The Program in Occupational Therapy
Entry-level OTD and MSOT Degree Admission Requirements
It is an exciting time to consider a career in occupational therapy. As an occupational therapist, you can provide clinical services to persons of all ages and with a variety of social, psychological, developmental, and physical or mental disabilities; or you can decide to become an educator, a researcher, a consultant, an administrator or a master clinician.

As society recognizes the value of enabling health outcomes and wellness, occupational therapists provide the links between the biomedical and sociocultural health systems to improve the performance of individuals with disability or chronic disease. Our graduates are positioned to become leaders in the communities in which they work and serve and address issues of prevention, participation, everyday functional performance, habilitation, and quality of life in persons with chronic disease, disability or sociocultural disadvantage.

Founded nearly 100 years ago, our Program offers the finest in occupational therapy education and patient care, all built on a strong foundation of innovative research. We thrive in providing a diverse and dynamic academic environment, led by faculty who are leaders themselves in advancing the profession forward through their research, community practice and outreach efforts. There will be many extraordinary opportunities available to you through our Program and Washington University School of Medicine.

I encourage you to learn more about our degree options and the outstanding community of faculty, clinicians, researchers, partners and students you will be joining.

M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR, FAOTA

Elias Michael Executive Director, Program in Occupational Therapy
Professor of Occupational Therapy, of Neurology and of Social Work
The Program in Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists help people with disabilities, chronic health problems, and developmental or social challenges do the things that are meaningful and important in their lives. It is a career that takes creativity, patience, passion and an ability to apply science. Because occupational therapists have so many different career paths, it can be a challenge to consider all the options available. Some occupational therapists work with children, from the tiniest of premature babies through all stages of development; others work with adults with disabilities, people with illness, injuries or mental impairment; still others help people with the challenges of aging.

The Program in Occupational Therapy is ranked as the number one occupational therapy program in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. We offer several entry-level professional and post-professional degrees.

Entry-level professional degrees

- **Clinical Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD):** The clinical doctorate degree is for students who want to assume a leadership position in practice, management, teaching and/or clinical research. In addition to coursework, students complete the doctoral experiential component to prepare for a selected area of practice.
- **Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT):** A master’s degree is required for entry into the profession of occupational therapy.
- **Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT)/Master of Public Health (MPH) Joint Degree:** The MSOT/MPH joint degree prepares students to work in a diverse array of settings including academia, community agencies, government institutions, and nonprofit organizations, and assume leadership roles in public policy, urban planning and advocacy.

Post-professional degrees

- **OTD for Post-Professional Students:** The OTD program for post-professional students prepares experienced occupational therapists for important leadership roles in health care, academia, clinical research and the community.
- **Rehabilitation and Participation Science (RAPS) PhD Program:** The RAPS PhD program provides rigorous training that produces ethical and independent scientists capable of conducting the interdisciplinary research necessary to advance the evidence-based clinical and community practices.

Please contact us if you are interested in our OTD for post-professional students or RAPS PhD degree programs.

Washington University offers

- Comprehensive degree options
- Curriculum that bridges biomedical, public health and sociocultural perspectives
- Research-oriented environment: learning from top clinicians and scientists in health care
- Outstanding faculty, world-class medical center
- Individualized attention and low faculty-to-student ratio
- Interprofessional learning
- Culture that values diversity and innovation
- History of success training leaders and lifelong learners

By the numbers

#1 **Ranked as the #1 OT program in the nation**

U.S. News & World Report

99% **PASS RATE** on NBCOT certification exam since 2014

500+ **FIELDWORK** sites nationwide
Clinical Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD)

The OTD program is designed to provide students with an introduction to topics related to advanced practice in occupational therapy, specifically: program development, clinical research, management, advocacy and policy, and education.

OTD students complete the same foundational coursework as the MSOT students and engage in advanced coursework and experiential learning activities related to the topics above. Students devote additional training to gain in-depth clinical knowledge and experience within this area. This training will include but not be limited to: (1) additional relevant elective coursework; (2) focus of goals for the doctoral experiential component and (3) the focus of the directed research or clinical experience.

The OTD program aims to:

- Prepare leaders in program development, clinical research, management, advocacy and policy, and education to address societal needs for a growing population with or at risk for developing chronic disease and disability.
- Foster the student's professional development through choices of course electives, a focused practice model, applied research and a doctoral experiential component. Opportunities for targeted study include the following areas:
  - Children and Youth
  - Neurorehabilitation
  - Productive Aging
  - Social Participation and the Environment
  - Work and Industry
- Develop clinicians who will utilize occupation-based interdisciplinary strategies with health-care providers, social services professionals, employers and policy leaders. Together, they to address the needs of children, adults, and older adults with innovative clinical, community and population focused programs that will enhance community participation.

