In instances where students are unable to write the examination and supplementary examination as a consequence of a serious medical condition or an accident, such a student must apply for a special dispensation, with the support of the dean, to the Registrar, who will make a final decision.
- xi. A student who has failed one module but who has passed all other modules, may be admitted to a Chancellor's examination in the module in question at the end of the first semester of the subsequent year, after obtaining a subminimum of 40% in the first semester.
- xii. A final year student who has failed more than one module, must register for the whole year to complete the modules in question.

Pass with distinction

The diploma is awarded with distinction to a student who has obtained an average of at least 75% (not rounded) in all the modules.



Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 120

Core modules

Anatomy 702 (AAN 702)

Module credits	10.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 discussion class per week, 1 practical per week, 3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Anatomy
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

A complete synopsis of all anatomy modules at postgraduate level published in the Study Guide for Postgraduate Anatomy Courses is available on request from the Department of Anatomy.

Advanced clinical management in hand therapy 702 (ADM 702)

Module credits	50.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Occupational Therapy
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Advanced study of hand injuries and conditions and their management. The design and application of treatment programmes in clinical practice. Study and application of evaluation methods and instruments

Biomechanics and ergonomics 702 (BEX 702)

Module credits	10.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 practical per week, 14 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Occupational Therapy
Period of presentation	Year



Module content

Biomechanics of the upper limb and disturbance thereof; the biomechanics of splints. Environmental factors for effective posture and handgrip; relationship between man and environment; disturbance of this relationship.

Physiology and pathophysiology 702 (FIP 702)

Module credits	10.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Physiology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Physiology of the integration of hand function; brain plasticity, pain. Regeneration of skin, bone, muscle and nerve tissue; infection; inflammation.

Clinical skills in hand therapy 702 (KVH 702)

Module credits	40.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	12 practicals per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Occupational Therapy
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Study and application of:

- evaluation methods and instruments for hand and upper limb injuries
- current techniques in hand therapy.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and



may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.