

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

**POST-BACCALAUREATE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE
IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (ENTRY-LEVEL)**

The objectives of this program are to educate entry-level occupational therapists, who: 1) integrate the knowledge, skills, cultural values, professional behaviors, and theories that underlie the practice of occupational therapy; 2) apply the occupational therapy process as it is utilized in the evaluation and treatment of clients with a broad range of disabling conditions; 3) provide and manage occupational therapy services within a wide range of service delivery models; 4) evaluate occupational therapy outcomes through appropriate research methods; and 5) understand, interpret, and appropriately utilize occupational therapy and related research in their professional practice.

Prior to admission to the Post-baccalaureate Master of Science Degree track in Occupational Therapy, students must take a foundation of general education/prerequisite courses in the physical, biological and social sciences, and the humanities (70 hours), as well as the occupational therapy courses (54 undergrad and 56 grad, 110 hours total). Upon completion of general education and prerequisite requirements, all students must apply to the occupational therapy program, through a competitive admission process. Following completion of the first 4 semesters, consisting of the basic level occupational therapy courses mentioned above, students without a degree will earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (Occupational Therapy emphasis). Students already possessing a baccalaureate degree must complete designated prerequisite courses, and then apply to the program through the same competitive admission process. Those with degrees may apply for and receive a second baccalaureate degree upon completion of the first 4 semesters.

ACCREDITATION:

The Occupational Therapy program is accredited by the American Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE); their address is: 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824. Phone: 301-652-2682. Students who successfully complete all requirements for the Post-baccalaureate Master of Science in Occupational Therapy are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapists, administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Their address is: 800 S. Frederick Avenue, Suite 200, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-4150. Phone: 301-990-7979.

NBCOT Exam Pass Rates:

NBCOT exam results	Total number of 1 st time takers	Passing number of 1 st time takers	Failing number of 1 st time takers	UCA pass rate	National pass rate
2005	31	27	4	87%	86%
2006	29	25	4	86%	86%
2007	45	40	5	89%	87%

Note: A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification exam or attain state licensure. For more information contact NBCOT and/or the Arkansas State Medical Board at (501) 296-1802.

Summary Information

1. **Type of Program:** Post-baccalaureate Master of Science degree with a major in Occupational Therapy.
2. **Length of Program:** 4 semesters basic level Occupational Therapy courses (on campus), 3 semesters of master's level course work (on campus), 24 weeks full-time fieldwork (off campus). **Total: 7 semesters on campus, plus 24 weeks full-time Level II fieldwork.**
NOTE: Level II Fieldwork must be completed within 24 months of the conclusion of on-campus study.
3. **Class Size:** Maximum 48 students selected spring semester, annually. Coursework begins during May Intersession.
4. **Residence Restrictions:** Preference is given to Arkansas residents; a maximum of 5 highly qualified out of state students may be accepted each year. The Occupational Therapy Department accepts the decision of UCA Admissions office regarding residency status.
5. **Current Estimated Cost of Tuition and Fees Per Semester (for Spring 2009):**
\$210.00 per credit hour for undergraduate work, and \$249.50 per credit hour for graduate work. OTHY courses; Books and Supplies Approx. \$400-\$500 per semester.
6. **Prerequisite Requirements for Entry into the Occupational Therapy Program:**
 - 6.1. Attached are the prerequisite and general education courses required for admission. Courses must be fully completed prior to entry into the program, and should be substantially completed or in progress upon application.
 - 6.2. Students are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours volunteer work in one occupational therapy setting, under the supervision of one certified occupational therapist. Further, students are required to submit an evaluation of their performance during this volunteer/observations experience, which is to be completed by the supervising occupational therapist.
7. **Application:** Applications are available each year in November. The deadline for submitting applications is **February 1**. Please call the Occupational Therapy office or write to the address below to receive an application.

**University of Central Arkansas
Occupational Therapy Department
201 Donaghey Avenue, PO Box 5001
Conway, AR 72035
501-450-3192**
8. **Grade Point Averages of students most recently admitted into the Occupational Therapy Program:**
2006 Average Cumulative GPA (Accepted) – 3.625
2007 Average Cumulative GPA (Accepted) – 3.604
2008 Average Cumulative GPA (Accepted) – 3.614
9. **For Advisement or additional information:** Contact the Program Advisor, Charlotte Roberson at 501-450-5568 or croberson@uca.edu .

