

# Therapeutic Science

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Therapeutic Science is an interdisciplinary program that involves faculty across a variety of departments and schools at KU. This program is part of a growing trend to provide interdisciplinary doctoral-level training to address issues related to disability. The KU Therapeutic Science doctoral degree program (<https://catalog.ku.edu/health-professions/therapeutic-science/phd/>) is administered through the Department of Occupational Therapy Education (<http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/occupational-therapy-education.html>) in the KU School of Health Professions.

This program is designed for students whose interests in disability and quality of life require an integrated, interdisciplinary course of study that cannot be provided by existing programs. Typically, applicants will already have obtained a graduate degree and have a professional credential or identity (e.g., occupational therapist, recreational therapist, speech-language pathologist, social worker, clinical psychologist, special educator). Many are likely to be currently working in their chosen field related to issues of disability, but now seek to generate knowledge for understanding disability and improving quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

For more information, please visit the program website (<http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/therapeutic-science.html>).

## Courses

### TS 800. Research Proseminar. 1 Credits.

This course will equip students to develop essential writing skills for producing clear, coherent, and well-structured scholarly work. Emphasizing the writing process from brainstorming and outlining to drafting and revising, the course focuses on effective argumentation, critical analysis, and the integration of research. Students will learn how to craft strong thesis statements, organize ideas logically, and maintain academic tone and style. Through targeted writing exercises and feedback, students will also learn citation practices, plagiarism avoidance, and writing and disseminating to different audiences.

### TS 805. Multidisciplinary Theoretical Perspectives. 3 Credits.

Students will identify and explore key theories in behavioral, social and occupational science with an emphasis on those currently influencing clinical reasoning and applications to practice and/or research. Students will demonstrate an understanding of multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks and be able to compare and contrast key theories, while also developing knowledge about theory guided research and practice.

### TS 850. From Beliefs to Evidence. 1 Credits.

Analysis of the role of beliefs about practice in professional culture and how beliefs are affected by the accumulation of research evidence. Topics include the nature of science and beliefs, the nature of evidence, and the debate over evidence-based practice. Students will use topics from their own professional interests for class presentations and written assignments. A minimum of two credits over two successive terms is required (1 credit fall and 1 credit spring semester). Note this course alternates in succession with TS900 and TS950, and is offered in the Fall & Spring every 3rd year. Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor.

### TS 880. Special Projects. 1-6 Credits.

An elective course to allow student investigation of special issues or problems relevant to applied research and/or practice, under the direction of a faculty member chosen by the student. Systematic coverage of current issues may include a research investigation or study related to

pertinent sociocultural trends, practice factors, or emerging issues in service provision. Students will complete special projects such as oral presentations, written papers, or case analysis as negotiated with the faculty member. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

### TS 900. Evolving Interdisciplinary Views of Disablement. 1 Credits.

Assessment of how our social and cultural context defines notions of disability and disablement in our society. Topics include historical constructs of disability, public policy related to disability, and social paradigms of disability. Students will evaluate views of disablement from the perspective of their own discipline. A minimum of two credits over two successive terms is required (1 credit fall and 1 credit spring semester). Note this course alternates in succession with TS850 and TS950 and is offered in the Fall & Spring every 3rd year. Prerequisite: Consent of the Instructor.

### TS 950. Designing Effective Knowledge Transfer. 1 Credits.

Examination of the principles of knowledge transfer and diffusion of innovation as they relate to practices in therapeutic professions. Topics include the diffusion process, change agents, innovation adoption, and current diffusion methods. Students will evaluate diffusion processes that have occurred within their own professions. A minimum of two credits over two successive terms is required (1 credit fall and 1 credit spring semester). Note this course alternates in succession with TS850 and TS900 and is offered in the Fall & Spring every 3rd year. Prerequisite: Consent of the instructor.

### TS 980. Advanced Study in Therapeutic Science. 1-9 Credits.

Students engage in advanced study of a topic of their interest, guided by an appropriate mentor. Options for engaging in learning include directed readings, interpretation of evidence, discussions, and written syntheses of existing literature. Students typically enroll in offerings of this course several times over a series of successive terms, with the course sequence culminating in a written proposal for original research and an oral defense of that proposal (oral comprehensive examination). Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

### TS 990. Dissertation in Therapeutic Science. 1-9 Credits.

Research experience leading to dissertation for doctoral students in Therapeutic Science. Students enroll in offerings of this course over a series of successive terms, culminating in a written dissertation describing original research and an oral defense of the dissertation research. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.