

SOUTH AFRICA



Department of
Occupational Therapy
School of Therapeutic Science | Faculty of Health Science

SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINING

- 8 University level training centers.
- Accredited by the HPCSA and are all WFOT approved Schools.
- All universities offer 4 year Bachelor level training.
- Currently 1190 registered undergraduate students, 292 are in their final year.
- All new graduates have to complete a years community service in the Public Sector Health facilities.
- 6 universities currently offer Post graduate training
- 166 registered Post graduate students:
 - 22 Post graduate Diploma
 - 122 Masters
 - 14 PhD
- Total number registered with the HPCSA :



CHALLENGES

- Recruitment of students.
- Recruitment and retention of academic staff.
- Over full curricula linked to the African burden of disease and complexity of service delivery in a developing country.
- Clinical training:
 - Clinical teaching and role models.
 - Well managed and resourced clinical training sites.
- Recognition:
 - Resources
 - Financial reward.
- Management of the dual role of the academics:
 - Research versus teaching.

SUCCESSSES OF LAST 2 YEARS.

- Recognition that the country needs more OTs.
- Improved Status of all HOD of OT schools.
- Dept of Education grants to Medical Schools which have made more resources available:
 - Infrastructure development.
 - Staffing.
- Many more opportunities to showcase the profession.
- Increase in OT related research and also research funding.