OTD students collaborate with mentors to individually craft their 16-week doctoral experiential component that acts as a springboard for their professional roles in clinical research, teaching or a clinical specialty. Students are encouraged to present at state and national conferences to further develop their leadership skills.
The MSOT curriculum prepares students as generalists to practice occupational therapy. The program focuses on enabling participation at the individual, organization/community and population levels. The process begins with understanding the capacity and limitations of people and how environments can foster participation. Students are trained to assess, provide interventions and advocate for patients by maximizing their capacity to do what is meaningful and important to them.

The curriculum model, principles and threads prepare students for the MSOT and OTD degree, while the level and focus of the content is different for the selected degree (see page 6). The curriculum shares knowledge of our profession in relation to its history, principles, values, theories, assessments, and interventions with the aim of meeting society’s occupational needs. Five overarching principles provide the foundation for the curriculum and are evident in every course:

- Evidence-based practice
- Client-centered practice
- Theoretical and scientific foundations for practice
- Lifespan focus
- Participation in everyday life

Using the above principles as fundamental underpinnings, the curriculum is designed around the following threads, which are embedded in each course in varying degrees. The overall outcome of our curriculum is to enable students to assess and intervene with clients to enhance participation, health, well-being and quality of life:

- Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance (PEOP) foundation
- Bridging biomedical and sociocultural perspectives of health
- Interventions to support healthy living with chronic conditions (health, well-being, quality of life)
- Centrality of measurement to demonstrate quality, effectiveness, and feasibility of interventions and programs
- Person-organization-community-population continuum of service delivery
- Continuous professional development and lifelong learning

MSOT students complete five semesters of core coursework, learning the science, theory and skills required to practice occupational therapy. Students complete two full-time, 12-week fieldwork experiences. Students have opportunities to gain experience in an area of special interest related to existing faculty research. Clinical and community experiences are integrated into the curriculum.
### Degree Sequence for the OTD and MSOT Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>OTD</th>
<th>MSOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August - December</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Core Coursework (70 credits)</td>
<td>Core Coursework (67-70 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January - May</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Integrated with Level I Fieldwork</td>
<td>Integrated with Level I Fieldwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June - July</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August - December</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Coursework (30 credits)</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January - May</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June - July</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August - December</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Doctoral Experiential Component</td>
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Student Learning Opportunities

The following are examples of current faculty research projects that support student learning:

Children and Youth
- Study of youth, their families, and community agencies and schools that serve them with the focus on challenges faced by young adults as they move into adult work and independent living roles. Young adult populations currently include individuals with autism, childhood cancer survivors and at-risk youth.
- Projects with children with sickle cell disease and children with brain tumors to foster education and community participation.

Neurorehabilitation
- The impact of stroke on activity participation.
- Understanding the occupational performance and participation outcomes of higher order cognitive dysfunction in individuals with neurological disorders (Parkinson’s disease, stroke and cancer).
- Improving the outcomes of working age stroke survivors by focusing on the development and augmentation of rehabilitation services using self-management and cognitive behavioral strategies.

Productive Aging
- The impact of vision loss on daily life in older adults.
- Study of environmental impacts on the occupational performance of persons with function loss related to aging.
- Aging in place.
- Driving and community mobility.

Social Participation and the Environment
- Use of subjective and objective measures to examine where and how people with disabilities or chronic health conditions can re-engage in their community.
- Study of employed people with disabilities who have been working at the same job for at least two years.
- Improving the efficiency of wheelchair users to support community integration.
- Fitness and wellness programs to support health.

Work and Industry
- Study of carpal tunnel syndrome among workers in a variety of industries.
- Study of fall prevention among construction workers.

Directed Scholarship
A key component of our educational program is the opportunity to learn and grow under the guidance of a mentor. Each student in the Program is matched to a mentor for the directed scholarly experience.

The directed scholarship sequence of courses begins in the spring semester of the first year in the Program. The six-course sequence for OTD students and four-course sequence for MSOT students are self-directed learning experiences under the mentor’s guidance.

Examples of scholarly experiences offered:
- Child health and education
- Cognitive and occupational performance
- Community-centered population health
- Disability and community participation research
- Driving and community mobility
- Enabling mobility in the community
- Family caregiving
- Health and disability research
- Innovations in education
- Low vision and aging
- Neuroscience and rehabilitation
- Occupational therapy NICU
- Participation, environment and performance
The health-care professions are adapting and evolving through evidence-based practice, research and technological innovations, and policy reform. In recent years, that adaptation has included broadening the clinical scope to include not only a biomedical view of health, but sociocultural, community and population perspectives as well. There is a significant need locally, nationally and internationally for health care professionals to be trained to address issues of prevention, participation, everyday functional performance, habilitation, and quality of life in persons with chronic disease, disability or sociocultural disadvantage.

