

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. How do I learn more about the occupational therapy profession?

Visit [American Occupational Therapy Association](#). Contact and shadow occupational therapy practitioners in your area. Visit our homepage at www.uca.edu/ot. Set up an appointment with the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Central Arkansas at (501) 450-5017.

2. What degree does UCA offer in occupational therapy?

UCA offers an entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree.

Currently, occupational therapy programs can elect to offer either a Master's degree or Doctoral degree for an entry-level degree to practice occupational therapy. AOTA and ACOTE released a joint statement related to the point of entry in 2019. For further information [click here](#).

3. What type of undergraduate degree do I need to enter the program?

There is no "right undergraduate degree." Many students at UCA select degrees from the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Education, and College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Please note the program values and benefits from having students from diverse educational backgrounds, so do not feel limited by the list above.

4. What prerequisite course work must I complete?

See table below: ***Pre-Requisite Course Work with University of Central Arkansas Course Numbers***. All prerequisite course work must be completed prior to the January 15th application deadline. Prerequisite course work 10 years old or older will not be accepted. Courses taken elsewhere must be equivalent or evaluated and **must be approved in advance**.

Department of Occupational Therapy: Pre-Requisite Course Work with University of Central Arkansas Course Numbers	
Structure & Function of the Human Body I (BIO 3406)	4 hrs
Structure & Function of the Human Body II (BIO 3407)	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
Total Prerequisites	25 hrs

5. 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 may contact the Department of Occupational Therapy at (501) 450-5017.

6. Can I use AP scores & CLEP credit exams for any of the occupational therapy prerequisite courses?

No. These course exams are not allowed to satisfy occupational therapy prerequisite requirements. Letter grades of A, B, or C must be shown in order to calculate the prerequisite GPA. Since the grade from the scores appear as “CR” meaning credit on your transcript, they are not sufficient for calculating the prerequisite GPA.

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 **OTCAS, GRE code 7416**.

The following table provides average GRE scores for the last 3 years.

Cohort	GRE Average (Verbal)	GRE Average (Quantitative)	GRE Average (Writing)
2022	148.19	146.94	3.81
2023	149.30	147.22	3.80
Avg.	148.75	147.08	3.81

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.

11. Is there a limit to the number of out of state applicants that can be admitted in a cohort?

No.

12. What is the current GPA of students recently admitted into the occupational therapy program?

Cohort:	Average Cumulative GPA (Accepted)	Average Prerequisite GPA (Accepted)
2022	3.78	3.84
2023	3.76	3.81
Avg.	3.77	3.82

13. 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.

14. What are the necessary steps to apply to the occupational therapy program?

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 the admission option, all applicants are required to complete the online application through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at www.otcas.org by January 15 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 into the occupational therapy program will occur after completion of the baccalaureate degree and 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 GPA for all occupational therapy prerequisite course work.
- Submit GRE revised General Test (August 2011) scores OTCAS. **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 (*supervision by an OTA will **not** be accepted*); 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).
- 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)**. Occupational therapy prerequisite coursework 10 years or older will not be accepted.

- Complete the online application through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at www.otcas.org by January 15th of the year of planned enrollment.
- Complete a baccalaureate degree at UCA by May of the year of planned enrollment.

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.

Regular Admission

Application Deadline: January 15 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 15th of the year of planned enrollment.

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

- 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.
- Submit GRE revised General Test (August 2011) and GRE Analytical Writing scores to OTCAS. **OTCAS GRE code 7416.**
- Complete a minimum of 20 hours volunteer/observation experience under the supervision of one licensed occupational therapist (*supervision by an OTA will **not** be accepted*); 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).
- Complete all occupational therapy 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)**. Occupational therapy prerequisite course work 10 years or older will not be accepted.
- Complete the online application through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at www.otcas.org by January 15th of the year of planned enrollment.
- Complete a baccalaureate degree by May of the year of planned enrollment.

NOTE: All college work must be submitted regardless of when completed or the nature of the course work. Work experience is not calculated into the satisfaction of admission requirements.

Additional information can be found at <http://uca.edu/ot/doctor-of-occupational-therapy-otd/>.

15. What is the length of the program?

The program is three years in length.

16. Does the program offer a part-time curriculum or evening classes?

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.

17. 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 [Doctor of Occupational Therapy](#) page for our upcoming events.

18. What is the timeline of the application process?

The application process is from July to January 15th of the year of planned enrollment. We strongly recommend completing your application requirements by December 1st so that all materials are received before the application deadline of January 15th. Mandatory interviews will take place in March. Applicants will receive a letter in late March with a list of the top 48 applicants invited to enter the program.

19. 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 before instruction begins.