OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/occuthera/programs/gradoccuthera/

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Email: ajozkowski@towson.edu

This program admits fall term only.

The entry-level Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy is designed to prepare graduates to assume key roles in practice, research, education or administration. Occupational therapists' responsibilities in these roles are to assure high-quality services for client groups and to advance the practice of occupational therapy.

NOTE: Applicants for the entry-level master's degree in Occupational Therapy follow procedures for submitting their application materials through the Occupational Therapy Centralized Admission Service (OTCAS). ALL applicants for the master's degree program in Occupational Therapy must complete the Graduate application and supplemental forms. Contact the Occupational Therapy Admissions Counselor at 410-704-2653 or OAdmissions@towson.edu for questions regarding the application process.

Program Accreditation

Towson University's entry-level master's degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Accreditation.aspx) (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA.

Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist, administered by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this examination, the individual will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure to practice; however, licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. (Persons convicted of felonies may be unable to sit for the Certification Examination and should inquire in advance of program entry regarding eligibility.)

For more information about occupational therapy, visit the AOTA website (http://www.aota.org).

Course Fees

A course fee will be applied to select courses to cover course materials and supplies.

Admission Requirements

All of the following criteria must be met for admission.

• A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university** with a minimum GPA of 3.25 is required for full admission. (All GPA calculations for admission are based upon the last 60 units of undergraduate and post-baccalaureate study.) The bachelor’s degree must be indicated on the transcript by August 1 in order to begin the program.
• Complete 10 prerequisite courses prior to entering the Professional M.S. Program. Six of the 10 prerequisites must be completed at the time of application. One must be in Anatomy and Physiology I. The remaining four prerequisites must be completed in the spring and summer prior to beginning the program. CLEP scores may not be used for English Composition; online courses, ACE or UExcel exams may not be used for Anatomy and Physiology I and II, and Physics.
• Complete the following prerequisite courses with a “B-” or better:
  a. English Composition
  b. Introductory Sociology
  c. Introductory Psychology
  d. Abnormal Psychology
  e. Basic Statistics
  f. Human Anatomy and Physiology I with a lab (taken within the last five years)
  g. Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (taken within the last five years)
  h. Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (taken within the last five years)
  i. Medical Terminology

• Complete the following prerequisite course with a “C” or better:
  a. Physics (including mechanics and a lab)

• Complete and verify at least 60 hours of human service activity or direct occupational therapy observation. These will serve as your observation hours in the OTCAS. Human service work or volunteer experience must have involved direct, hands-on contact with people with disabilities and/or illness and/or other disadvantages. Examples include work/volunteer experience in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, senior centers, drug rehabilitation programs, programs for the homeless, camps and/or attendant care. The following experiences do not satisfy this requirement: babysitting with children who do not have disabilities and administrative clerical work. All 60 hours of human service activity or direct occupational therapy observation must have been completed within two years of the application deadline. The 60 hours must have been completed in at least three different settings (e.g., hospital, rehabilitation center, school system, outpatient clinic, nursing home/assisted living facility); with a mix of children, adults and older adults; and the applicant must have been in each setting for at least 10 hours.
• Three reference forms: human service activity or occupational therapy supervisor, a professional, and either another professional or faculty member (OTCAS reference forms are to be used)
• Graduate occupational therapy admission essay/personal statement (follow guidelines outlined for OTCAS)
• Resume containing work and leadership experience
• Complete a group interview and on-site writing sample
• Complete Graduate Application (submitted by invitation after initial review of all applicants)

Please review our Admission Requirements and Deadlines (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/occuthera/programs/gradoccuthera/admission) for a full explanation of our most current admission procedures and deadlines.

Non-Immigrant International Students

Program Enrollment: F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-
person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international/programs-complying-j1-f1-regulations.html), and contact the International Student and Scholars Office (https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/iso) with questions.

Admission Procedures: See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html) and International Graduate Application (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international) online.

**See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html).**

Application Procedure and Guidelines
A complete application must be submitted through OTCAS (https://otecas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login) by October 1, and we will only include materials verified by November 1 in our review. OTCAS indicates a 4-6 week window for transcript verification; therefore, it will be necessary to submit materials as early as possible. A Towson University graduate application will be required as part of the admission process, and is completed by invitation only.

For questions about our Admissions Requirements and Deadlines (https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/occuthapy/programs/gradoccutherapy/admission), contact:

Admissions Counselor
Department of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science
Towson University
8000 York Rd, Linthicum Hall Room 235
Towson, MD 21252
410-704-2653
OTadmissions@towson.edu

Submit all application materials through the OTCAS. Selected applicants will be invited to apply to the Graduate School to complete their application.

Academic Standards
- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 for all courses in the major.
- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in 500- to 800-level course work.
- Students may receive a maximum of two “C” grades (including “C” and “C+” grades).
- Students may repeat a maximum of two courses.
- Students may repeat the same course only once.
- Students may repeat a maximum of one Level II Fieldwork.¹
- Students must have a GPA of 3.00 and cleared by the department to be eligible to enroll in a Level II Fieldwork.

