GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
Welcome and thank you for your interest in Rockhurst University’s College of Health and Human Services. We hope this guide provides you with a quick glimpse into each of our different graduate degree options.

As one of the pillars within Rockhurst University’s academic offerings, the College of Health and Human Services is proud to uphold RU’s well-known world-class reputation. It’s an educational experience unlike any other. One that will help you find success in your chosen professional field, as well as in your personal life. This is because of our Jesuit approach to professional education at the graduate level.

What does it mean to be a Jesuit institution? It’s about academic excellence, social justice, values, global awareness and much more. Here, you’ll be challenged to think broadly, lead with purpose, and use your unique skills and abilities to change the world around you.

This foundation extends far beyond your graduation from Rockhurst. In fact, it prepares you to become a leader for life. A leader committed to making a positive difference as a speech-language pathologist, teacher, occupational therapist, physical therapist and beyond.

This Jesuit experience is why leading schools, hospitals, health companies and private practices, both local and global, seek out Rockhurst students for internships and jobs. Our graduates are the ones they want on their teams because they embody the Rockhurst ideals of learning, leading and serving. The graduate programs in CHHS develop students in all three of these areas. Students and faculty in communication sciences and disorders, education, occupational therapy, and physical therapy find creative ways to merge their learning with opportunities for leadership and service via service learning courses, volunteer opportunities, and highly engaged student organizations.

If you are looking for a graduate education that involves more than just being in class, I invite you to discover all that Rockhurst’s College of Health and Human Services can offer you.

Michael Clump, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, College of Health and Human Services

EXPLORE OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The College of Health and Human Services offers four graduate program options. Each combines the skills necessary to succeed in today's working world, as well as the critical thinking behind those skills.

We currently offer the following graduate programs:

- Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Master of Education
- Master of Occupational Therapy
- Doctor of Physical Therapy

Rockhurst graduates are in high demand. This puts you in the driver’s seat when choosing where you want to work.

TOP 5 Reasons to Earn Your Graduate Degree from RU

1. JESUIT TRADITION
Rockhurst is Kansas City’s only Jesuit university, which means our education is built on a 450-year-old foundation. The Jesuit network is the largest educational group in the world, and includes universities such as Georgetown, Boston College and Gonzaga.

2. IMMEDIATE IMMERSION
Within your first two semesters, you will participate in a field experience that correlates to your future career.

3. IDEAL LOCATION
Our location in the cultural heart of Kansas City provides faculty and students with exceptional opportunities to plug into existing businesses, practices and schools.

4. PREVIEW LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
No matter which program you’re in, you’ll gain first-hand experience working with existing local organizations.

5. UNRIVALED FACULTY
Learn from the best. Our faculty are practicing experts and academic professionals.

FINANCIAL AID OPPORTUNITIES

Your first step is to find out if you are eligible for federal financial aid by completing a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov. Find out more about these and other financial aid options at rockhurst.edu/gradfinaid.
WHY STUDY CSD AT RU?

- **RU Offers Full- or Part-time Options.**
  Full-time students complete the program in two years, while part-time students take about three years.
- **You’ll Find a Job You Love.**
  One-hundred percent of our 2013 graduates found jobs within one year of graduation.
- **You’ll Be Prepared to Pass the Praxis Exam.**
  You’ll feel confident knowing that 97 percent of our Class of 2013 students passed the Praxis exam on their first try.
- **We’re Connected to 125+ Clinical Sites.**
  You’ll team up with community agencies on research and clinical service projects, fulfilling Rockhurst’s mission of providing leadership in service to others while enhancing your expertise and expanding your network.

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

The median annual salary for speech-language pathologists is $69,870. *2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics

ACCREDITATION

The Master of Science program in speech-language pathology at Rockhurst University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

"This program stands above others because of the faculty who are so invested in their students. Because of the real-life practicum, I feel ready to go out into the workforce and find success. I get to do what I love every day, and for that I feel so lucky."
— Lauren Hawkins, ’13 CSD

COMMUNITY-BASED CLINICAL PRACTICUMS

Your clinical practicums are designed so that you gain direct experiences in off-campus facilities serving pediatric and adult clients, along with culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

CSD GRADUATE SCHOLARS

A program for undergraduate students who have outstanding academic work and meet all other admission requirements, leading to the possibility of advanced admission status into the CSD program.

