



University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Applied Health Sciences
Department of Occupational Therapy
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Visit: <http://go.uic.edu/ms-ot>

Contact: OTdept@uic.edu or (312) 413-0124 (Admissions)

Master of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy

Graduate Study Leading to Professional Certification

Information Packet

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AS A CAREER

Occupational therapists work to maximize the function and life satisfaction of persons whose daily life performance has been, or might be, affected by a health condition, disease, disability, life stress, and other factors. Occupational therapy consists of facilitating participation in roles and activities that are important to the patient, client, or family. A variety of preventive and rehabilitation strategies are used. Examples of these strategies include increasing self-awareness of strengths and limitations, teaching self-management of chronic health conditions, compensatory training that involves use of specialized equipment, environmental modification, and remediative approaches such as building skills or physical capacity. Underlying the therapeutic process is the belief that individuals are the principal agents of their own health or disability status and life satisfaction.

Occupational therapy offers a rewarding career for people who want to improve the quality of life of individuals, groups, and communities. Occupational therapists are analytical thinkers who enjoy solving problems creatively and working collaboratively with others in variety of roles, such as practitioners, administrators, entrepreneurs, educators or researchers. Practitioners work in a wide variety of settings including school systems, hospitals, outpatient clinics, home health, industrial settings and community-based organizations. Some occupational therapists work in universities educating occupational therapy students and conducting important research to add to the profession's growing base of scientific evidence. Others work as managers or administrators directing services or open private practices and consulting businesses. These are just a few of the employment opportunities that make occupational therapy a challenging profession that provides many career choices. More information about the profession of occupational therapy can be found at the American Occupational Therapy Association website at www.aota.org.

UIC: A WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY IN A WORLD CLASS CITY

UIC is the largest institution of higher learning in the Chicago area, one of the top 70 Research I universities in the United States, and a center for international education and research. UIC's over 33,000 students (65% undergraduate and 35% graduate and professional degree students) earn bachelor's degrees in 86 fields, master's degrees in 111 fields, and doctorates in 66 academic specializations. The faculty includes renowned scholars and researchers.

The UIC campus is just west of Chicago's Loop in the West Side Medical Center District, the world's largest concentration of advanced public and private health care facilities. The University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System (UI Health) includes 495 licensed inpatient beds and 52 outpatient diagnostic and specialty clinics, and serves as a teaching lab and fieldwork site for OT students. The college also has many relationships and fieldwork contracts with many organizations throughout the city, state, country and abroad. Students have opportunities to take full advantage of all that Chicago has to offer, including leading groups at community agencies, observations and fieldwork at one of the five academic medical centers in Chicago, and student-led social gatherings and service projects.

THE DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT UIC

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Department of Occupational Therapy was founded in 1943. The mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is to achieve excellence and lead the field in education, scholarship, and practice. Our mission is guided by the scholarship of practice model that asserts that education, scholarship and practice are equally valuable, interdependent, and mutually enhancing. We carry out our mission in the context of an urban research university that embraces diversity, social justice and community engagement.

The Master of Science (MS) program offered by the UIC Department of Occupational Therapy is one of the most respected entry-level programs in the country. U.S. News and World Report ranks the program as one of the top 5 programs in the U.S., UIC is one of the top two programs located in a public university. The occupational therapy faculty members at UIC are recognized nationally and internationally for their contributions to the profession. For information regarding current faculty accomplishments and publications, please visit the UIC OT website at <https://go.uic.edu/OT> and click "Directory" from the left menu. All faculty contribute to the MS program. Expert therapists from top clinical sites serve as adjunct or part-time faculty.

The integration of education, scholarship, and clinical practice is the hallmark of the MS program offered by the UIC Department of Occupational Therapy. This integration is referred to as the "The Scholarship of Practice". The department is uniquely organized so that education, research, and clinical practice are linked together and valued equally. This arrangement has always kept the academic program closely connected to, and focused on, the practice of the field. Students work with faculty who are directly involved in clinical practice and who are developing theory and conducting research that is shaping practice. Our academic program is also very closely linked to the Department of Occupational Therapy at UI Health, the University of Illinois Hospital. (<http://hospital.uillinois.edu/>). The occupational therapists there contribute to MS coursework and supervise practicum experiences

The Department is housed in the College of Applied Health Sciences (CAHS; <http://www.ahs.uic.edu/>), which ranks among the top research colleges of allied health in the nation. The College houses five academic departments and one institute. Currently, over 2,100 students are enrolled AHS-based academic programs. Our CAHS is recognized internationally for its academic degree programs and scholarship in health, disability studies, health informatics and rehabilitation sciences. The college's broad-based research portfolio includes basic science, laboratory-based research, community-based participatory research, clinical and translational research and scholarship in the humanities. Our college is a socially conscious, research-intensive academic community whose mission is to broaden understanding of applied health sciences and disability.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE UIC DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Master of Science (MS) degree is one of several programs housed in the Department of Occupational Therapy. T. UIC's Master of Science in occupational therapy is designed for students who have a bachelor's degree in another subject. MS students enroll in the graduate program with the dual objective of earning a graduate degree and meeting requirements for certification as an occupational therapist. The Department currently enrolls up to 46 MS students per year in the program. Plans to transition from an entry-level MS program to an entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program at UIC are underway. If Candidacy Status is granted by ACOTE, the first admission cycle for the entry-level OTD program will begin by August 2021, with enrollment starting in August 2022.