The Program in Occupational Therapy and the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis have responded to this need and paradigm shift by developing a joint degree program. The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT)/Master of Public Health (MPH) degree will give students a unique combination of skills and knowledge to benefit communities and populations, and create new pathways of research, practice and health programming. Graduates will be prepared to work in a diverse array of settings including academia, community agencies, government institutions, and nonprofit organizations, and assume leadership roles in public policy, urban planning and advocacy. The program of study requires 123 credit hours, taken over three and a half years.

Application Deadlines

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
The Program in Occupational Therapy admits one class each year in the fall. Applicants typically begin the admission process during the preceding fall and must complete all required elements by the December 15 deadline. We also must receive your GRE scores by December 15. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application process well in advance of the deadline.

Application Deadline: December 15

The OTCAS system closes after December 15 and will not reopen until mid-July for the following academic year. The Program in Occupational Therapy awards scholarships at the time of acceptance. The scholarships selection process is competitive and based on the quality of the student’s application.

Master of Public Health
The Master of Public Health program admits one class each year in the fall. The application deadline for joint degree students is December 15 for admission and scholarship consideration. Prospective students may apply to the MPH program at the same time they are applying to the OT program or may choose to apply in the first year of their OT studies.

Application Deadline: December 15

The Brown School’s Master of Public Health program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health and its web address is www.ceph.org.
Degree Sequence for Joint Degree MSOT/MPH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>MSOT</th>
<th>MPH</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August - December</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Core Coursework (40 credits)</td>
<td>Core Coursework (38 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January - May</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Integrated with Level I Fieldwork</td>
<td>Integrated with MPH Practicum</td>
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<td>June - July</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Culminating Experience I/II (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August - December</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Core Coursework (31 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January - May</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Integrated with Level I Fieldwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>June - July</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork (6 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August - December</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork (6 credits)</td>
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### Prerequisites for the MSOT and OTD Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Prerequisite Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>An abnormal psychology or a psychopathology course fulfills this requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 semester hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>You may choose a child development or a lifespan course that includes learning principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 semester hours</td>
<td>and motor, language, cognitive, emotional and social development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science</td>
<td>Must be 200 level or above; no lab is required. Suggested courses include but are not</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 semester hours</td>
<td>limited to human anatomy, neuroanatomy, comparative anatomy, pathophysiology, zoology,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>genetics, botany, ecology and cognitive neuroscience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>Must cover the organization of cells into tissues, organs and organ systems in humans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 semester hours</td>
<td>A course titled “Anatomy and Physiology” is acceptable; however, if the course is part of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>a two-part sequence, both courses must be completed to be able to fulfill prerequisites.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>One part can fulfill the life science prerequisite with the second part for the physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>prerequisite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>Suggested courses include, but are not limited to other psychology courses, sociology,</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 semester hours</td>
<td>anthropology, economics, political science, public health, epidemiology, gerontology and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>urban studies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>You may choose behavioral, educational, psychological or mathematical statistics. Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 semester hours</td>
<td>statistics does not fulfill this requirement.</td>
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</table>
Requirements for Admission

Applicants must satisfactorily complete prerequisites and possess personal qualities of character, integrity, and motivation as well as the capacity to perform essential functions suitable for a career in occupational therapy. All applicants must successfully pass a drug screening, criminal background check and family and child services review.

The admissions committee takes the following factors into consideration:

1. **Undergraduate education:** A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university or enrollment in an affiliated 3-2 program and satisfactory completion of all prerequisite coursework. At least four of the six prerequisite courses must be complete at time of application.

2. **Graduate Record Exam (GRE):** The GRE must be taken no more than five years prior to application. Quantitative, verbal and analytical writing scores are required. Our current mean scores are 153 quantitative, 156 verbal and 4.0 analytical writing.

3. **Prerequisite and cumulative GPA:** A grade of B or better is required for all prerequisite courses and a 3.25 cumulative GPA is required for the MSOT and OTD programs.

4. **Recommendations:** Three letters of recommendation are required from:
   - A professor, teacher or academic advisor. 3-2 applicants must submit a letter of recommendation from their advisor.
   - A person who supervised you during observation experiences.
   - A person of your choice, other than a relative or family friend, who can speak objectively about your strengths. A work supervisor or another teacher is recommended.

5. **OT-related experience:** A minimum of 30 hours of occupational therapy-related experience or observation is required. We encourage applicants to visit different sites to experience the diversity of the OT practice. It is strongly recommended, but not required, that a portion of the hours include observation with an occupational therapist.

6. **Understanding of OT and strong writing skills:** Applicants must demonstrate both in their personal statement.