TAKE IT UP A NOTCH.

Boost your graduate experience by getting involved as a CSD student.

RUSSLHA

Join the Rockhurst University chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (RUSSLHA) for networking, service-learning, leadership, research, scholarship and social opportunities.

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Rockhurst’s communication sciences and disorders program is known for preparing skilled clinicians and leaders in speech-language pathology. Here, you’ll obtain the skills necessary to provide therapy services to children and adult clients who exhibit a wide range of communication disorders.

Our program’s mission is to develop ethical, compassionate professionals through academic and clinical education that embraces service-learning.

As a CSD student, you can expect:

- Community-based practicum experiences that provide you with valuable, real-world training.
- To choose from a variety of electives, allowing you to foster individual or special interests.
- A curriculum that emphasizes ethics and values in line with RU’s Jesuit mission, specifically in developing students to be sensitive and grounded when serving others.
- Close interaction with faculty and multiple mentoring relationships.
Our Master of Education programs provide you with a solid background in your chosen field and the confidence to bring well-informed perspectives into your future classroom or professional setting.

In short, we develop educational leaders. Here, you’ll be called on to analyze alternatives in curriculum, teaching methodologies and assessment strategies.

**PROGRAM OPTIONS**

**Elementary Certification**

Designed for those interested in teaching at the 1-6 grade levels, you’ll be prepared to address the challenges of these young learners.

**Secondary Certification**

Designed for those interested in teaching at the 9-12 grade levels, our program prepares you for certification in biology, business, chemistry, English, French (K-12), mathematics, physics, social science and Spanish (K-12).

**Special Education Certification**

Designed for those interested in working with children in K-12 settings who have mild to moderate cross-categorical special needs. If you choose to pursue this certification, you can also earn your elementary education certification at the same time.

**Educational Studies**

Designed for those who wish to teach but do not need licensure. For example, if you’re looking to work in a zoo, museum or other nontraditional educational setting, or if you already have teacher certification, this program is for you.

Through rigorous coursework and field experiences, you’ll acquire a deep understanding of and special sensitivity to the challenges and rewards of working with diverse students.

**EDUCATION IN THE JESUIT TRADITION**

Rockhurst’s education is rooted in the Jesuit tradition, and looks to prepare men and women for service to and with others through a comprehensive, liberal arts curriculum. Our programs highlight these three themes of Jesuit education:

- A focus on moral reflection
- Teaching for social justice
- The liberal treatment of subject matter

**WHY STUDY EDUCATION AT RU?**

- **Learn From Unrivaled Professors.** Experience close mentoring by caring professors who are committed to teaching for social justice.
- **Class Sizes are Small.** With fewer students per class, you’ll receive more attention from your professors.
- **We Offer Flexible Course Schedules.** Our classes are offered in the evening to accommodate your already busy schedule. Students can begin the program in the fall, spring or summer semesters.
- **You’ll Gain Lifelong Skills.** We emphasize critical thinking, ethical decision making and effective communication.

“Rockhurst University’s Master of Education program prepared me to jump right in on the first day of my student teaching placement. The program’s emphasis on technology and leadership provided me with a unique skill set that set me apart from other teaching candidates and helped me secure employment before I graduated.”

—Michael Knight, ’14 M.Ed.

**ACCREDITATION**

Rockhurst University’s education program is accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as an accelerated, initial teacher education program. The department is nationally accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

100% of students pass the licensure exam.

For information on the admission process and to learn more, visit rockhurst.edu/med.

 Ranked No. 11 in the nation for teacher certification by graduateprograms.com.

*2015 student survey results
Do you want to be part of an educational program that is stimulating, challenging and rewarding? Learn in an interactive and diverse environment? Provide service and therapy to underserved populations in developing countries? You can find all this and more in the Master of Occupational Therapy program at Rockhurst University.