The post-professional OTD is a clinical doctorate degree designed for students who want to obtain more advanced knowledge and clinical skills in a particular area of practice, develop professional leadership and entrepreneurial skills, or be prepared for future administrative and teaching roles. Students who are interested in matriculating into both the MS and the post-professional OTD programs can apply to the post-professional OTD program simultaneously with the MS. Alternatively, MS students can wait and apply to the post-professional OTD program after beginning MS coursework. Earning the post-professional OTD, in addition to the MS, requires that students enroll for an additional 10-12 months of elective coursework, advanced fieldwork, and a final project. To apply to both the MS and post-professional OTD program simultaneously, visit the following link for detailed instructions: https://go.uic.edu/ms_otd

The Department also offers two interdisciplinary PhD programs: a Ph.D. in Disability Studies and a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences. These doctoral degrees provide the opportunity to work closely with a faculty mentor to prepare for a research career.

THE UIC DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY'S SCHOLARSHIP OF PRACTICE

The mission of the UIC Department of Occupational Therapy is organized around what we call the *Scholarship of Practice*. Applied to education and the MS program, our *Scholarship of Practice* vision underscores the importance of embedding learning in situations that link theory, research, and practice. Specifically, our faculty embrace the value of linking theoretical and empirical knowledge to real world challenges of therapeutic work, in the context of the needs and priorities of people with disabilities. This vision guides all aspects of our curricula, development, teaching, program evaluation, and service learning. The mission of the MS program is to graduate entry-level generalist practitioners who will become leaders and advocates in the profession. We seek to educate students to integrate theory, research and practice related to a wide variety of settings and to be competent, self-reflective, ethical practitioners.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The Department of Occupational Therapy embraces diversity in many ways. We admit a diverse student body that reflects a variety of life experiences and personal characteristics. We also host visiting scholars from around the world. The MS curriculum emphasizes preparation to work in a culturally sensitive and competent manner with a wide variety of ethnically and culturally diverse people across the life span, and with a range of disability-related experiences. One of the strengths of UIC is that we value our urban environment and improving life for people with disabilities in the Chicago area and beyond. The department is an active participant in the Health and Diversity Academy, a special program in our college that prepares students to address health disparities and urban health issues through service learning and special events.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) works to ensure accessibility of UIC programs, courses and services to students with disabilities. For assistance, please contact the DRC at 312/413-2183 or drc@uic.edu.

COURSE OF STUDIES

The MS program curriculum sequence and course descriptions are provided at the end of this document. UIC's comprehensive MS program provides a strong conceptual base that prepares students to be excellent therapists. A foundation in theory and research is integrated with practical skills in OT practice courses. Innovative instructional strategies such as problem-based learning allow students to work in small groups with faculty facilitators to explore and analyze a number of case studies reflect the diversity of occupational therapy practice. Hands-on experiences are provided in clinical and community settings during coursework to provide students with the opportunity to apply what they are learning in class.

The curriculum design necessitates a full-time and year-round commitment to completing course work and fieldwork; most courses and fieldwork occur on weekdays between 8:00 and 5:00. The program begins in the fall, and the required courses are offered only in the semesters shown and must be taken in a fixed sequence.

Students must meet the requirements of the Graduate College for academic progress and graduation (see the online Graduate College catalog at www.uic.edu/depts/grad/ for detailed policies), must earn a 'C' or better in all required and elective courses, and must maintain a 'B' average to be in good academic standing.

Fieldwork education is an important part of the academic preparation of occupational therapists. Fieldwork provides the opportunity for students to develop entry-level practice skills and professional behaviors under supervision, and to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. All MS students complete one fieldwork experience during the first spring semester; two, 2-week fieldwork experiences during the first summer semester; and two 12-week experiences in the second year. Successful completion of these fieldwork placements allows students to fulfill the requirements for fieldwork stipulated by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®).

Each student completes fieldwork in a variety of settings (such as clinics, community agencies, hospitals, schools), with clients from different age groups who are experiencing, or are at risk for, different types of disabilities (psychosocial, developmental, cognitive, physical). The UIC Department of Occupational Therapy has relationships with a many fieldwork sites in the Chicago area, and a limited number throughout the country. There is currently a critical shortage of fieldwork sites nationally leading to challenges in securing fieldwork opportunities in specific geographic areas and practice areas. Students who are accepted to the UIC OT program from other states may not be able to complete fieldwork in their home state due to fieldwork challenges occurring nationwide. The primary goal when matching students to fieldwork sites is to ensure quality experiences and prepare students for entry level practice as an occupational therapist.

As a result of the national critical fieldwork shortage, the UIC Department of Occupational Therapy is not able to place all of our students for fieldwork locally, and/or on public transportation lines. For this reason, **all incoming students must be prepared to do any of the following** in order to assure their fieldwork experiences prepare them for practice as entry level clinicians:

- relocate outside of Chicago for one experience;
- travel more than an hour to fieldwork sites;
- have access to a car and drive to their fieldwork site.

Expenses while on fieldwork may include transportation, parking, housing and meals. Students who relocate for fieldwork must be prepared to bear any associated costs. For students who are primary caregivers for their children or other dependents, or who have health conditions themselves that require them to remain in the Chicago area, there is a process to request exemption from relocation.

THE ADVISING PROCESS

Each student is assigned a faculty advisor when he/she enters the program. Advisors support students as they progress through the academic program and are available to provide students with advice on a wide range of topics. Additionally, students participate in a series of group advising seminars each semester. These group advising seminars cover a range of topics related to personal and professional development, planning for fieldwork, and preparation for entry to the profession of occupational therapy. In addition, faculty and staff provide individual mentoring of students.

