



Entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate

The entry-level OTD program at the University of Illinois Chicago is designed for students who have a bachelor's or master's degree in any subject and want to become culturally responsive, evidence-based practitioners who meet clients' diverse occupational needs to achieve full participation in society.

What you'll learn

Our entry-level OTD program is carried out in the context of an urban research university, reflecting UIC's commitment to diversity, social justice and community engagement. You'll get an education that prepares you to integrate occupational therapy practice, theory and research using our Scholarship of Practice (SOP) model. Learn occupational therapy evaluation and treatment skills in student-centered lecture/discussion and lab courses. Complete your doctoral capstone with the support of your SOP Collaborative, a faculty-led group of students pursuing scholarly work in a specific area. Become a leader and advocate to serve individuals, families, groups and communities across the life span and in a wide variety of settings.



Apply the theory and skills learned in the classroom

Our fieldwork experiences include:

- **Level IA:** Explore diverse community and clinical occupational therapy settings
- **Level IB:** Address the psychological and social needs of clients in a community agency
- **Level IC and ID:** Develop professional behaviors, practice skills and an understanding of psychosocial issues influencing engagement in occupation
- **Level IIA and IIB:** Apply theory, clinical reasoning and skills to become a competent entry-level occupational therapist

For details, visit go.uic.edu/EntryOTDFieldwork.

Admission requirements

Our thorough holistic admission process uses a balanced and equitable approach that considers multiple factors, including experience, background and personal characteristics, as well as traditional metrics such as grades and test scores.

- Bachelor's degree (in any subject) or Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions for high school students
- 3.0 GPA minimum on a 4.0 scale for all bachelor's degree and graduate coursework is recommended (a B average)
- Completion of all prerequisite courses with a grade of B- or better in each course, unless there are special circumstances
- Recorded volunteer, work and extracurricular experiences; 50 hours of OT observation or volunteer work is recommended

Accreditation

Our entry-level OTD degree program has applied for accreditation and been granted Candidacy Status for accreditation 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 telephone number c/o AOTA is 301-652-AOTA and its web address is www.acoteonline.org. Consistent with ACOTE policy, the program must have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates 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 individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. UIC will learn ACOTE's decision regarding accreditation of the entry-level OTD in December 2024, in advance of the graduation of the first entry-level OTD cohort in May 2025.



Get involved and create community

Maximize your UIC experience by getting involved in our various leadership opportunities. Join the state and national occupational therapy associations, and participate in their annual conferences; become a member of the UIC chapter of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD.org); be a leader of the UIC student OT organization; and much more.

To learn more, visit go.uic.edu/UICAHSInvolvement.

About the UIC College of Applied Health Sciences

The UIC College of Applied Health Sciences is the home college to the UIC Department of Occupational Therapy. AHS is a socially conscious, research-intensive academic community whose mission is to broaden understanding of applied health sciences and disability. The academic home to educators, discoverers, collaborators and advocates, we envision a world in which every person can live a healthy and self-determined life.

We're here for you. Contact us to learn the next steps.

go.uic.edu/EntryLevelOTD • otdept@uic.edu

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