As an OT student here, you’ll contribute to community health and wellness, conduct research under the guidance of a mentor, present findings at state and national conferences, and help lead a student-run free health clinic.

After you complete the program and pass the national certification examination, administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), you’ll be a registered occupational therapist (OTR).

WHY STUDY OT AT ROCKHURST?

- **You’ll Be Prepared for the National Certification Exam.**
  In fact, Rockhurst University has an above average pass rate for first time test takers on the national exam.

- **See the World.**
  Our students have opportunities to provide services locally and internationally.

- **Enhance Your Leadership Skills.**
  You will have opportunities for leadership by providing services with our community partners, and by serving on various department and university committees.

- **Create Connections.**
  Your professors will become your greatest mentors, helping you build relationships with industry professionals.

100% of OT graduates are employed within six months of graduation.

Ranked No. 18 in the nation for career support by graduateprograms.com.

**ACCREDITATION**

Rockhurst’s OT program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association; 4720 Montgomery Lane, Ste. 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449; 800-377-8555; acote.org.

The median annual salary for experienced occupational therapists is $75,400.

*2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics

"Rockhurst’s OT program has an excellent reputation and an excellent board certification rate which was very important to me." — Drew Nowlin, ’13 OT

For information on admission requirements and to learn more, visit rockhurst.edu/ot.
At RU, we’re committed to preparing competent, caring physical therapy professionals. You’ll be ready to assist individuals in the prevention or treatment of impairments due to developmental deficits, aging, physical illness or injury.

This rewarding career allows you to make a positive difference in the health and function of people in local and global communities. You are the bridge between your patients and their recovery, helping them physically and emotionally as they build confidence and abilities.

**More than 99% of Rockhurst PT graduates have passed the national licensure exam in the last 10 years.**

**WHY STUDY PT AT RU?**

- **We Offer a Jesuit Education that Emphasizes Excellence in Teaching.**
  Your instructors have advanced doctoral-level degrees and/or APTA approved clinical content specialization, with many maintaining current clinical practices. They utilize a variety of teaching methods such as lectures, class discussions, clinical problem solving, simulated patients, and other active-learning strategies.

- **We Stress the Importance of Serving Others and Sharing Your Skills.**
  You will participate in various community and clinically based service projects locally or internationally. Classroom service learning projects allow students to reflect on the impact of their interactions with individuals they come in contact with.

- **You’ll Develop Your Ability to Lead and Advocate for Patients and Clients.**
  You will be provided with numerous opportunities to develop your leadership skills and participate in advocacy projects throughout our curriculum.

**POINTS OF ACCEPTANCE**

We’re ready when you are.

Apply as early as possible through:

- **Freshman Pre-admit Guarantee**
  If you’re accepted for pre-admission, you are assured a position in the program once you complete an undergraduate degree and maintain specific academic criteria.

- **Transfer Admission Guarantee**
  If accepted, you are assured a position in the program after completing your undergraduate degree and maintaining specific academic criteria.

- **Regular Admittance**
  Apply during the summer prior to your final year of undergraduate coursework.

All applicants, even those with pre-admission guarantees, must apply through the Physical Therapy Centralized Application Service (PTCAS). If you do not attend Rockhurst, we encourage you to apply during the summer before your final year of undergraduate coursework. A significant portion of each new class is comprised of students who complete their bachelor’s degrees at other universities.

**ACCREDITATION**

Rockhurst University’s physical therapy program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, American Physical Therapy Association.

**THE MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IS $79,860.**

Rank No. 13 in the nation among top physical therapy schools by graduateprograms.com.

*2015 student survey results

For information on admission requirements and to learn more, visit rockhurst.edu/pt.
GET STARTED.

We’re here to help answer questions, walk you through your program’s application process, provide insight into financial aid options, and more.

Contact Cheryl Hooper, Director of Graduate Admission for the College of Health and Human Services, at Cheryl.Hooper@rockhurst.edu or 816-501-4097.