MS PROGRAM ACCREDITATION & CERTIFICATION INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program offered by the UIC Department of Occupational Therapy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's phone number is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the MS program are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT®). After successful completion of this exam, the graduate will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure to practice. Individuals who pass the NBCOT® Certification exam are eligible to apply for state licensure. State licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination.

A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT® certification examination or attain state licensure. To ensure that occupational therapy practitioners meet standards of professional conduct prior to entering the profession, all applicants for NBCOT® certification are required to provide information and documentation related to affirmative responses to character questions on the examination application (e.g., *Have you ever been convicted of a felony?*) See more at: <https://www.nbcot.org/en/Students/Services>

NBCOT® requires background checks for certification examination applicants with affirmative responses to character questions on the exam application. NBCOT® uses a third-party vendor to provide these background checks. A detailed, written explanation regarding the incident(s) as well as documentation pertaining to probation or parole are also required as part of the NBCOT® Character Review.

The Early Determination Review process is an option for prospective and current OT students who have an affirmative answer to one or more of the 4 character questions. The Early Determination Review offers an opportunity to have the incident(s) reviewed prior to applying for the exam. Those who take advantage of this option appreciate the opportunity to find out if a past issue would affect their exam eligibility before beginning or completing their course of study and applying for the exam. NBCOT® utilizes background checks with subjects seeking Early Determination Review. See more at <https://www.nbcot.org/en/Students/Services>

INFORMATION SESSIONS AND PRE-ADMISSION ADVISING

The Occupational Therapy Department provides an open information session **one Friday a month at 2:00 PM**. Additionally, an evening session is offered **one Monday per month at 5:30**, typically the first Monday of the month. Summer sessions vary due to holidays and department events. No appointment is necessary. To confirm the dates and locations of the info sessions, please go to the following link http://go.uic.edu/MSinOT_Beforeyouapply. The session includes a 60-minute overview of the

profession of occupational therapy, the program at UIC, and the admissions process. An OT student is often present to answer questions. Individual sessions with the admissions advisor are available after the session. For students who cannot attend the info session, advising is available by email (otdept@uic.edu), phone (312-413-0124), or individual appointments. An extensive list of “**Frequently Asked Questions**” is posted at http://go.uic.edu/MSinOT_FAQS. For questions about being a student in the program, email ots@uic.edu and our student liaison will respond.

APPLICANT VISIT DAYS

Applicant Visit Days are held January through April, either virtually or in person, if possible. Hearing. You will hear from our Director of Admissions and MS Program Director, talk to current students and faculty, and get a tour (in person or virtual) of our facilities. If available, you will be able to sit in on a class as part of your visit. Dates will be posted on our website or contact otdept@uic.edu for details and to sign up.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission to the MS program is selective and quite competitive (see the FAQ document at http://go.uic.edu/MSinOT_FAQS for current admission statistics). Completion of requirements does not guarantee admission. The admissions committee considers the following factors when evaluating students for admission:

- Gradepoint average (GPA) for the last 60 hours of the baccalaureate degree and GPA for any of the six prerequisite courses that have been completed at the time of application (fall prerequisites are typically included in the evaluation of the application),
- GRE scores, OTCAS personal statement, UIC specific brief personal essay, letters of recommendation, work experience, volunteer experience, community service, and other relevant life experience or expertise.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A baccalaureate degree, completed by the time of entry into the occupational therapy coursework (fall).
- Completion of all six required prerequisites at the time of entry into occupational therapy coursework (fall), except for the cadaver lab. Admitted students must successfully complete remaining prerequisite courses prior to beginning OT courses.
- A Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (B average) for the last 60 semester hours earned that lead to a either a baccalaureate or master’s degree. Any graduate coursework completed is included in the 60 hour GPA. In addition, applicants are expected to have a 3.0 GPA for their prerequisite coursework. Applicants with either a 60 hour GPA or a prerequisite GPA below 3.0 may be considered for admission if they have strengths in other areas. Students with a GPA below 2.75 are not typically admitted unless special circumstances have affected the GPA.
- The general Graduate Record Examination (GRE), which evaluates verbal and quantitative reasoning as well as analytical writing skills, is required for admission. The minimum recommended score on the GRE Exam is 150 for each of the verbal and quantitative sections, which is around the 40-45th percentile. Scores below 150 are acceptable if the applicant’s gradepoint average is sufficiently high to demonstrate strong academic potential. Admitted students typically have a mean score on the verbal section of 156, which is approximately the 75th percentile. For the quantitative section, the typical mean is 154, the 55th percentile. Most accepted applicants earn at least a 4 out of 6 on the analytic writing section and the mean is typically around a 4.4. The GRE exam should be taken no later than November 1 in order for scores to arrive at UIC by December 1. The GRE exam can be repeated, but one month must elapse between each attempt. Retake scores will be accepted until January 15. Visit www.gre.org for testing dates, locations, and more information. Use UIC code 1851 to have your scores sent to UIC.
- Completion of the UIC online graduate college application and fee.
- Completion of the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application System (OTCAS) Application, Personal Statement, 3 Letters of Recommendation, UIC Personal Statement (see the section below on application instructions for details). Letters of recommendation are typically from professors, academic advisors, TAs, or work or volunteer supervisors.
- Foreign applicants whose native language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Scores cannot be more than 2 years old.
- Students who have taken courses outside the U.S. have additional requirements, see www.otcas.org for details.