Entry-level M.S. in OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Suggested Prerequisite Curriculum Design

Minimum 70 Prerequisite Hours Required

STUDENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THE SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCING FOR SCIENCE (Biology, Chemistry, & Physics) **AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE** (Psychology & Sociology). **OTHER COURSES IN ITALICS MAY BE TAKEN AT ANY TIME DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY.**

FRESHMAN YEAR

<u>FALL</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
* <i>Intro to College Writing</i> (WRTG 1310) 3	* <i>Academic Writing and Research</i> (WRTG 1320) 3
<i>College Algebra</i> (MATH 1390 or higher) 3	<i>World Cultural Traditions – World History I (HIST 1310) or II (HIST 1320)</i> 3
* GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 1300) 3	<i>Concepts of Lifetime Health & Fitness (KPED 1320 or H ED 1320)</i> 3
* GENERAL BIOLOGY (BIOL 1400) 4	* GENERAL SOCIOLOGY (SOC 1300) 3
* PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY I (CHEM1402 – Prereq. high school Chemistry or CHEM 1301) 4	* HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (BIOL 2405 – Prereq. BIOL 1400 or 1440) 4
17	16

Summer

<i>Humanities Elective - Intro to Fiction (ENGL 2370), Intro to Poetry (ENGL 2380), Intro to Drama (ENGL 2390), Critical Thinking (PHIL 2305), Contemporary Moral Problems (PHIL 2325), or Gender, Race, and Class (PHIL 2360)</i>	3
<i>World Cultural Traditions – World Literature I (ENGL 2305) or II (ENGL 2306)</i>	<u>3</u>
(Or any other courses as available)	6

SOPHOMORE YEAR

<u>FALL</u>	<u>SPRING</u>
<i>(Program applications available in mid-November)</i>	<i>(Program applications deadline – February)</i>
<i>Basic Oral Communication</i> (SPCH 1300) 3	<i>U.S. Government</i> (PSCI 1330) 3 <i>American Nation I (HIST 2301) or II (HIST 2302)</i>
<i>World Cultural Traditions - World History I or II (HIST 1310 or 1320), World Literature I or II (ENGL 2305 or 2306), World Religions (RELG 1320), World Philosophies (PHIL 1330), World Languages (WLAN 2350), or Intro to African & African-American Studies</i> 3	<i>Art (ART 2300), Music (MUSC 2300), Theatre Appreciation (THEA 2300), or Film Theory (MCOM 2310)</i> 3
* INTRO NEUROSCIENCE (BIOL 3370 – Prereq. BIOL 2405/2406 & CHEM 1402/1450) or MICROBIOLOGY IN HUMAN AFFAIRS (BIOL 2411 – Prereq. BIOL 1400 or 1440) 3/4	* PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS (PSYC 2330) or SOCIOLOGICAL STATISTICS (SOC 2321) 3
* PSYCHOLOGY OR SOCIOLOGY ELECTIVE 3	* MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY (HSC 3123) 1
ELECTIVE(S) <u>1-2</u>	* DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 2370) or LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENT (FACS 2341) 3
14/15	* APPLIED PHYSICS (PHYS 1405 – Prereq. high school Algebra II or College Algebra (MATH 1390)) 4
	17

*Must obtain grade of “C” or better.

If off-campus A & P is offered as a two-semester sequence, both semesters must be taken.
For additional information please contact O.T advisor Charlotte Roberson, (501)450-5568.

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
ADMISSIONS POLICY: 30 HOUR RULE

In the selection of occupational therapy students, the Department of Occupational Therapy recognizes that there are instances in which early academic performance of some students may not be reflective of actual ability and desire to perform in an occupational therapy educational program. The 30 hour rule is designed to permit students to overcome early low GPA's by requesting consideration of only the most recent 30 hours earned, providing that the following requirements are met:

