2022 Framework Study Plan in brief
Bachelor of Science HES-SO
in Occupational Therapy

The course in brief

Every domain if study in the HES-SO's Health sector has a Framework Study Plan (FSP). The FSP governs how the education is offered to students int the Bachelor of Science HES-SO in Occupational Therapy program at Haute école de travail social et de la santé Lausanne – HETSL.

A work-study program

The education is structured around the principle of integrative work-study. Students alternate periods of learning at school with operational sessions inside the professional environment. The practical training spans over 30 weeks on the field including 5 days of workshop where they have the possibility to challenge the education methodology applied, boost the efficiency of their learning, and develop a professional mindset.

Modern and diversified teaching methods

Students are encouraged to be active actors in their education through teaching and evaluation methods which support skills development, autonomy, and reflexivity.

Development of a Transversal and Cross-Professional Expertise

Great importance is given to the development of knowledge and competences related to different profiles in the Health sector. Classes are dedicated to themes like: Scientific methodology, Bachelor's Thesis, Swiss Health System, Digitalization, Sustainability and Cross-Professionalism.

A skills-based approach

The skills-based approach reinforces Autonomy, Sense of Responsibility and Reflexivity, Commitment and Employability dimension by referring "what occupational therapist student should be able to do at the end of his/her course". The education is built looking to the Standard of Requirements for 7 different worker's role in the Health sector.

7 professional roles

Role as professional

Role as a learner and trainer

Role of health promoter

Role as leader

Role as collaborator

Role as communicator

Role as expert

Teaching axis areas: Education identity card

Occupational justice

This area concerns occupational justice which constitute the way of understanding and deepen of social justice in the occupational therapy practice. In order to fighting social injustices and promote a more inclusive society, occupational therapist consider the context effects which facilitate or limit engagement in occupations, such as power relations and discriminatory behaviors.

Occupations in their context

This area concerns occupation's understanding through singular situations experienced by clients in their ordinary life context, in a dynamic interrelation system descried as "transactional" between the person and the context. In order to act on occupational dysfunctions, the occupational therapist modifies occupation composition in their specific context, such as a person's abilities, the structure of an activity or its material and immaterial environment.

Links between occupations and health

This axis concerns links between health and occupations, based on the assumption that occupations have a positive effect on health and that being active and being able to act are basic human needs. The occupational therapist uses a holistic approach based on the social determinants of health and the power of occupations and their effects on mental and physical health, both in prevention and rehabilitation.

The occupations partnership

This area concerns occupational therapy client-centered practice which is based on a partnership between the occupational therapist and the person, considering that the latter is his/her own situation expert and the main agent of change. An occupational needs and person's expectations partnership is established by the occupational therapist, adopting a collaborative approach, namely within the intervention goals elaboration.

Occupations and sustainability

This axis concerns climate changes consequences on person's ability to carry out their occupations as well as on human occupation and unsustainable lifestyles impacting the environment.
The attention paid to this reciprocal relationship allows to adapt interacting ways with the environment in order to meet society needs without compromising the future generation's ability to meet their own needs.

Occupational Therapy Course Schedule