PREREQUISITES

There are six prerequisite courses that applicants must complete with a grade of ‘C’ or above before enrolling in the program (typically accepted students earn ‘A’s and ‘B’s in these courses). Courses do not need to be completed at the time of application. Grades in prerequisite courses are given additional weight by the admission committee. Applicants who are enrolled in coursework in the fall semester/quarter must submit a fall grade report via email, followed by a transcript.

If prerequisites were completed more than 3 years prior to beginning occupational therapy coursework, it is highly recommended that applicants review a current text prior to enrollment so that they have up-to-date knowledge. If prerequisites were completed more than 8 years ago, it is recommended that applicants retake the course(s) or complete an intensive self-study prior to enrollment, unless the applicant has been building on and applying that course content through work or personal experience for at least 3 years.

The following is a list of the six required prerequisite courses. All prerequisite courses must be the equivalent of at least 3 semester hours unless otherwise noted.

- One course: Introduction to sociology or introduction to anthropology.
- Two courses in psychology: child psychology *or* child development, and abnormal psychology. Human/lifespan development is accepted to meet the child development requirement if it is a semester long course and has at least half of the hours spent on child development.
- One course in statistics: Research methods will not be adequate; it must be a statistics course and can be completed in a department of psychology, sociology, statistics, math or similar department.
- One course in human anatomy* with 30 hours of human cadaver lab study required; minimum 4 semester hours. The required course in human anatomy should provide an anatomical overview of all the systems of the body, with emphasis on the musculoskeletal and nervous systems. An in-person human cadaver lab with previously dissected human cadavers that meets for at least 30 contact hours is preferred. A human anatomy online dissection lab will meet our requirements if it requires has the equivalent of 30 lab hours and focuses on the specifications above. Students who have difficulty obtaining either an in-person or online cadaver laboratory experience of 30 hours prior to enrollment at UIC will be required to enroll in an OT-specific in-person or online cadaver lab at UIC in the fall of the first year of occupational therapy coursework. This is the only prerequisite requirement that can be completed AFTER enrollment. Applicants who get a grade of 'C' in anatomy or who have had their anatomy course more than three years ago will be required to take the human anatomy lab offered at UIC in the fall of the first year. Acceptance of online or in-person anatomy lab courses will be determined on a case-by-case basis upon admission.
- One course in human physiology* with lab, covering all structures and functions of the body
- Although not required, it is recommended that students complete a medical terminology course. Alternatively, students are expected to complete a self-study computerized course in medical terminology upon acceptance.

*The human anatomy and physiology courses can be satisfied by a two-course sequence in human anatomy and physiology. If the 2 courses are taken at 2 different schools, syllabi must be approved by the UIC Occupational Therapy Director of Admissions.

COVID-19 Considerations for Fall 2021 Admissions

The UIC Department of Occupational Therapy understands the hardships that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused and the uncertainty that lies ahead. Exceptions for the Fall 2021 application cycle include:

- **Credit, Pass or Satisfactory grades for prerequisite courses:** While the UIC OT department strongly prefers that students' transcripts reflect regular A-F grades for our 6 prerequisites, courses with a grade of CR (credit), S (satisfactory) or P (pass) will be accepted if regular grades are not available.
- **Supplemental statement opportunity regarding lower grades:** If students get a grade below a B in a prerequisite, they can submit a supplemental statement explaining the circumstances, as instructed in the OTCAS application. The admissions committee will consider the lower grade in the context of their earlier and later grades. Students who feel their grade was affected by the sudden move to online classes in spring or summer can also retake the course in the fall if needed, and the fall grade will be considered as a potential replacement for the earlier online course grade.
- **Online and/or distance learning courses:** With the exception of some anatomy and physiology labs, online courses will fulfill prerequisite courses. Online anatomy and physiology labs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- **Cadaver Lab Study:** If accepted students earn a grade of CR, S or P in an anatomy course, they may be required to take the OT-specific online or in-person cadaver lab at UIC in the fall of the first year of occupational therapy courses to make sure they are well prepared for the second semester OT courses that rely on a strong foundation in human anatomy. UIC requires a human anatomy lab course, and an in-person human cadaver lab is preferred. A human anatomy online dissection lab will meet our requirements if it has the equivalent of 30 lab hours and includes detailed coverage of muscle origins, insertions and actions, particularly of the upper extremity, and coverage of the nervous system components. Acceptance of online or in-person anatomy lab courses will be determined on a case-by-case basis upon admission. If the completed lab prerequisite course does not meet expectations, the student will be required to take the OT-specific online or in-person cadaver lab at UIC concurrent with OT courses.

