

CERTIFIED NEURO SPECIALIST
CNS® CERTIFICATION COURSE



CERTIFIED NEURO
SPECIALIST

CNS Los Angeles/Orange County 2026

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Delta Hotels Anaheim Garden Grove
12021 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840

COURSE FEE: \$875

Register Online: www.neurospecialist.org

THE NEURO SPECIALIST INSTITUTE
info@neurospecialist.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The CNS® Certification Course is a 30-hour continuing education course that includes 20 hours of online (self-study) content and 10 hours of lab (in-person).

It covers evidence-based interventions for the stroke and brain injury populations. Participants will receive hands-on education on treating multiple systems, including the physical, cognitive, perceptual, psychosocial, and environmental systems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Evaluate the clinical presentation and pathophysiology of upper motor neuron conditions using standardized assessments.
- Develop best-practice intervention strategies across various systems: motor, sensation, cognition, language, psychosocial, and environment.
- Integrate remedial and compensatory strategies to improve physical, functional, biomechanical, and neurological outcomes.
- Design comprehensive treatment plans that utilize innovative technologies and devices in clinical practice.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Participants will engage in a variety of interactive and hands-on workshops. Topics include the following:

- Neurological Foundations
- Evaluation Tools, Clinical Measures, Imaging
- The Physical System: Motor Control, Movement
- The Perceptual System: Sensation, Vision, Communication
- The Cognitive System: Attention, Memory, Executive Functions
- The Psychosocial System: Emotion, Social Cognition, Mental Health
- The Environmental System: Home, Work, Community Integration
- Technologies & Devices: Physical Agents, EMG, Virtual Reality

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

- Full course attendance (SELF-STUDY & LAB) is required to earn the CNS designation.
- Participants must complete the SELF-STUDY (20 hours) before the In-Person LAB (10 hours).
- Labs must be completed in-person and may not be completed remotely. Participants must sign in and out each day.
- Hands-on participation is required for all labs.
- Participants must demonstrate proficiency in all labs (as measured by a competency checklist) to meet the CNS certification standards.
- Participants must complete a final assessment (CNS Certification Exam) within 7 days of their scheduled lab date.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The CNS Certification Course is an advanced-level course. Participants are required to demonstrate hands-on competency, and will be expected to develop, design, and integrate complex treatment protocols by the end of the course.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Lectures, labs, videos, demonstrations, discussion, case studies, role-play scenarios, blended/hybrid.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This certification course is intended as an advanced-level course for Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapists, & Physical Therapist Assistants. Other healthcare professionals are welcome to attend. Please verify with your State or National Board for CEU eligibility.

Co-Provider/Sponsor: West Coast University is accredited by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- I. Complete the CNS Certification Course:
 - SELF-STUDY: 20-hours of online content (self-paced)
 - LAB: 10-hours of hands-on learning activities (in-person)

- II. Complete the CNS Certification Exam:
 - There are NO extra fees for the CNS Certification Exam.
 - Participants must receive a passing score of 80% to obtain the CNS designation and earn continuing education credits.
 - Participants will have access to the web-based certification exam immediately after the in-person lab; participants must pass the exam within 7 days of their scheduled lab date.
 - Participants who do not pass the exam on the first attempt will have an opportunity to remediate on the same day.

- III. Renewal
 - After the initial five-year certification period, renewal is required to maintain certification status every five years.
 - Participants must complete a minimum of 8 hours from any CNS-Advanced Course.
 - Note: Practitioners who complete any CNS-Advanced Course will earn the designation "CNS-Advanced."

CONTACT HOURS & CEUS

30 contact hours (3.0 AOTA CEUs) for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants via the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Approved Provider Program; please see the list of participating states at aota.org.

30 contact hours for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants through California Education Connection (Approval Number: CEC-1066) in the State of California and other states where pre-approval is not required. Please verify with your individual State Board for CEU/PDU eligibility.

The American Physical Therapy Association does not pre-approve continuing education courses. The Neuro Specialist Institute only seeks pre-approval from the Physical Therapy State Board for its host state. Individual participants are responsible for submitting documentation to their individual State Board for license renewal.

Important: This course involves 20 hours of Self-Study (i.e. "home study"); some State Boards limit the amount of home study hours participants may earn during their license renewal period.

AOTA COURSE APPROVAL ID#: 02708
CA PT/PTA APPROVAL#: CEC-1066
FLORIDA BOARD OF OT#: 20-1245736 (CE Broker#: 50-44998)
FLORIDA BOARD OF PT#: CE26-1239706 (Self-Study)
CE26-1225036 (Lab)
TEXAS TPTA APPROVAL#: 79365TX

The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA or indicate AOTA approval of a certification or other professional recognition. Accreditation of this course does not necessarily imply the FPTA supports the views of the presenter or the sponsors.



Approved Provider

The Neuro Specialist Institute is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID# 02708. This blended/hybrid course is offered at 3.0 CEUs (Advanced-level, OT Service Delivery).

AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures.

