



# Department of Occupational Therapy

## Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)

### WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

Occupational therapy practitioners help people across the lifespan participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. They use a holistic and customized approach to evaluations, interventions, and outcomes to help a child with disabilities participate in school and in social situations, assist a person recovering from injuries to regain skills, aid older adults to stay as independent as possible, and offer specialized support and services to people of all ages and in all circumstances that only occupational therapy can provide. Occupational therapy interventions may be provided to individuals, groups, communities, or to society as a whole.

### JOB OUTLOOK

OT practitioners work in a variety of settings including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, mental health facilities, schools, early prevention programs, nursing homes, and many more.

The job market for graduates is excellent. Typically graduates from the program have multiple job offers, with 95% of graduates employed by graduation day.



According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics employment of occupational therapy practitioners is expected to increase by 27% between 2014 and 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. The BLS also noted that the median annual wages for occupational therapist was \$80,150 in 2015.

### WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

The Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) has a long and distinguished history. Continually accredited since 1974 by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), this program boasts excellent pass rates on the National Board Certification for Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam and highly successful employment rates. The program offers many opportunities for student engagement with clients, community and professional service, and participation in faculty and independent research projects. The curriculum and accompanying educational experiences prepare students to become independent practitioners capable of competently assessing and addressing the occupational needs of individuals, groups, and society. As a graduate of UCA you will join a highly regarded and sought after force of occupational therapy practitioners and leaders, eligible for certification and practice virtually anywhere in the nation.

### ACCREDITATION STATUS: Candidacy Status/OTD

The entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Candidacy Status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org).

The program must have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be 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. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.



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## PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy (Entry-Level) program has strict admission requirements and enrollment limitations. Acceptance is by specific application and competitive admission only. A new class begins each fall semester. Two options exist for admission to the program. Regardless of admission option, all applicants are required to complete the online application through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at [www.otcas.org](http://www.otcas.org) by January 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of planned enrollment.

### FRESHMAN ADMISSION

**Declaration of Intent: Intent to pursue the option for Freshman Admission must be completed with the Department of Occupational Therapy Program Advisor by November 1 of the freshman year.**

Students who begin study at UCA as a freshman will be admitted into the occupational therapy program if they meet and maintain specific performance standards and criteria. Actual enrollment in the occupational therapy program will occur after completion of the baccalaureate degree if performance standards and criteria are maintained.

To maintain Freshman Admission status, the applicant must:

- Take all coursework at UCA.
- Attend three SPOT (Students for Pre-Occupational Therapy) meetings each year (12 total meetings in 4 years).
- Maintain at least a 3.7 cumulative GPA every semester and a 3.5 prerequisite GPA for all undergraduate course work.
- Submit GRE revised General Test (August 2011) scores to UCA Graduate School and OTCAS. **UCA institutional GRE code 6012 and OTCAS GRE code 7416**; score at least 150 on Verbal, 150 on Quantitative, and 4 on Analytical Writing sections
- Complete a minimum of 20 hours volunteer/observation experience under the supervision of one licensed occupational therapist; the therapist must submit a performance rating from this experience (form and specific instructions are available from the Department of Occupational Therapy website: [www.uca.edu/ot](http://www.uca.edu/ot)).
- Complete a baccalaureate degree at UCA by May of the year of planned enrollment.
- Complete all prerequisite course work by the end of the fall semester prior to the spring graduate OT program application **deadline (January 15 of each year)**.

No interview is required of applicants entering the graduate OT program under Freshman Admission. Contact the UCA Occupational Therapy Program Advisor for more details regarding Freshman Admission.

Prerequisite Coursework Required for Admission (required for both admission options)	Credit Hrs
Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO 2406 [ACTS: BIOL2404])	4 hrs
Anatomy & Physiology II (BIO 2407 [ACTS: BIOL2414])	4 hrs
Physics (PHYS 1405 <i>or</i> PHYS 1410; for 1410 [ACTS: PHYS2014])	4 hrs
Medical Terminology (HSC 3123)	1 hrs
Sociology (SOC 1300 [ACTS: SOCI1013]) <i>or</i> Anthropology (ANTH 1302 [ACTS: ANTH1013])	3 hrs
Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 4320)	3 hrs
Lifespan Development (FACS 2341) <i>or</i> Developmental Psychology (PSYC 2370 [ACTS: PSYC2103])	3 hrs
Statistics (PSYC 2330 <i>or</i> SOC 2321 <i>or</i> MATH 2311; for MATH 2311 [ACTS: MATH2103])	3 hrs
<b>Total Prerequisites</b>	<b>25 hrs</b>
<b>(UCA and ACTS* course numbers in parentheses)</b>	

Last edited: 2.22.17

### REGULAR ADMISSION

**Application Deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of planned enrollment.**

Those applicants not using the Freshman Admission or those who were not able to maintain performance standards and criteria for Freshman Admission must complete an application for Regular Admission. The deadline for Regular Admission is January 15<sup>th</sup> of the year of planned enrollment.

To be eligible for Regular Admission, by the application deadline, the applicant must:

- Complete baccalaureate degree by May of year of planned enrollment.
- Complete the online application through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at [www.otcas.org](http://www.otcas.org). Application must be verified by February 19.
- Submit GRE revised General Test (August 2011) and GRE Analytical Writing scores to UCA Graduate School and OTCAS. **UCA institutional GRE code 6012 and OTCAS GRE code 7416.**
- Possess a cumulative GPA of 2.75 minimum based on a 4.0 scale or possess at least a 3.0 GPA on the last 60 hours of course work on a 4.0 scale.
- Complete a minimum of 20 hours volunteer/observation experience under the supervision of one licensed occupational therapist; the therapist must submit a performance rating from this experience (form and specific instructions are available from the Department of Occupational Therapy website: [www.uca.edu/ot](http://www.uca.edu/ot)).
- Complete all prerequisite course work, with a grade of C or better, by the end of the fall semester prior to the spring graduate OT program application **deadline (January 15 of each year)**. Prerequisite course work 10 years or older will not be accepted.

### REGARDING STUDENTS RECENTLY ADMITTED

Average Cumulative GPA: 3.77  
 Average GRE (Verbal): 151.6  
 Average GRE (Quantitative): 149.5  
 Average GRE (Writing): 4.07

### GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Graduating Class of	Students Entering/Graduating	Graduation Rate
2014	48/48	100%
2015	96/95	99%
2016	52/52	100%
Total Number of Program Graduates	196/195	99%

### NBCOT EXAM PASS RATES

Year	Number of NG Testing	Number of NG Passing	Percentage of NG who passed the exam
2014	48	48	100%*
2015	49	49	100%*
2016	95	94	99%*
Total 3-year	192	191	99%*

\* New Graduate (NG) is defined as candidates testing within 1 year of graduation date, regardless of the number of attempts.