1. **How do I learn more about the occupational therapy profession?**
   You may want to speak to the career advisor on your campus, the Program Advisor of Occupational Therapy at UCA (Cathy Acre, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA: cathya@uca.edu), or your local occupational therapists. You may also want to check out the [American Occupational Therapy Association](https://www.aota.org).

2. **What degree does UCA offer in occupational therapy?**
   The entry-level degree to practice occupational therapy is a Master’s degree. UCA currently offers a Master of Science degree.

3. **Will UCA offer a Doctorate in OT (OTD)?**
   The American Occupational Therapy Association’s (AOTA) official position statement about the changes in demands and practice environments has indicated a need and a goal of transitioning to doctoral education programs for the occupational therapist by the year 2025. Although this move has not been mandated by our governing body, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), there is the potential for having doctoral-level education as the single point of entry for occupational therapists. We have critically evaluated this and are strategically planning to offer an OTD in the future. The current UCA Master’s degree is of high rigor, depth, breadth, and caliber to prepare students to become competent general practitioners who can excel in their desired areas of practice. Practitioners earning a Master’s degree prior to a mandated transition will be grandfathered in and will continue to be eligible to practice without an OTD. For updates on our progress, please keep an eye on our website. To learn more about the AOTA’s recommendations about OTD as the entry level for education, please review the [AOTA OTD official statement](https://www.aota.org).
4. What type of undergraduate degree do I need to enter the program?
There is no “right undergraduate degree.” Many students at UCA select degrees in Health Sciences, Psychology, Kinesiology, Nutrition or some other health related field. As long as the student does well and completes the prerequisite courses, then the major of their choice is best.

5. What prerequisite course work must I complete?
Prerequisite course work requires a grade of C or better and must be completed prior to the January 15th application deadline. Prerequisite course work 10 years or older will not be accepted. Courses taken elsewhere must be equivalent or evaluated and must be approved in advance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Occupational Therapy: Pre-Requisite Course Work with University of Central Arkansas Course Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I (BIO 2406 [ACTS: BIOL2404])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology II (BIO 2407 [ACTS: BIOL2414])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics (PHYS 1405 or PHYS 1410; for 1410 [ACTS: PHYS2014])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology (HSC 3123)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology (SOC 1300 [ACTS: SOCI1013]) or Anthropology (ANTH 1302 [ACTS: ANTH1013])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 4320)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifespan Development (FACS 2341) or Developmental Psychology (PSYC 2370 [ACTS: PSYC2103])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics (PSYC 2330 or SOC 2321 or MATH 2311; for MATH 2311 [ACTS: MATH2103])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Prerequisites</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. How do I determine if a particular course meets the prerequisite requirements?
Prior to contacting the university, visit the Arkansas Course Transfer System. If your university/college is not represented on the ACTS page, or if you are from out of state, you can contact Cathy Acre, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Program Advisor.

7. My prerequisite course work was completed over 10 years ago. Will you accept it?
No. Prerequisite course work 10 years or older will not be accepted.

8. Is the GRE required and if so, what is the average score?
Yes. All applicants must take and receive a score on the GRE revised general test (August 2011) and GRE Writing. We will not accept a GRE test before August 2011. Please request that scores be sent to the University of Central Arkansas graduate school, institutional code 6012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Admitted in:</th>
<th>GRE Average (Verbal)</th>
<th>GRE Average (Quantitative)</th>
<th>GRE Average (Writing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>3.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. How many students are accepted per class?
Maximum 48 students are selected annually.
10. Can out of state students apply to the program?
   Yes. There are 5 slots available for non-Arkansas residents to fill. Forty-three students will be
   Arkansas residents.

11. What is the current GPA of students recently admitted into the occupational therapy program?
   2013 Average Cumulative GPA (Accepted) 3.7
   2014 Average Cumulative GPA (Accepted) 3.7
   2015 Average Cumulative GPA (Accepted) 3.8
   2015 Prerequisite Average GPA (Accepted) 3.8

12. I graduated a few years ago; is there a time limit on being out of school before applying?
   There is no specific time limit. However, all prerequisite course work must be completed within
   10 years of application. All applicants are evaluated on an individual basis.

13. What are the necessary steps to apply to the occupational therapy program?
   Entry into the program is by application and competitive admission only. Applications are
   accepted from July thru January (with a January 15th deadline) for entry in the subsequent fall
   semester.

   Students seeking admission to the professional program in occupational therapy must
   complete the following by the January 15th deadline, unless otherwise noted:

   1. Complete baccalaureate degree by May of the year applying
   2. Complete online application through The Centralized Application Service for
      Occupational Therapy (OTCAS). Application must be verified by February 19th
   3. Submit GRE revised General Test (August 2011) and GRE Analytical Writing (no
      minimum required). Note: GRE scores will be weighted in the admissions process;
      UCA institutional code 6012.
   4. Possess a cumulative GPA of 2.75 minimum based on 4.0 scale; possess at least a 3.0
      GPA on last 60 hours of course work on a 4.0 scale.
   5. Complete online supplemental application for the Department of Occupational
      Therapy (link to form available on the Occupational Therapy Department website:
      www.uca.edu/ot).
   6. For students who have not attended UCA, submit a non-refundable application fee of
      $50 directly to the Department of Occupational Therapy.
   7. Complete a minimum of 20 volunteer/observation experience under the supervision
      of one occupational therapist and submit a performance rating from this experience
      (form and specific instructions are available on the Occupational Therapy Department
      website: www.uca.edu/ot).
   8. Complete prerequisite course work (refer to FAQ Question #5) with a grade of C or
      better. Students who have not completed all prerequisite courses may begin the
      application process for admission; however, completion of all prerequisites is
      required prior to application deadline. Prerequisite coursework 10 years or older will
      not be accepted.

   *NOTE: Additional information can be found at http://uca.edu/ot/program-information-page/.

14. What is the length of the program?
   The program is two years in length.

15. Does the program offer a part-time curriculum or evening classes?
   Unfortunately, no. The curriculum requires full time study. We do not offer part-time, online or
   an evening option. Classes take place during the week generally between the hours of 8am-5pm.
16. Are there any other resources to learn more or prepare to apply to the occupational therapy program?
Informational meetings and mock interviews are typically offered in fall and spring semesters accordingly. Please check the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy page for our upcoming events.

17. What is the timeline of the application process?
The application process is from July to January 15th with an OTCAS verification deadline on February 19th. Mandatory interviews will take place in March. Applicants will receive a letter in late April with a list of the top 48 applicants invited to enter the program. For additional information, please look at the Application Process page.

18. What should I expect if I am accepted into the occupational therapy program?
Applicants who are invited to the upcoming fall class will receive correspondence over the summer with tasks to complete before the school year begins. There is also a mandatory orientation that will take place Monday-Wednesday before instruction begins on Thursday.

19. Can I transfer from another master’s occupational therapy program?
Students interested in transferring to UCA’s OT graduate program must first apply and fulfill all admission requirements. If admitted into the program, the student must initiate a written request for credit submitted to the department chair which will be forwarded to the Graduate Dean; a decision will then be made as to what coursework can be transferred as credit towards the degree.

Due to the uniqueness of occupational therapy curriculums in their design, scope and depth, the decision to transfer credit from previous occupational therapy graduate coursework will be made on an individual basis. If graduate credit earned at an accredited institution is equivalent to and constitutes a logical part of the student’s program, subject to the approval of the department chair and Graduate Dean, a maximum of six hours of transfer graduate credit of grade B or above from another accredited institution may be accepted in UCA OT graduate degree programs.