AGENDA – SELF-STUDY (20 HOURS) ONLINE

Topic	Video Time
Introduction	11 Min.
Overview of Course	
Part 1 – Neurological Foundations	1 Hr.
Overview of Stroke	5 Min.
Overview of Brain Injuries	
Neuroplasticity	
Literature Review of Neuro Rehabilitation	
Certified Neuro Specialist (CNS) Framework – Mixed Methods	
Part 2 – Evaluation, Clinical Measures, & Imaging	2 Hr.
Clinical Assessments	27 Min.
Structural & Functional Brain Scans	
Understanding Motor Control, Synergies, and Spasticity	
Fugl-Meyer Assessment – UE & LE	
Modified Tardieu Scale	
Part 3 – The Physical System: Motor Control & Movement Analysis	49 Min.
Motor Relearning Strategies and Interventions	
Movement Analysis	
Task Analysis	
Constraint-Induced Movement Therapy (CIMT)	
Part 4 – The Physical System: Facilitation of Movement	2 Hr.
Therapeutic Handling	45 Min.
Lit. Review of Traditional Techniques: NDT, PNF, & Rood	
Facilitation of Complex Movement via Task Analysis	
Mobilization and Traction	
Therapeutic Taping	
Electrical Stimulation	
Secondary Conditions: Winging, Subluxation, & Impingement	
Part 5 – The Perceptual System	1 Hr.
Sensation vs. Perception	38 Min.
Understanding Various Agnosias	
Neuroscience of Somatosensory Pathways	
Multi-Sensory Integration	
Vision and Visual Perception: Intervention Strategies	
Pusher's Syndrome	

Topic	Video Time
Part 6 – The Cognitive System	2 Hr.
Glasgow Coma Scale	58 Min.
Rancho Los Amigos Levels of Cognitive Functioning	
Attention & Memory: Neuroscience & Intervention Strategies	
Rivermead Behavioral Memory Test	
Executive Functions	
Action Observation Therapy	
Mental Practice	
Mirror Visual Feedback	
Mental Timing	
Part 7 – Language & Communication	1 Hr.
Overview of Audition	23 Min.
Neuroscience of Communication	
Aphasia, Apraxia, & Dysarthria	
Aphasia Interventions	
Part 8 – The Psychosocial System	2 Hr.
Social Cognition	30 Min.
Behavior Management	
Self-Awareness Training	
Cognitive Control of Emotions	
Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, and Liability	
Substance Abuse and Disorders	
Part 9 – The Environmental System	2 Hr.
ADA & FHA Standards	37 Min.
Home Assessments	
Workplace Evaluations	
Conditioning vs. Hardening vs. Transitional Work	
Part 10 – Technologies & Devices	1 Hr.
Common Orthotic Devices	48 Min.
Custom Devices for Dual Conditions	
Electromyography (EMG)	
Virtual Reality	
The Future of Neurorehabilitation	
TOTAL TIME	20 Hr. 11 Min.

AGENDA – LAB (10 HOURS) IN-PERSON

Time	Topic
7:15 - 8:00 AM	Registration
8:00 - 8:10 AM	Introduction & Lab Overview
8:10 - 9:10 AM	Facilitation of Movement
9:10 - 11:30 AM	Mobility - Gait, Stairs, Environment
11:30 - 12:30 PM	Cognition
12:30 - 1:15 PM	Lunch Break
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Therapeutic Taping
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Electrical Stimulation/EMG
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Virtual Reality
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Orthotics
5:15 - 6:15 PM	Other Technologies
6:15 - 6:30 PM	Q&A, Conclusion

NOTES

- Please note that the lab schedule is subject to change.
- Participants may be divided into small groups.
- There is a 45-minute lunch break on your own (food not provided).

SPECIAL NEEDS & ACCOMMODATIONS

If participants require special needs or accommodations, please contact The Neuro Specialist Institute at least 60 days prior to the course via email: info@neurospecialist.org.

AGREEMENTS

By registering, participants agree to the **Important Information & Disclaimers, Terms & Conditions**, and **Privacy Policy**, accessible online at www.neurospecialist.org/certification.

CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT POLICY

Participants will have immediate access to digital content for the SELF-STUDY component of the course; therefore, all sales are FINAL and participants are not eligible for any refund. If participants wish to postpone their LAB date, they must notify The Neuro Specialist Institute in writing at least 90 days prior to their lab. A \$150 postponement fee will apply. Postponement is not guaranteed and is dependent on availability. The Neuro Specialist Institute is unable to accommodate postponement requests made after the 90-day period. Registrants who do not attend their scheduled LAB will forfeit their course fee, and are not eligible to complete the certification process.

LIABILITY WAIVER & ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Course location is subject to change due to Covid-19 or other global issues/conflicts/pandemics. The Neuro Specialist is not responsible for any attendee expenses including, but not limited to, travel and lodging. Participants must adhere to all Federal/State/County regulations; comply with safety protocols set by the venue; and sign a liability waiver.