- **Non-prerequisite courses:** Opting to get a CR, S or P grade in a course that is not a prerequisite does not have a negative impact on an application. However, if a student anticipates that a graded course will raise their GPA, they should consider taking it for a grade if that option is available.
- **GRE:** The UIC OT department is not changing requirements for the GRE. GRE offers an in-home version that we will accept if the applicant chooses that option. It is proctored remotely and is the same GRE test. For more info visit the [ETS website](#).
- **Application Deadline:** The UIC OT department is not planning to change the December 1 deadline but may extend it if there are special circumstances.
- **Shadowing/observation hours:** If you are unable to complete volunteer or observation hours, do not let that deter you from applying to UIC's program. While 50 hours of OT observation is a recommended minimum, UIC does not require a minimum number of hours. In addition to OT observation, UIC considers non-OT volunteer roles, service organization experience, and employment. For example, in Chicago, they are looking for volunteers at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, and nationally they are looking for Crisis Text Line volunteers (after completing 30 hours of training). Also, you can dive into the AOTA website and all of the fact sheets on different practice settings and OTs role, watch the AOTA video, learn as much as you can about the field and in your application you can point out the actions you took if you were unable to get observation hours.
- **Special circumstances:** In the OTCAS application, students will have the opportunity to request consideration for COVID-19 related circumstances that have affected their potential for admission. Such statements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

CPR CERTIFICATION AND HEALTH DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

As occupational therapy students interact with patients and clients during clinical experiences, health forms verifying vaccinations for communicable diseases, or blood titers proving immunity, are required upon enrollment. Students must obtain and maintain BLS (Basic Life Support) for Healthcare Professionals/Providers Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification in CPR, AED and airway obstruction for adults, child and infants. The CPR class must be 100% classroom taught, meaning students are with a CPR instructor for their entire learning experience. Classes held entirely online or blended classes (part online and part in-person) will not satisfy this requirement. Check the following websites for the American Heart Association and American Red Cross CPR classes. Students must be certified upon enrollment and must maintain certification until graduation.

American Heart Association BLS Instructor led training:

http://cpr.heart.org/AHA/ECC/CPRECC/Training/HealthcareProfessional/BasicLifeSupportBLS/UCM_473189_Basic-Life-Support-BLS.jsp

American Red Cross BLS In-Person Class:

<http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/bls-training/bls-for-healthcare-providers>

In addition, you may check the following for Healthcare CPR classes in the Chicago area:

http://nursingspeaks.com/nursing_responsive/cpr/

<http://www.cprassociatesinc.com/> - Offers CPR courses Monday-Saturday at three Chicago locations

OT OBSERVATION/VOLUNTEER WORK

Although a specific number of hours of observation or volunteer work is not required; observation, volunteer work, and relevant work experience help inform the prospective applicant about OT and help her/him to determine whether or not OT is the correct career choice. It is recommended that applicants have at least 50 hours of experience with an occupational therapist prior to application. This experience should ideally occur in at least two different practice settings, e.g. hospital and community settings. The admissions committee considers both the number of hours the student has spent in OT and related settings, as well as the variety of experiences that have been completed. It is a good idea to keep a log of your hours, activities and reactions to refer to when you apply.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The final application deadline is **December 1 (11 PM CST)**. Completed applications must be *received* by this date. It is recommended that students with transcripts that are not in English apply by October 1st so the international credential evaluation can be completed. Students should be notified of their admission status on or before March 15.

Application instructions and materials are available at www.OTCAS.org. You need to submit a graduate application and \$70 fee to UIC at http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/apply_grad_degree.html to have your application processed by the UIC Office of Admissions and the Occupational Therapy department, and a separate \$150 fee to OTCAS for the first school you apply to, plus \$65 for each additional school.

Transcripts and a list of your courses and grades must be submitted via OTCAS instructions. There are two steps:

1) Sending transcripts to OTCAS via the instructions on the *Academic History* page, and 2) Entering each course you have completed and your grade, using a personal copy of your transcript. You will also enter courses you plan to complete. If you are taking courses in the fall, update your grades on your OTCAS application and send a transcript to OTCAS as soon as grades are posted. More detailed instructions and tips are available in our FAQ at http://go.uic.edu/MSinOT_FAQS. Please do not respond to emails from the UIC Office of Admissions stating to submit your transcripts to UIC. The department will forward your verified transcript(s) from OTCAS to the UIC Office of Admissions.

You must also complete the full OTCAS application, including the *Personal Information* section, *OTCAS Personal Statement*, and *Letters of Recommendation*. You should complete the *Experiences*, *Achievements*, and *Observation Hours* tabs under the Supporting *Materials* section if you have experiences to report. In addition, please answer the questions and submit the UIC-specific brief personal essay you must complete and upload into OTCAS under the *Program Materials* section. The requirements for the UIC personal statement can be found at http://go.uic.edu/MSinOT_Applying. You may submit an optional 3rd essay/supplemental statement as part of your application if the following condition applies: you earned a **C or below in one or more of the 6 prerequisite courses required by UIC**. Your statement should describe the semester(s) and year this occurred, what year of college you were in (e.g. sophomore, junior, senior), the situation, how your grade(s) were affected, and, if applicable, the steps you took to prevent the situation from continuing to have a negative effect on your academic performance. Indicate if you retook the course(s) in which you received a grade of C or below and what the retake grade was. If you choose to send a 3rd essay/supplemental statement and do not meet these criteria, it will not be included in your application review.

For further details and instructions to submit the optional supplemental statement, please visit the following link http://go.uic.edu/MSinOT_Applying

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY

Please consult the UIC website at <https://admissions.uic.edu/graduate-professional/tuition-fees> for current tuition and fees. Anticipated tuition and fees for fall 2020 is \$10,761 per semester for Illinois residents and \$17,195 per semester for non-residents. The MS degree requires that students enroll in 4 full semesters and 2 half semesters (summer), totaling approximately 5 full semesters of tuition and fees.

Information about student loans can be obtained from the Office of Financial Aid. Applications for financial aid are accepted after January 1. Priority consideration is given to those whose applications are received by March 1, and aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Student Financial Aid at (312) 996-3126 or visit the website at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/financialaid/>. For policies and the process on student withdrawal and refunds of tuition and fees, consult the graduate college catalog at www.uic.edu/depts/grad/.