7. **Life experience:** Participation and leadership in extracurricular activities, work, research or other pursuits is encouraged.

8. **International students:** TOEFL and TWE should be taken no more than one year prior to application. Transcripts for universities outside the United States must be reviewed by a credentialing agency. Visit [ot.wustl.edu/international](http://ot.wustl.edu/international) for more information.

*Students enrolled in an affiliated 3-2 program cannot be formally admitted to the OTD program until a baccalaureate degree has been awarded. Any 3-2 student accepted into the Program in Occupational Therapy will be admitted to the MSOT program. Once accepted to the Program, 3-2 students intending to pursue the OTD degree may participate in OTD activities and transfer to the OTD program upon award of the baccalaureate degree. 3-2 students wishing to pursue the OTD degree should contact us. For a list of 3-2 partner schools, visit [ot.wustl.edu/partnerschools](http://ot.wustl.edu/partnerschools)

Washington University undergraduate students, visit [ot.wustl.edu/WUSTL32program](http://ot.wustl.edu/WUSTL32program)

About

The Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis is ranked as the number one occupational therapy program in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Located in the heart of the Midwest, the program offers the finest in occupational therapy education and patient care, all built on a strong foundation of innovative practice and research.

Faculty

- 21 primary appointed faculty
- 13 joint appointed faculty (MDs, Pts, PhDs, MPH)
- 1 academic fieldwork coordinator

Honors

- Academy of Research, American Occupational Therapy Foundation
- Academy of Science, Saint Louis, Missouri
- Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lecturer, American Occupational Therapy Association
- Roster of Fellows, American Occupational Therapy Association

*WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE in St. Louis, Missouri, is a private, independent, not-for-profit educational institution, chartered under the laws of the State of Missouri.

Washington University School of Medicine acknowledges and is committed to supporting an inclusive environment comprised ofaha diversity of people, organizations and ideas.

Washington University School of Medicine is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.

Washington University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.

For more information, visit [ot.wustl.edu](http://ot.wustl.edu).
Washington University participates in AOTA’s centralized application system for occupational therapy educational programs, OTCAS (https://portal.otcas.org/). Students manage their applications online and may apply to more than one school at a time. Washington University does not require a separate application or fee.

The Program admits one class each year in the fall. Applicants begin the admission process during the preceding fall and must complete all required elements by the December 15 deadline.

The application process is as follows:

• The OTCAS system is open for applications in July for those applying for admission the following fall.

• Your application, official transcripts, three letters of recommendation and GRE scores must be submitted to OTCAS by December 15.

• Once completed, “OTCAS applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.” In our experience, it can take two to four weeks before an application is verified by OTCAS and released to us for review.

• Once completed OTCAS applications are released to us, they are reviewed in the order in which they are received.

• Admission decisions may be made prior to the December 15 deadline. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application process well in advance of the deadline.

• Applicants will be notified of admissions decisions as soon as possible. The time required to review applications and respond to applicants will vary depending on many factors, including application volume.

Please consult the FAQ section of admissions pages at ot.wustl.edu for further information or email us at otadmissions@wustl.edu.

How to Apply

Scholarships and Financial Planning

Financial support is available in the form of scholarships and loans. The program awards merit-based partial scholarships and assistantships to admitted students. All students who are offered admission will be considered for these awards. Admitted students will receive information from the Office of Student Financial Planning to help them through the process of applying for loans.

Visit Us

Current, future and accepted applicants are encouraged to visit. We also welcome people who are exploring career options and considering occupational therapy. Dr. Kathy Kneipmann, one of our faculty members, opens our visit sessions with an informal presentation and discussion, followed by a tour that’s led by one of our current occupational therapy students. For upcoming sessions, please visit: ot.wustl.edu/visit

Your application, official transcripts, three letters of recommendation and GRE scores must be submitted to OTCAS by December 15.

For the GRE, select “MISSOURI” as the state where we are located. The Washington University OTCAS code for the GRE is 0081; the occupational therapy code is 0618.

The Program in Occupational Therapy is accredited 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.

Graduates of the Program are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for occupational therapists which is administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT), located at 12 South Summit Avenue, Suite 100, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. NBCOT’s phone number is (301) 990-7979 and its web address is www.nbcot.org.

A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.
Washington University in St. Louis

School of Medicine

Occupational Therapy

Program in Occupational Therapy
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Fax: 314-286-1601
Email: wuotinfo@wustl.edu

www.ot.wustl.edu

Washington University encourages and gives full consideration to all applicants for admission, financial aid and employment. The University does not discriminate in access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, veteran status, disability or genetic information. Inquiries about compliance should be addressed to the University's Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Washington University, Campus Box 1184, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130. The School of Medicine is committed to recruiting, enrolling and educating a diverse student body.