1. Student must have an overall GPA of 2.5 for all academic coursework attempted.
2. Student must have completed a minimum of 60 hours of coursework prior to instituting 30 hour option.
3. Student must request, by checking appropriate blank on application form, to have transcript evaluated based on the 30 hour rule.
4. 12 of the 30 hours is coursework in the biological/physical sciences area and must be equivalent to or exceed the rigor of required prerequisite coursework for the program. Students are advised to obtain prior approval of this coursework from the occupational therapy program.
5. 9 of the 30 hours is coursework in the behavioral sciences (psychology or sociology) area and must be equivalent to or exceed the rigor of required prerequisite coursework for the program.
6. The 30 hours must include at least one semester in which a minimum of 14 hours are completed, and which include at least on four hour course in the biological or physical sciences.
7. GPA on 30 hours must exceed prior GPA by a minimum of 10%, or must be at least 3.5, whichever is lesser.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CAREERS IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

- Q. What is occupational therapy?
 A. Occupational therapy is a health profession whose services are provided to people of all ages with physical, mental or developmental disabilities. The purpose of occupational therapy is to help individuals achieve a maximum level of independence living by focusing on the development of the capacity to function in the activities of daily life.

- Q. What does an occupational therapist do?
 A. Occupational therapy uses everyday activities as the means of helping people to achieve independence.

For the person with a physical disability, the first focus is on performing critical daily activities, such as dressing, grooming, bathing, and eating. Once these skills are mastered, the occupational therapy program is built around the skills needed to perform a person's daily responsibilities, such as caring for a home and family, participating in education, or seeking and holding employment.

The goals for a client with mental illness are also based on the ability to function independently. In treating mental or emotional problems, the occupational therapy program often includes practice in managing time, working productively with other, and enjoying leisure.

- Q. When are occupational therapy services needed?
 A. Occupational therapy is needed when an individual's ability to live independently, to care for personal needs and to participate in work, school, family, and community life is disrupted. Occupational therapists also throughout one's lifetime.
- Q. What health problems do occupational therapy practitioners treat?
 A. Occupational therapy practitioners treat patients of all ages who have a variety of health problems among persons treated by occupational therapy practitioners treat patients of all ages who have a variety of health problems among persons treated by occupational therapy practitioners include stroke, developmental disabilities, arthritis, hand injuries, spinal cord injuries, schizophrenia and depression.
- Q. What tasks would I be performing during a work day?
 A. Depending on your employer or the setting in which you work, your occupational therapy career may include:
- ✦ aiding the growth and development of premature babies,
 - ✦ enhancing learning environments for physically challenged school children,
 - ✦ adapting home environments for people dealing with the effects of stroke,
 - ✦ analyzing job task requirements for an injured worker, or

- ✦ conducting research to measure the effectiveness of treatment activities.
- Q. Where do occupational therapy practitioners work?
 A. Opportunities for change and variety characterize the outstanding range of career options in occupational therapy. You will be welcomed by employers, including public schools, rehabilitation hospitals, mental health centers, nursing homes, physician practices, and home health agencies. As your career progresses, you will want to consider advancement opportunities in management, specialization, teaching, research, or private practice.
- Q. How does occupational therapy differ from physical therapy?
 A. In simplest terms, physical therapy might be described as treatment focusing on helping the individual, with a disability, to regain movement in affected limbs or joints. Occupational therapy then directs that ability to move into performing the particular activities a person needs in daily life. For example, a physical therapist might aid a stroke survivor in regaining the ability to walk. The occupational therapist, treating the same patient, might concentrate on teaching techniques for dressing, preparing meals and caring for the home while coping with temporary or permanent paralysis of one side of the body. Both occupational and physical therapists apply their special expertise as members of a team providing patient treatment in most health care facilities.
- Q. What is the job outlook in the field of occupational therapy?
 A. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2000), jobs in occupational therapy are expected to increase from 21 to 35% by the year 2010. The Bureau also notes an expected continuation of growth for the long term, as baby boomers age, and as more people survive with serious disabilities. Reported median income for occupational therapist in 2000 was \$49,450, with the middle 50% earning between \$40,460 and \$57,890.
- Q. How do I prepare for an occupational therapy career?
 A. To become an occupational therapist, you may choose one of two routes: a bachelor's degree or a professional master's degree program. Beginning in 2007, entry into the program can only be thru a master's degree program. All OT education programs include a period of supervised clinical experience.
- To become an occupational therapy assistant you must complete a 2-year associate degree. Occupational Therapy Assistant programs also include supervised clinical experience.
- Because entrance requirements, prerequisites, and program components differ from school to school, it is important to get specific

information from those programs to which you are interested in applying.