The Department typically has several academic hourly positions that are offered to master's students. These positions pay about \$25 an hour, and will require 8-12 hours of work per week. Assistantships and the accompanying waiver of part of the tuition and fees are primarily reserved for PhD and OTD students.

UIC is not able to offer merit scholarships to incoming students. However, we do reserve one or two one semester assistantships for our top applicants who have relevant research or clinical experience. The selected students will work as a research assistant on a funded study or do research as part of our minority mentoring program. There are also 16 scholarships offered throughout the year for enrolled MS & OTD students, with an average amount of \$1800. Additional financial aid, typically loans, is available through the UIC Office of Financial Aid. Campus hourly positions pay over \$25 per hour and there are often several available in the OT department as well as other units on campus. Additional financial aid, typically loans, is available through the UIC Office of Financial Aid. Please visit their website for more information.

URBAN HEALTH PROGRAM

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Urban Health Program represents a major effort to increase minority student enrollment in schools and colleges on the campus and to improve health care services in Chicago's underserved communities. As one of its services, the College of Applied Health Sciences' Urban Health Program staff offers assistance in academic planning and career selection to prospective students. Support in the admissions process is also provided. Those seeking advisement should contact: Ken Morgan, Director, Urban Health Program; Email: kmorgan@uic.edu; Phone: (312) 355-3011.

Master of Science Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to give students a strong theoretical base and advanced clinical reasoning abilities as well as hands on skills; allowing graduates to become excellent therapists and leaders in a number of different settings, including community-based, school-based, and medically-based settings. Credit hours for each course are in parentheses. The curriculum allows students to take an elective in the Spring 1 semester, if desired.

Fall –1 TOTAL CREDITS = 17	Spring –1 TOTAL CREDITS = 14-18	Summer –1 TOTAL CREDITS = 7
<p>OT 501: Occupational Performance in Adults and Adolescents (3)</p> <p>OT 506: Development of a Therapeutic Self (3)</p> <p>OT 507: Introduction to OT Practice (2)</p> <p>OT 500: Theories of OT (4)</p> <p>OT 510: Research in Occupational Therapy (4)</p> <p>OT 502: Medical Conditions: A self-paced course (1)</p> <p>Students who need to take a cadaver lab will be taking KN 496. KN 496 begins in the Fall semester and concludes in the Spring – 1 semester.</p>	<p>OT 511: Occupational Performance in Children (4)</p> <p>OT 512: Human Structure and Function (5)</p> <p>OT 516: OT Practice: Psychosocial Aspects of Occupational Performance (3)</p> <p>OT 515: Synthesis I: Case discussions – Problem Based Learning (PBL) (1)</p> <p>OT 519: Fieldwork Level I – A (1)</p> <p>OT 502: Medical Conditions (con't)</p> <p>Optional Elective in OT or another department (2-4 credits)</p>	<p>OT 502: Medical Conditions (con't)</p> <p>OT 524: Contexts of OT Practice (2)</p> <p>OT 526: Assistive Technology and the Environment (3)</p> <p>OT 529: Fieldwork Level I - B (1)</p> <p>OT 539: Fieldwork Level I - C (1)</p> <p>(2 – 2 week full time fieldwork experiences at the same location)</p> <p>OT 524 and OT 526 are taught in a 5 week block before fieldwork</p>
Fall-2 TOTAL CREDITS = 16	Spring-2 TOTAL CREDITS = 12	Summer-2 TOTAL CREDITS = 6
<p>OT 522: OT Practice: Functional Movement & Mobility (5)</p> <p>OT 523: OT Practice: Cognition and Perception in Action (4)</p> <p>OT 538: Introduction to Advanced Practice in OT (1)</p> <p>OT 535: Synthesis II: cases across practice contexts (PBL) (2)</p> <p>OT 564: Leadership/Management in OT (3)</p> <p>OT 595: Seminar in Occupational Therapy(1): Credit awarded for colloquia attendance</p>	<p>OT 548: Fieldwork Level II - A (Jan – Mar) (8)</p> <p>OT 549: Fieldwork Level II - B (April – June) (4)</p> <p>Each Level II fieldwork is 12 weeks long, 40 hours per week.</p> <p>OT 549 is 4 Credits and must be repeated.</p>	<p>OT 549: Fieldwork Level II - B (April – June) (4)</p> <p>July: OT 555: Synthesis III: Case-based PBL course with focus on practice situations creating ethical tension or moral distress (2)</p> <p>Students graduate in late July if they complete all coursework and fieldwork on schedule</p>
		<p>MINIMUM SEMERSTER HOURS REQUIRED FOR DEGREE COMPLETION: 72</p> <p>TOTAL TIME = 23 months</p>

Required courses for the Master of Science Degree

OT 500. Theories of Occupational Therapy. 4 Hours.

Explores theoretical basis of occupational therapy and the impact of theory on clinical practice. Covers the history of knowledge and practice development in occupational therapy. Focuses on specific practice models developed as guides to clinical reasoning. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; or consent of the instructor and admission to the M.S. or OTD Occupational Therapy program.

OT 501. Occupational Performance in Adults and Adolescents. 3 Hours.

Reviews the primary developmental aspects and roles of adolescence and adulthood. Personal and environmental factors that influence occupational performance and prevention and wellness models to facilitate occupational functioning. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 401. Prerequisite(s): Graduate Standing and Admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program.

