

## General Information for the Incoming OTD Class

### Welcome to Your New Home Away From Home!

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you to our program and excited to be part of your journey over the next 3 ½ years! This is an incredible time of growth, learning, and transformation, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

To help ensure a smooth transition into graduate school, we've created this guide with key recommendations and information to prepare you before Orientation begins.

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### OTD Department Orientation

**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 AM – Approximately 3:00 PM

**Attendance is mandatory**

Our Department Orientation is designed to help you feel confident and connected as you begin your OTD journey. During the day, we will:

- Review essential policies and procedures
- Answer your questions about fieldwork, capstone projects, and experiences
- Host a student panel to discuss the transition from undergrad to grad school
- Share insights on coursework continuity
- Introduce you to the OTD faculty

**Lunch will be provided**, and you'll have the opportunity to connect with our Student Ambassadors—some of the friendly faces you met during your interview day. They'll be joining you for lunch to answer any additional questions and help ease your transition.

In addition, you should have already heard from your **second-year “buddy”**—a current student who can offer helpful advice from a student perspective.

Once the program begins, the **Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA)** will formally welcome you. We've intentionally delayed their introduction until after classes begin to avoid overwhelming you. Orientation will provide a lot of important information, but remember: asking questions is an essential part of the transition to graduate school, and we encourage you to continue doing so. We're here to support you and will do everything we can to help you feel comfortable and confident as you become part of the NSU family.

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## HPD General Orientation

**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 (Morning)

**Attendance is mandatory**

The Office of Student Affairs will send out additional information about this university-wide orientation.

In the **afternoon**, you'll attend your first class: **Movement in Occupation**. Please refer to the Orientation Week Schedule for more details.

**Please note:** You will also attend **Movement in Occupation** on **Friday, May 16, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM** to make up for the missed session on Monday.

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## Dress Code

We follow the HPD dress code, as outlined in the Student Handbook. A separate dress code handout is included with this packet, and further details will be discussed during Orientation. Key points include:

- **Orientation attire:** Business casual. No jeans, flip-flops, sneakers, or sandals. We recommend comfortable flats or shoes for walking.
- **Labs:** Eggplant-colored scrubs are required. These are available through the NSU Bookstore or online—just ensure the color is **eggplant**.
- **Off-campus/special events:** Khakis or dark pants (no jeans) and OTD polo shirts. Polos are typically sold by the OT student organization.
- **Lab jackets** with the college and OT logo will be available for order during the program.

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## Books

We strongly recommend purchasing your textbooks **before Orientation**:

- **NSU Bookstore Location:** 3301 College Ave, Bldg. 37
- **Website:** <https://nsubooks.bnccollege.com/>
- **Phone:** 1-877-420-1734

Refer to the **separate booklist** and always order using the **ISBN** to ensure you receive the correct edition. If a newer edition is listed on the bookstore website, please notify the corresponding professor so we can verify or update the list if needed.

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## Student Leaders

Our incredible team of Student Ambassadors and second-year buddies are here to support you! They remember what it was like to be in your shoes and are happy to help you navigate the program, answer questions, and share tips for success.

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## Administrative Support

We are proud to have a dedicated and experienced faculty who will serve as your mentors and advisors throughout your time in the program. You'll meet many of them during Orientation, and each of you will be assigned a faculty member as your academic advisor. They will help guide your academic and professional development.

You'll receive a full directory of faculty and administrative contacts during Orientation. For now, here are a few key contacts:

- **Department Chair (Ft. Lauderdale & Tampa) / Interim Program Director:** Dr. Tamara Pinchevsky-Font
- **Academic Fieldwork Coordinator:** Dr. Heather Knoeferl
- **Capstone Coordinator:** Dr. Christene Braunius
- **OTD Academic Coordinator:** Sonica Jean-Mary
- **Fieldwork Support Coordinator:** Eleiny Millan

If you have questions before Orientation, please feel free to contact the program office at **954-262-1242**.

We're so excited to begin this journey with you and can't wait to see all that you'll accomplish. Welcome to the NSU family—we're glad you're here!

Please contact the program office at 954-262-1242 if you have any questions. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Dr. Tamara Pinchevsky-Font Dr. OT OTR/L  
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