Degree Requirements
The professional Master of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy is 26 months (excluding breaks) completed over 2.5 years and consists of 2 units of undergraduate course work and 77 units of graduate course work, which includes a graduate research project (a total of 79 units of course work). All students complete two 12-week, 480-hour, full-time Level II Fieldwork experiences: one in physical disabilities and one in psychosocial practice (either may be with a children and youth focus), where they apply theoretical knowledge and demonstrate entry-level competence for a licensed occupational therapist. Level II Fieldwork is a full-time commitment often requiring additional time for preparation on the evenings and weekends. Students are advised to eliminate employment during this time. While local sites (within 90 miles of the university) are available, students may need to be assigned out of the local area or out of the state for one or both of the fieldwork experiences.

All Level II Fieldwork must be completed within 24 months of completion of academic course preparation.

All students must complete the Occupational Therapy Knowledge Exam (OTKE) as a degree requirement and are billed for the discounted fee associated with this exam.

Completion of an online exit survey is required for graduation clearance in addition to successful completion of all other program requirements.

Required Undergraduate Course
Students must complete the following undergraduate course once accepted into the program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 427</td>
<td>NEUROMUSCULAR MECHANISMS OF THE UPPER BODY</td>
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Total Units 2

Required Graduate Courses
Students must complete required graduate course work.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTH 521</td>
<td>KINESIOLOGY OF OCCUPATION</td>
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<td>OCTH 600 &amp; 600L</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY and FOUNDATIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - APPLICATIONS [LAB]</td>
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<td>OCTH 601</td>
<td>GROUP DYNAMICS IN DIVERSE CONTEXTS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 603</td>
<td>ISSUES IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 606</td>
<td>ADULT AND OLDER ADULT NEUROLOGICAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY</td>
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<td>OCTH 607</td>
<td>ADULT AND OLDER ADULT MUSCULOSKELETAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 609</td>
<td>ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS IN OCCUPATION BASED PRACTICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 611</td>
<td>ADVANCED THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF OCCUPATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 612</td>
<td>OT HEALTH PROMOTION INITIATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 614</td>
<td>PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOSOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE</td>
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<td>OCTH 619</td>
<td>ADULT PHYSICAL REHABILITATION LEVEL I FIELDWORK</td>
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<td>OCTH 620</td>
<td>PSYCHOSOCIAL LEVEL I FIELDWORK</td>
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<td>OCTH 624</td>
<td>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH</td>
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<td>OCTH 626</td>
<td>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FIELDWORK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH</td>
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OCTH 627 ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES 3
OCTH 635 LEVEL II FIELDWORK I 9
OCTH 636 LEVEL II FIELDWORK II 9
OCTH 678 ASSESSMENT THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN 3
OCTH 781 GRADUATE SEMINAR IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY 3
OCTH 880 GRADUATE PROJECT IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY 3

Total Units 77

NOTE: Students have the option of earning a graduate certificate in Autism Studies (http://catalog.towson.edu/graduate/degree-certificate-programs/health-professions/autism-studies-certificate) or in Family-Professional Collaboration (http://catalog.towson.edu/graduate/degree-certificate-programs/liberal-arts/family-professional-collaboration-certificate). Students who elect to earn a certificate will be required to extend the length of the master’s degree program in order to complete the entire certificate program.

Annual Health, Insurance and CPR Requirements

All students in entry-level clinical OT programs must submit and maintain the health documentation as detailed in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science Policy for Health, Insurance, and CPR Requirements to maintain good standing in the program and be eligible for fieldwork. Students who do not remain compliant with the requirements as outlined in the full policy will fall out of good standing in the program and may be prohibited from enrolling in course work and participating in fieldwork placements. The full policy is provided upon admission to an entry-level clinical OT program and available by request.

Abbreviated Departmental Health, Insurance, and CPR requirements

- Annual PPD, Tspot, or Quantiferon Gold Blood Test required for duration of program
- Adult Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccination must remain current for duration of program
- Positive Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Titer
- Positive Varicella Titer
- Positive Hepatitis B Titer OR Hepatitis B Declination Waiver
- A Physical Examination (may be requested annually)
- Annual Seasonal Influenza Vaccine for duration of program
- Current American Heart Association CPR Certification for Healthcare Providers for duration of program (Instructor-Led and Blended courses accepted; fully online courses are not permitted)
- Proof of Health Insurance Coverage for duration of program

Suggested Plan of Study

**First Year**

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<th>First Term (Fall)</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Second Term (Spring)</th>
<th>Units Summer</th>
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<td>5 OCTH 67</td>
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Second Year

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<td>OCTH 60</td>
<td>3 OCTH 61</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 619</td>
<td>3 OCTH 624</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 78</td>
<td>3 OCTH 62</td>
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<td>OCTH 880</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Term (Fall)</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>OCTH 636 or 635</td>
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</table>

Total Units 79

1. Assess clients and formulate intervention plans leading to realistic, attainable goals at all life stages, by using accurate observation and appropriate assessment data, problem solving skills and knowledge of theories and human development.

2. Analyze, adapt, and apply purposeful activities and other modalities for health promotion and therapeutic programs in order to facilitate the ability of clients to lead their lives with a meaningful balance in the areas of human occupation (daily living skills, work and play/leisure).

3. Adapt and promote occupational therapy services at the individual, group, community, and population levels utilizing occupation and non-occupation theoretical models through successful fieldwork experiences.