OT 502. Medical Conditions. 1 Hour.

This self-paced course reviews etiology, clinical manifestation, clinical course, and general medical and rehabilitative management of common medical conditions; emphasis on musculoskeletal, neurologic, cardiopulmonary, and psychiatric disorders. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Previously listed as OT 422. Prerequisite(s): Graduate Standing and admission to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

OT 506. Development of a Therapeutic Self. 3 Hours.

Emphasizes understanding and developing foundational skills in therapeutic use of self and forms of therapeutic reasoning. Group theory and process is introduced and group leadership skills developed. Course Information: 3 hours. Previously listed as OT 406. Prerequisite(s): Graduate Standing and admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy Program. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture and one Laboratory-Discussion.

OT 507. Introduction to Occupational Therapy Practice. 2 Hours.

Overview of the role of the therapist and aspects of occupational therapy practice in multiple settings. The basics of assessment, treatment planning, intervention, and documentation; as well as service delivery systems and current issues. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 407. Prerequisite(s): Graduate Standing and admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program.

OT 510. Research in Occupational Therapy. 4 Hours.

Introduction to basic elements of research design relevant to occupational therapy practice. Prepares student to become critical consumer of research in occupational therapy and related fields. Quantitative and qualitative approaches to research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing; or consent of the instructor and admission to the M.S. or OTD Occupational Therapy program. Recommended background: Statistics and research methods.

OT 511. Occupational Performance in Children. 4 Hours.

Covers developmental theories concerning factors influencing the development of occupational performance in infancy, childhood, and early adolescence. Includes developmental assessment methods and tools. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 411. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 401 and Grade of C or better in OT 407 and Grade of C or better in OT 500 and Grade of C or better in OT 510; and graduate standing C or better in all prerequisites.

OT 512. Human Structure and Function. 5 Hours.

Examines anatomical and physiological basis for occupational performance. Features structure and function of musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and nervous systems and application of biomechanical principles. Course Information: 5 hours. Previously listed as OT 412. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and Grade of C or better in OT 510 and graduate standing and admission to the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Laboratory.

OT 515. Synthesis I. 1 Hour.

Provides a problem based learning context for the development of clinical reasoning skills in occupational therapy. Students analyze and synthesize five individual client cases which emphasize the occupational therapy assessment process. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500

and Grade of C or better in OT 501 and Grade of C or better in OT 506 and Grade of C or better in OT 507 and Grade of C or better in OT 510.

OT 516. Occupational Therapy Practice: Psychosocial Aspects of Occupational Performance. 3 Hours.

Examines occupational therapy practices relevant to psychosocial intervention, related bodies of knowledge influencing practice, psychological process affecting occupational functioning and assessment and treatment related to psychosocial problems. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 416. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 501 and Grade of C or better in OT 506 and Grade of C or better in OT 507 and Grade of C or better in OT 500 and Grade of C or better in OT 510; and graduate standing.

OT 519. Fieldwork Level IA. 1 Hour.

Emphasizes application of occupational therapy skills pertinent to use of psychosocial groups in communities. Students gain an enhanced appreciation of psychological and social factors that influence engagement in occupation. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisites(s): Grade of C or better in OT 501 and OT 507 and OT 510 and OT 506 and OT 500.

OT 522. Occupational Therapy Practice: Functional Movement and Mobility. 5 Hours.

Application of occupational therapy evaluation and intervention skills to children and adults with occupational performance deficits resulting from mobility and movement dysfunction. Course Information: 5 hours. Previously listed as OT 436. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 511 and Grade of C or better in OT 512 and Grade of C or better in OT 516 and Grade of C or better in OT 526; Satisfactory completion of OT 502. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture-Discussion and one Laboratory.

OT 523. Occupational Therapy Practice: Cognition and Perception in Action. 4 Hours.

The impact of impaired cognitive and perceptual processes on occupational performance of children and adults with neurological conditions, cognitive and intellectual disabilities and psychiatric disabilities. Course Information: 4 hours. Previously listed as OT 437. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 511 and Grade of C or better in OT 512 and Grade of C or better in OT 516 and Grade of C or better in OT 526; and completion of OT 502. Course Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Lecture and one Laboratory.

OT 524. Contexts of Occupational Therapy Practice. 2 Hours.

Trends in health care, reimbursement, legislation, and disability policy and how they affect occupational therapy. The policy process and development of an advocacy role are explored. Exposure to community-based practice and consultation roles. Course Information: Previously listed as OT 424. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 507.

OT 526. Assistive Technology and the Environment. 3 Hours.

Assessing the need for, delivering, and evaluating the outcomes of occupationally-based technology and environmental interventions with people with disabilities within the home, school, workplace and community. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 500 and grade of C or better in OT 510 and grade of C or better in OT 511 and grade of C or better in OT 512. Class Schedule Information: To be properly registered, students must enroll in one Laboratory and one Lecture-Discussion.

OT 529. Fieldwork Level IB. 1 Hour.

A supervised, full-time, 2-week practicum. The third course of 3 Level I fieldwork experiences in the program. The emphasis is on the development of: critical thinking, stress management, beginning evaluation skills, and beginning intervention skills. Course Information: Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 502, OT 515, and OT 519, a Grade of C or better in OT 511, OT 512 and OT 516 and satisfactory completion of OT 529 Fieldwork Level IB.

OT 535. Synthesis II. 2 Hours.

