The Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida, invites applicants for an opportunity to become a fully funded PhD student in the Rehabilitation Science program. The didactic component will be completed via taking classes in the RSD program, while the research component will be completed under the supervision of Dr. Sherrilene Classen and Dr. Linda Struckmeyer. This research is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop new technologies for affordably retrofitting existing housing for people with disabilities. The successful candidate will be engaged in multidisciplinary research including working with housing experts, architects, interior designers, construction professionals, occupational therapists, and social workers. The student will assist with panning, organizing and running focus groups of professionals and stakeholders to identify ways in which their homes can be optimally adapted. The project will culminate in the team using their research to redesign homes and digitize the designs in virtual reality with haptic simulations. Adults with disabilities will virtually evaluate the redesigned spaces in comparison to the original spaces.

The student will be involved in intensive training and mentoring. Applicants are preferably licensed/license-eligible as an occupational therapist in the state of Florida.

The Department of Occupational Therapy (http://ot.phhp.ufl.edu/) is a national leader in occupational therapy education and research. In addition to this HUD grant the department has active research programs in the areas of driving rehabilitation and community mobility, and learning disabilities, as well as outstanding academic and training programs. The department is a leader in the NIH-funded K12 Rehabilitation Research Career Development consortium, and its research programs are supported by the Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, Florida Department of Transportation, National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy and more, and is home to the Institute for Mobility, Activity and Participation.

The University of Florida is a comprehensive doctoral research-extensive university that includes a full range of academic departments and programs (www.ufl.edu). It has a long history of established programs in international education, research and service and is one of only 17 public, land-grant universities that belong to the Association of American Universities. The College of Public Health and Health Professions is part of the University’s Health Science Center, which includes the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine, and provides a wealth of opportunities for research collaborations.

For more information about the RSD program see http://rehabsci.phhp.ufl.edu/resources/for-prospective-students/, or contact Laura Quintana lauraq@phhp.ufl.edu. For more information about the research project contact Dr. Sherrilene Classen sclassen@phhp.ufl.edu or Dr. Linda Struckmeyer lstruckmeyer@phhp.ufl.edu.