The PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program is sponsored by the Department of Occupational Therapy and the Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training in the College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College. This interdisciplinary, research-based program focuses on understanding the factors that promote activity, function, and participation in daily life among people who have disabilities or are at risk of developing them. Our program prepares graduates to become successful educators, researchers, and innovators in the field of rehabilitation sciences.

**Mentorship**
The PhD program is built around a mentorship model reflecting our belief that preparation for independent research and scholarship can best be achieved through guided participation in an ongoing program of research conducted by a faculty mentor. Students work closely with accomplished faculty members across Boston University and their associates. Faculty expertise includes movement science, developmental psychology, public health, psychiatric rehabilitation, physical therapy, community health, and occupational therapy.

**Core Curriculum**
Students take a common core curriculum designed to provide a strong foundation in rehabilitation science and research methods. Core courses include:
- Foundations of Rehabilitation Sciences
- Research Methods & Design
- Advanced Statistical Analyses
- Multivariate Statistics
- Teaching Skills
- Doctoral Seminars

**Mentor-Based Concentration Areas**
The program beyond the core requirements is flexible, and necessary coursework is determined by one of the following Concentration Areas:
- Activity, Participation, and Environment
- Intervention, Processes, and Outcomes
- Human Movement and Adaptation

**Funding**
All PhD students receive a five-year offer of support that includes work as a research assistant in the mentor’s research lab. The fellowship will consist of a scholarship to cover tuition and academic fees as well as a stipend. The academic year salary is $21,500 and those who work year-round receive $32,250. As part of the fellowship award, the University will cover individual participation in the Boston University Basic Medical Insurance Plan.
Faculty

Program Director
Gael Orsmond, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

Louis N. Awad, PT, DPT, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training

Ellen S. Cohn, ScD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Clinical Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Director, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Program; Director, Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program

Wendy Coster, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Professor and Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy; Director, Behavior and Health Program; Director, Patient/Clinician Reported Outcomes Core, Boston Rehabilitation Outcomes Center

Terry Ellis, PhD, PT, NCS
Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training; Director, Center for Neurorehabilitation

Marianne Farkas, ScD
Clinical Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Director of Training & International Services, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation (CPR)

David Felson, MD, MPH
Professor and Director, Clinical Epidemiology Research & Training Unit

Daniel C. Fulford, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

Simone Gill, PhD, OTR/L
Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

Kenneth G. Holt, PhD, PT
Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training

Karen Jacobs, EdD, CPE, OTR/L, FAOTA
Clinical Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Director, Online Post-Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (PP-OTD) Program

Alan M. Jette, PhD, MPH, PT, FAPTA
Professor and Director, Health & Disability Research Institute

Julie J. Keysor, PhD, PT
Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training; Director, Center for Enhancing Activity & Participation among Persons with Arthritis (ENACT)

Jessica Kramer, PhD, OTR/L
Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

Deepak Kumar, PT, PhD, OCS
Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training

Cara L. Lewis, PhD, PT
Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training and BU School of Medicine

Susan McGurk, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy; Senior Researcher, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation (CPR)

Kim Mueser, PhD
Executive Director, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation (CPR); Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

E. Sally Rogers, ScD
Senior Research Specialist, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation (CPR); Research Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

Zlatka Russinova, PhD
Senior Research Specialist, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation (CPR); Research Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy

Eliot Lee Saltzman, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training

Cara Stepp, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

LaDora V. Thompson, PhD, BS PT
Professor and Chair, Department of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training

Application Deadline: January 15

Applicant requirements include the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test, official academic transcripts, three letters of reference, and an essay in which applicants describe their professional interests as well as short- and long-term career goals, identify a potential mentor from among the faculty participating in the PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program, and explain the reason for selecting that mentor. Admission into the program considers the compatibility of the applicant’s interests and goals with the interests and research activities of the potential mentor.

For more information
Contact Program Director
Gael Orsmond, PhD, at gorsmond@bu.edu
or visit
bu.edu/sargent/rehabsciencesphd

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