In this problem based learning course, students engage in small and large group learning to analyze cases. Emphasis is placed on occupation-based intervention planning with particular consideration of contextual factors. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 502; and grade of C or better in OT 524 and grade of C or better in OT 526 and grade of C or better in OT 529.

OT 538. Introduction to Advanced Practice in Occupational Therapy. 1 Hour.

Provides exposure to practice in 3 areas of practice requiring advanced clinical reasoning and skills. Includes introductory cases, observation in clinical settings and lab experiences to develop related skills. Course Information:

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 519; grade of C or better in OT 516 and grade of C or better in OT 526 and grade of C or better in OT 529; or consent of the instructor.

OT 539. Fieldwork Level IC. 1 hour.

A supervised, full-time, 2-week practicum. The third course of 3 Level I fieldwork experiences in the program. The emphasis is on the development of: critical thinking, stress management, beginning evaluation skills, and beginning intervention skills. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 502, OT 515 and OT 519 and OT 529. Grade of C or better in OT 511, OT 512 and OT 516.

OT 548. Fieldwork Level IIA. 8 Hours.

First of two supervised full-time 12-week practica with emphasis on application of OT theory, development of psychomotor skills, reasoning client-related problems, and professional socialization as an entry-level occupational therapist. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Previously listed as OT 448. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 522 and grade of C or better in OT 523 and grade of C or better in OT 529 and grade of C or better in OT 564; and satisfactory completion of OT 535 and OT 538.

OT 549. Fieldwork Level IIB. 4 Hours.

Second of two supervised, full-time, 12-week practica with emphasis on application of OT theory, development of psychomotor skills, reasoning client-related problems, and professional socialization as an entry-level occupational therapist. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Must be repeated for credit. Students may register in more than one section per term. Previously listed as OT 449. Field work required. Scheduled full-time for a 6-week period. Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 522 and grade of C or better in OT 523 and grade of C or better in OT 529 and grade of C or better in OT 564; and satisfactory completion of OT 519, OT 535 and OT 538.

OT 555. Synthesis III. 2 Hours.

A problem based learning course in which students engage in self-directed analysis of cases. Emphasizes identification and mitigation of situations creating ethical tension or moral distress, legal concerns and/or complex practice problems. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Field work required. Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of OT 535 and OT 548 and OT 549.

OT 564. Leadership and Management in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.

Overview of issues related to management and leadership in varied settings in which occupational therapists practice. Topics include, but are not limited to, management functions, service planning, quality improvement, and financial management. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in OT 524 and Grade of C or better in OT 529.

OT 595. Seminar in Occupational Therapy. 1 Hour.

Students participate in faculty-student discussion and activities related to individual areas of research/thesis. Course Information: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading only. Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing or consent of the instructor and admission to the M.S. or OTD Occupational Therapy program.

OT 596. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.

This course is for graduate students who wish to pursue independent study not related to their project/thesis research. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

Examples of Elective Offerings Offered within the UIC Department of Occupational Therapy.

OT 553. Program Evaluation: Documenting the Impact of Human Services. 3 Hours. (Fall)

Examines methods in program evaluation with emphasis on empowerment and participatory evaluation. Students will study quantitative and qualitative strategies, how to communicate information to stakeholders, and how to design evaluations. Course Information: Recommended background: Interest in research, health or behavioral sciences, and implementation and evaluation of community initiatives and community-based organizations.

OT 561. Disability and Community Participation: Policy, Systems Change, and Action Research. 4 Hours. (Fall of odd-numbered years)

Focuses on the critical examination of disability policy, activism, and research. Emphasis on conducting participatory action research in collaboration with constituents with disabilities, community organizations, and policy makers. Course Information: Same as DHD 561. Field work required. Depending on the research project, students may or may not need to complete IRB training. More information on the IRB process will be available at the start of the project.

Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor. Recommended background: Previous coursework in disability policy, disability empowerment research and qualitative research.

OT 563. Disability and Global Health. 3 Hours. (Spring)

Focuses on disability and health equity in a global context and addresses disability-related health disparities and their determinants in the context of global poverty, development aid and humanitarian crises.

OT 566. Knowledge Translation in Disability and Rehabilitation Research. 3 Hours. (Spring)

Using an equity-focused model, students will form knowledge translation collaboratives to both learn and apply knowledge translation principles for advocacy, education, and clinical practice. Prerequisite(s): OT510 or equivalent; and consent of the instructor.

OT 568. Learning, Teaching, Curriculum Design, Delivery and Evaluation. 4 Hours. (Fall of even-numbered years)

Didactic material and experiential learning as students explore design and implementation of a professional curriculum. Students will be exposed to student admissions, advising, student life and accreditation. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 4 hours. Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

OT 594. Pediatric Processes of Care. 2 or 3 Hours. (Spring)

Focuses on students acquiring practical knowledge and skills in how to reinforce client-centeredness in their future pediatric practice. Students will learn about measuring client-centered care and outcomes as well as user-centered approaches to assessing current and ideal organizational workflows that can drive quality improvement in systems of pediatric care. They will be introduced to technology-based solutions for advancing both types of efforts and begin to develop a tangible plan that they can use to prepare for longer-term contributions.

OT 594. Special Topics in Occupational Therapy. 1-4 Hours.

New course under development and selected seminar topics of current interests to faculty and students. Course Information: Prerequisite(s): Consent of the instructor.

Students may also take electives in other departments such as Education, Disability and Human Development, Psychology, Public Health, and Sociology.