DISCLAIMERS

CNS® is a certification mark that is federally registered and protected by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). All rights reserved. The "CNS" designation indicates that a healthcare practitioner has completed advanced-level training in neurological rehabilitation through a series of workshops/seminars, and has successfully passed a certification examination. Certification indicates that a person has met the specific requirements of the certification process, but is not a guarantee of any treatment processes, results, or outcomes. The "CNS" designation does not expand a professional's scope of practice. It does not qualify a healthcare professional to offer or provide professional services without appropriate licensure or credentials.

The Neuro Specialist Institute shall not be liable for any loss, damage, injury, claim, or otherwise, whether an action in contract or tort and shall further not be liable for any lost profits, or direct, indirect, special, punitive, or consequential damages of any kind (including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and expenses).

The Neuro Specialist Institute reserves the right to screen applicants prior to registration in order to determine if they meet professional, legal, and ethical requirements. Only applicants in good standing (not subject to any sanction, suspension, or disciplinary censures) and without history of any legal/ethical/academic disciplinary actions will be given consideration to take any course by The Neuro Specialist Institute.

SPEAKERS

Michael Ang

OTD, OTR/L, CNS, CBIS, HTC, PAM, SWC, CKTP, CAPS, PWRI, LSVT-BIG, AIB-VRC

Michael earned his Doctor of Occupational Therapy at the University of Southern California. Subsequently, he created the Outpatient Occupational Therapy Program at St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he specialized in treating neurological and upper extremity conditions. He holds several advanced practice certifications in neurological rehabilitation, and has clinical experience in acute care, intensive care, transitional care, inpatient rehab, outpatient rehab, skilled nursing, assisted living, and home health occupational therapy.

Michael is a former professor at the University of Southern California's Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy where he won the Penelope Louise Richardson Award for Teaching in 2014. Michael currently teaches at West Coast University's Occupational Therapy Program. Michael won a RAISE Award (Raising Awareness in Stroke Excellence) with the National Stroke Association in 2018, the Occupational Therapy Faculty of the Year Award in 2019, and the inaugural NBCOT Impact Award in 2021.

Claire Manansala

DPT, PT, CNS, CBIS, CEEAA

Claire is a physical therapist who has worked in several acute care hospitals in Los Angeles and has experience in acute, inpatient, and outpatient therapy. She developed physical therapy programs and protocols for a variety of units, including: oncology, telemetry, orthopedics, neurology, cardiology, and transplant. Claire is the Supervising Therapist for Health Onsite and oversees post-operative rehabilitation for orthopedic clients.

Claire is an expert in vestibular rehabilitation, and works extensively with the post-craniotomy population. She is also an expert in wound care management using pulse lavage technology, and has extensive experience in myofascial release interventions. She is a Credentialed Clinical Instructor with the American Physical Therapy Association, an FMT Blades Certified Therapist, a Taichi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Instructor, and a Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults from the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy.

Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: All speakers are compensated by The Neuro Specialist Institute as instructors for the CNS Certification Course.

Taylor Kozell

OTD, OTR/L, CNS-ADVANCED, PAQ

Dr. Taylor Kozell is a neurologic occupational therapist and aquatic therapy specialist. She is an Assistant Professor of Practice and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator in the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's OTD program and founder of neuroABILITY, a concierge neuro & aquatic therapy practice.

She holds Aquaticist Certification through Aquatic Therapy University, where she also teaches, and contributes to the Certified Neuro Specialist (CNS) course. A leader in her professional community, she serves as Chair of TNOTA's Student Involvement Committee and founded its Aquatic Therapy Community of Practice. She also shares insights and resources as The Kozey OT (@the.kozey.ot), connecting with students and clinicians nationwide, and enjoys plants, tacos, and time in nature.

Valerie Cromwell Perry

OTD, OTR/L, CNS

Valerie is an occupational therapist, educator, and mentor with experience across clinical practice, academia, and interprofessional education. She holds a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy and is a Certified Neuro Specialist with a focus on neurological rehabilitation. Her clinical work includes treating adult and geriatric clients with brain and spinal cord injuries, stroke, orthopedic and cardiothoracic conditions, and progressive neurological disorders in both acute care and home health settings.

As an assistant professor at West Coast University, Valerie mentors students and leads interprofessional education initiatives. She is also involved in research mentorship, particularly in assistive technology for aging populations, and regularly facilitates collaborative learning experiences that prepare future clinicians to manage complex neurological cases with confidence and compassion.

Reya Andrews

OTD, OTR/L, CNS

Reya earned her psychology degree from UC Berkeley and her Doctor of Occupational Therapy from West Coast University. She works in neurorehabilitation at the Center for Neuro Skills, treating brain injury and stroke patients across inpatient, outpatient, day treatment, and assisted living settings. She also has experience with hand and upper extremity conditions, has developed mental health programs within forensic occupational therapy, and created the CNS-Advanced Cognition Certification Course to address knowledge gaps among rehabilitation professionals. Outside of work, she enjoys time with loved ones, cooking, and being outdoors.