

OT Department Cross-Cultural Experience Requirements and Procedures

The Cross-Cultural Experience is a required component of the MSOT and OTD programs. It is designed to immerse students in a culture distinct from their own, encouraging exploration of unique values, beliefs, and traditions. The primary goal is to deepen understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that affect occupational therapy practice/occupational routines both within and outside the United States.

Students in the MSOT or OTD programs may meet the requirement through one of the following options. The Table of Pathways below outlines the options and more details are in the narrative that follows.

Table of Pathways to fulfill the requirement

Option	Description	Units / Requirements	Notes
1. SJSU Faculty-Led Program (FLP)	Includes OT-led courses (e.g., OCTH 210ITL)	3 units (upper-division or graduate; health-related)	Meets OT elective requirement
2. Short Study Abroad (Utrecht, Netherlands)	Short-term international experience	3 units or 5 ECTS	Meets OT elective requirement
3. CHHS International Experience	Completed as part of SJSU bachelor's program (2018 or later)	Petition + unofficial transcript	Requires additional OCTH 210 elective (2 units) or or another approved upper-division or graduate-level elective (100 level or 200 level course) (2+ units) relevant to occupational therapy

<p>4. OTH 298 or OTH 298D Independent Study (to meet cross cultural experience requirement)</p>	<p>Petition-based: prior/current international or domestic cross-cultural experience (≥ 25 hours direct engagement)</p>	<p>1 unit, CR/NC</p>	<p>Requires additional OTH 210 elective (2 units) or or another approved upper-division or graduate-level elective (100 level or 200 level course) (at least 1 unit) relevant to occupational therapy</p> <p>Completion of OTH 298</p> <p>Requires verified hours</p>
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Pathways to Fulfill the Requirement

Students in the MSOT or OTD programs may meet the Cross-Cultural Experience requirement through one of the following options:

1. SJSU Faculty-Led Programs (FLP)

- Includes OT faculty-led courses such as OTH 210ITL (3 units).
- Must be upper-division (100-level or above) or graduate-level, with a health-related focus.
- Also fulfills the OT Department elective course requirement.

2. Short Study Abroad: Utrecht, Netherlands

- Meets the OT Department elective course requirement.
- 3 units or 5 ECTS
- Also fulfills the OT Department elective course requirement.

3. Previously Completed CHHS International Experience

- Applies if completed in 2018 or later as part of a bachelor’s program at SJSU.

- Requires unofficial transcript verifying completion of the FLP or approved CHHS alternative.
 - Requires course substitution when you complete your Advancement to Candidacy paperwork
 - **Does NOT fulfill** the OT Department elective course requirement, so the elective is required.
4. **OCTH 298 Independent Study (MS students) or OCTH 298D (OTD students) (1 unit, CR/NC) AND alternative experience**
- Required for students who have not completed any of the options above.
 - **Does NOT fulfill** the OT Department elective course requirement, so the elective is required.
 - Requires a Cross-Cultural Experience Plan and Petition (fillable form on OT Department website) to meet the requirement through one of the following:
 - Current international experience
 - Prior international experience (within the last 7 years), or
 - Domestic cross-cultural experience

Procedure for Approval of OCTH 298 Independent Study option:

1. Complete and submit the **Cross-Cultural Experience Plan and Petition** (fillable form available on the OT Department website)
2. Petition **must be approved by faculty before enrolling** in OCTH 298
3. The experience must include:
 - a. Exposure to a culture **different from your own**
 - b. **Limited or no prior familiarity** with the culture
 - c. **Direct interaction** with individuals from that culture
 - d. Minimum of **25 hours of direct engagement**
 - Experiences may include:
 - Community events
 - Cultural festivals (only as part of broader/deeper engagement)
 - International student interactions
 - Volunteer work in cross-cultural settings
4. Site(s) must **verify hours**, and the course instructor must approve them.

Submit your Cross cultural Experience Plan and Petition (as applies) to your Advisor.

Faculty Advisors- students need a total of 72/MS and 112/ OTD units for the program. Collect a plan from each student on Canvas. Upload the Student Plan to the designated google drive folder. The Cross-cultural Experience Plan is due for MS students in semester 1 and for OTD students in semester 3.

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