- Q. What is the difference between an occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant?
 A. There are two levels of practice in the profession: occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant. Occupational therapists evaluate clients, plan programs, and supervise or provide treatment. Occupational therapy assistants work with occupational therapists in planning and carrying out treatment programs.
- Both levels must graduate from an accredited educational program and complete a national certification examination.
- Q. What prerequisites will I need when applying to an occupational therapy program?
 A. Schools typically require course work concentrating on the biological and behavioral sciences, including biology, psychology, and sociology. Most programs also require volunteer or paid work experience with persons with disabilities.
- Q. How can I learn which colleges and universities offer occupational therapy education programs?
 A. A nationwide listing of the more than 300 accredited occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant education programs offered by colleges and universities is available from the American Occupational Therapy Association at www.aota.org.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Q. Is there financial assistance available specifically for occupational therapy students?
 A. Information on scholarships for occupational therapy students is available from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) at www.aotf.org.

Department of Occupational Therapy
Post-baccalaureate Master of Science (Entry-level)
Curriculum Sequence

SUMMER I

OTHY 4300	Functional Neuroanatomy	3
OTHY 3330	Therapeutic Activities in Occupational Therapy	3
OTHY 3223	Introduction to Occupational Therapy	<u>2</u>
		8

FALL I

OTHY 4400	Gross Anatomy	4
OTHY 4230	Occupations Across the Lifespan	2
OTHY 4317/5317	Functional Kinesiology	3
OTHY 4308/5308	Foundations in Occupational Therapy	3
OTHY 4325/5325	Foundations in Mental Health for Occupational Therapy	<u>3</u>
		15

SPRING I

OTHY 3125	Independent Living: Strategies for Activities of Daily Living	1
OTHY 4335/5335	Foundations in Pediatric Occupational Therapy	3
OTHY 4321/5321	Evaluation & Treatment in Physical Disabilities I	3
OTHY 3340	Clinical Conditions I	3
OTHY 3241	Clinical Conditions II	2
OTHY 4127	Level I Fieldwork – Rotation 1	1
OTHY 4330/5330	Introduction to Research	<u>3</u>
		16

SUMMER II

OTHY 3215	Group Process and Communication Skills	2
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FALL II

OTHY 4355	Evaluation & Treatment in Pediatrics I	3
OTHY 4365/5365	Evaluation & Treatment in Mental Health I	3
OTHY 4125	Independent Living: Instrumental Activities of Daily Living	1
OTHY 4270	Pharmacology in Rehabilitation	2
OTHY 4128	Level I Fieldwork – Rotation 2	1
OTHY 4380/5380	Evaluation & Treatment in Physical Disabilities II	3
OTHY 6315	Research Method I	<u>3</u>
	Award baccalaureate degree	16

SPRING II

OTHY 6301	Evaluation & Treatment in Pediatrics II	3
OTHY 6304	Evaluation & Treatment in Mental Health II	3
OTHY 6308	Advanced Practice of Physical Disabilities	3
OTHY 6311	Occupational Therapy in the Community	3
KPED 6316	Data Analysis	3
	Elective	<u>3</u>
		18

SUMMER III

OTHY 6320	Thesis I or Elective	3
Elective	*Elective (non thesis)	0/3
OTHY 6100	Level I Fieldwork – Rotation 3	1
OTHY 6125	Independent Living: Skills for Community Reentry	<u>1</u>
		5/8

FALL III

OTHY 6314	Occupational Therapy Practice in Geriatrics	3
OTHY 6220	Clinical Reasoning	2
OTHY 6312	Occupational Therapy Administration & Management	3
OTHY 6101	Level I Fieldwork – Rotation 4	1
OTHY 6320	Thesis II or Elective	3
	Elective	<u>3</u>
		15

SPRING III

YOTHY 6621	Field Experience I (January – March)	6
YOTHY 6631	Field Experience II (April - June)	<u>6</u>
		12

*Non thesis students may take their additional elective during Summer III or Fall III.
These Level II Field Experiences must be completed within 24 months of completion of Fall III.