



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.

PROGRAM MISSION:

Through an intentional investment in relationships, our program prepares community-engaged occupational therapy practitioners, scholars, and advocates for interprofessional collaboration in traditional and emerging practice settings.

Graduates are prepared to practice in a variety of service delivery models, and to develop productive interpersonal and therapeutic relationships with clients, families, communities, populations, organizations, and other health and human services professionals.

The program is committed to promoting student awareness and appreciation of different cultural and social value systems. Student sensitivity is cultivated through the improved awareness of self and appreciation of diversity among client populations. The program seeks to instill in students a sense of self direction, discernment, and a desire to assume active responsibility for leadership, advocacy, clinical research, advanced clinical skills, and education.



In addition to educating competent practitioners, leaders, and advocates, the program strives to have

a strong positive influence on the profession throughout the state and region, by assisting in the development of new knowledge in the science of occupation and in conducting and disseminating clinical research that establishes the efficacy of OT services.



ACCREDITATION STATUS:

The Occupational Therapy Program is accredited 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. Web address is www.acoteonline.org.

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.

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PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy 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 by January 15th 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 and a 3.5 prerequisite GPA for all undergraduate course work.
- Submit GRE revised General Test (August 2011); score at least 150 on Verbal, 150 on Quantitative, and 4 on analytical writing sections. **OTCAS GRE code 7416.**
- Complete a minimum of 20 hours volunteer/observation experience under a 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: 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 3406 [ACTS: BIOL2404])	4 hrs
Anatomy & Physiology II (BIO 3407 [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 3323)	3 hrs
Lifespan Development (FACS 2341) <i>or</i> Developmental Psychology (PSYC 3321 [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
(UCA and ACTS* course numbers in parentheses)	

REGULAR ADMISSION

Application Deadline: January 15th of each year

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:

- 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.
- Submit GRE revised General Test (August 2011) and GRE Analytical Writing scores to UCA Graduate School. **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: 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).

REGARDING STUDENTS RECENTLY ADMITTED (2023 Cohort)

Average Cumulative GPA: 3.76
 Average GRE (Verbal): 149.3
 Average GRE (Quantitative): 147.22
 Average GRE (Writing): 3.80

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Graduating Class of	Students Entering/Graduating	Graduation Rate
2020	48/47	98%
2021	48/47	98%
2022	48/49	102%

NBCOT EXAM PASS RATE

Cohort	Number of Program Graduates	Total Number of NG testing	Total Number of NG passing	Percentage of NG who passed the exam
2020	47	47	47	100%
2021	47	47	47	100%
2022	49	49	49	100%
Total 3-year	143	143	143	100%

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

** Not all students have taken the exam yet. Total data inconclusive at this time.
A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT Certification Examination or attain state licensure.