



The University of Central Arkansas Occupational Therapy Department

OUR HISTORY

Foundation

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1970

Marion Quinney Ross was chosen to lead the effort to establish an occupational therapy (OT) program at UCA. Mrs. Ross received her M.A. and OT Certification from Columbia University in New York City. She was the first Black person to head a department at UCA and led the OT Department for twenty-one (21) years.

The Conway Human Development Center (HDC) and Baptist Health provided funding to supplement university resources for the development of the UCA OT Program.

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Purpose

1970-72

The UCA OT program was developed with the following purpose:

"The objective of the professional curriculum in occupational therapy is to provide learning experiences that will qualify its graduates to assume the professional responsibilities essential to the pursuit of occupational therapy in its several areas of specialization. In addition to the attainment of academic knowledge and skill required to perform professional duties, students are directed toward the development of competence of living in our democratic society, and for functioning effectively in a society where in health care practices are rapidly changing."

Admission

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1972-73

Seven (7) students were granted admission to the UCA OT Department, the first academic program in occupational therapy in the State of Arkansas. The students were admitted at the junior level to complete a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in OT.

Admission standards:

- Completion of 60 hours of general education requirements
- Completion of personality and interest tests
- Personal interview
- Minimum GPA of 2.0

In addition to Mrs. Ross and Dr. Jasper McPhail, Director of the School of Health Sciences, there was one more full-time member of the OT faculty, Ms. Mae Jackson, and one part-time faculty member, Ms. Alice Bowker.

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Application

1973

The UCA OT Department made its initial application for accreditation of the OT Program and was granted provisional accreditation by the American Medical Association (AMA) in collaboration with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

Accreditation

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1974

On the recommendation of the Accreditation Committee of AOTA, the UCA OT Department received full accreditation from the AMA Council on Education.

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Recognition

1979

UCA OT Department Chair Mrs. Marion Quinney Ross was named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows.

Growth

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1984

The UCA OT Program admitted a cohort of 28 students.

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Development

1985

UCA graduate Kenneth John Ottenbacher (Class of 1975) was named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows.

The UCA OT Program faculty was comprised of five (5) members.

A cohort of 22 students graduated from the UCA OT Program.

Change

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1991

Mrs. Marion Ross retired as Chair of the UCA OT Department.

Dr. Linda Shalik Musselman, a former student of Mrs. Ross in Ohio, became the second Chair & Program Director of the UCA OT Department. Dr. Musselman was the first UCA OT faculty member to hold a doctorate degree.

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Transition

1992

The UCA OT Department began exploring the possibility of offering a Master of Science (MS) degree for OT.

For the first time, the UCA OT Program accepted a cohort of 48 students.

Further Growth

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1993

The UCA Board of Trustee and the State Board of Higher Education approved the implementation of a post-professional MSOT degree.

Current senior professor, Dr. Lorrie George-Pascal, joined the faculty.

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Masters

1994-95

The post-professional MSOT degree program began.

For the first time, a cohort of 48 students graduated from the UCA OT Program.

Additions

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1996

.Current OT Department Chair, Dr. Tina A. Mankey, joined the faculty, following graduation from the first UCA post-professional MSOT program.

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Recognition

1998

UCA OT Department Chair Linda Shalik Musselman named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows.

Adaptation

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1999-2000

Dual track degree programs began (BSOT and MSOT).

The UCA OT Department faculty was comprised of eight (8) members.

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Recognition

2007-08

UCA Faculty member Catherine R. Acre was named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows.

UCA Faculty member Letha J. Mosley was named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows.

Retirement

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2013

For the first time, the UCA OT Program admitted a cohort of all MSOT students.

Dr. Linda Musselman retired & Dr. Jennifer A. Moore was named Interim Chair/Program Director of the OT Department.

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Transition

2015

Dr. Jennifer A. Moore became the third Chair/Program Director of the OT Department.

OT Department Chair Jennifer A. Moore was named to the AOTA Roster of Fellows.

The last cohort of dual degree program students (BSOT & MSOT) graduated and the first cohort of all MSOT students (2015T) graduated from the UCA OT Program

Recognition

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2016

UCA graduate Jeanenne Dallas (Class of 1977) was named to AOTA Roster of Fellows.

Dr. Catherine Acre retired from the UCA OT program.

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Doctorate

2017

For the first time, the UCA OT Program admitted a cohort of all OTD students.

New Direction

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2018

Dr. Jennifer Moore resigned as Chair/Program Director of the UCA OT Department.
Dr. Dee Lance served as Interim Department Chair, and Dr. Tina A. Mankey served as Interim Program Director.

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Transition

2019

Dr. Jimmy Ishee served as Interim Department Chair, and Dr. Tina A. Mankey served as Interim Program Director.
OT faculty member and Fieldwork Coordinator Brittany Saviers led the first group of UCA OT students on Level I Fieldwork experience to Costa Rica.

Renewed Focus

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2020

.Dr. Tina A. Mankey became the fourth Chair/Program Director of the OT Department after serving on the faculty since 1996.
The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy (ACOTE) granted the UCA OTD Program full accreditation.
First cohort of all OTD students graduated from the UCA OT Program.

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New Leadership

2021

UCA OTD Leadership Team was formed, consisting of Dr. Tina A. Mankey, Chair and Program Director, Dr. Chris Ryan, Doctoral Capstone & Program Coordinator, Dr. Lorrie Paschal, Research Coordinator, and Dr. Brittany Saviers, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator.

Expansion

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2023

OT faculty member and Fieldwork Coordinator Dr. Brittany Saviers led the first group of UCA OT students on Level I Fieldwork experience to Tanzania.

UCA OT 50 YEARS

Celebration

2024

Current vision

Our vision is to make a positive impact by facilitating occupational participation of diverse people, populations, and communities.

Current 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.

Current admissions standards – two tracks

- 1) Freshman admission (See uca.edu/ot/apply/ for details.)
- 2) Regular admission

- Cumulative GPA of 2.75 minimum based on a 4.0 scale or at least a 3.0 GPA on the last 60 hours of course work on a 4.0 scale
- Submit GRE General Test and Analytical Writing scores
- 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
- Complete the online application through OTCAS
- Complete a baccalaureate degree by May of the year of planned enrollment

Current faculty

OT faculty comprised of twelve (12) full-time members: Five (5) tenure track positions plus the Chair/Program Director who is tenured and six (6) clinical positions. Additional staff include one (1) program support specialist, ten (10) adjunct faculty members, and countless volunteer practitioners & community leaders.