

ENTRY-LEVEL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY OTD

Degree: Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)
<https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/occtherapy/programs/elotd/>

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The entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree 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 and its web address is www.acoteonline.org. 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 in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

The Entry-level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy Program consists of 97 units and is designed for those students without a degree in occupational therapy. It requires 36 months (including breaks) completed over three years and includes a capstone research project and fieldwork experiences.

Application Procedure and Guidelines

A complete application must be submitted through OTCAS 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 (see below), and is completed by invitation only.

For questions about our Admissions Requirements and Deadlines contact:

Admissions and Clinical Placement Coordinator
 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 OTCAS. Selected applicants will be invited to apply to the Graduate School to complete their application.

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 last 60-credit GPA of 3.25 is required for

full admission. (All GPA calculations for admission are based upon the last 60 units of undergraduate and qualifying post-baccalaureate study.) The bachelor's degree must be indicated on the transcript by May 31 in order to begin the program.

- A current resume outlining work and leadership experiences.
- Complete 8 prerequisite courses prior to entering the Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate. Five of the eight prerequisites must be completed at the time of application. One must be either Anatomy and Physiology I or Anatomy and Physiology II. Any outstanding prerequisites must be completed with qualifying grades prior to beginning the program. CLEP and/or AP scores may be used for non-science prerequisites; please see our Application Process and Criteria page for more information.
 - The following prerequisite courses must be completed with a "B-" or better:
 1. Medical Terminology
 2. Human Growth and Development (must cover development across the entire lifespan)
 3. Human Anatomy and Physiology II with lab (taken within the last five years)
 4. Human Anatomy and Physiology I with a lab (taken within the last five years)
 5. Basic Statistics
 6. Abnormal Psychology
 7. Introduction to Sociology or Introduction to Anthropology
 8. The following prerequisite course must be completed with a "C" or better:
 - Introduction to Physics with a lab (must include mechanics, heat, energy, and light. Biomechanics does not qualify)
- Three OTCAS References: One must be a professional reference – any person with whom you interacted where professional expectations existed. This can be a paid or volunteer position, so long as the relationship was professional in nature. The other two may be professional or academic. No personal references are accepted.
- Graduate occupational therapy admission essay/personal statement (follow guidelines outlined on our Application Process and Criteria page)
- Complete a group interview and guided writing sample (by invitation only)
- Complete Graduate Application (submitted by invitation after final admission decisions)

Please review our Admission Requirements and Deadlines 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, and contact the International Student and Scholars Office with questions.

Admission Procedures: See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies and International Graduate Application online.

See **Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions.

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Summer 1		
OCTH 600	FOUNDATIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	3
OCTH 600L	FOUNDATIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - APPLICATIONS [LAB]	1
Fall 1		
BIOL 527	NEUROMUSCULAR MECHANISMS OF THE UPPER BODY	2
OCTH 521	KINESIOLOGY OF OCCUPATION	3
OCTH 614	PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOSOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE	5
OCTH 620	PSYCHOSOCIAL LEVEL I FIELDWORK	3
OSC 742	ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE	3
Spring 1		
OCTH 606	ADULT AND OLDER ADULT NEUROLOGICAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	3
OCTH 607	ADULT AND OLDER ADULT MUSCULOSKELETAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	3
OCTH 619	ADULT PHYSICAL REHABILITATION LEVEL I FIELDWORK	3
OCTH 678	ASSESSMENT THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN	3
Summer 2		
OCTH 603	ISSUES IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	3
OCTH 609	ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS IN OCCUPATION BASED PRACTICE	3
Fall 2		
OCTH 612	OT HEALTH PROMOTION INITIATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY	3
OCTH 624	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH	5
OCTH 626	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY FIELDWORK FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH	3
OCTH 782	RESEARCH PRACTICUM	3
Spring 2		
OCTH 635	LEVEL II FIELDWORK I	9
OCTH 636	LEVEL II FIELDWORK II	9
Fall 3		
OCTH 627	ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES	3
OSC 744	PARTICIPATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE IN THEIR CONTEXT	3
OCTH 881	CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT I	3
Elective		3
Minimester 3		
Elective		3
Spring 3		
OCTH 882	CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT II	3

OCTH 895	DOCTORAL EXPERIENTIAL PRACTICUM	9
Total Units		97

Students must complete 24 weeks of Level II fieldwork as well as an individual 14-week capstone experience within 24 months following the completion of the didactic portion of the program. The doctoral capstone experience must be started after completion of all coursework and Level II fieldwork as well as completion of preparatory activities defined in 2018 ACOTE OTD Standard D.1.3.

Students are required to complete two elective courses during the length of the program. Elective courses must be approved by the student's adviser.

NOTE: Students have the option of earning a graduate certificate from Towson University in Autism Studies or in Family-Professional Collaboration. Students who elect to earn a certificate may be required to extend the length of the Occupational Therapy 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 certain health documentation as detailed in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science Policy for Health Related Documentation 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 Related Documentation

- Secure and maintain a CastleBranch account (instructions provided upon admission)
- Annual 2-step 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 Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers CPR certification 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
- Covid-19 Vaccination, including any subsequent boosters
- Criminal Background Check(s) and or Drug Test(s) as required for fieldwork

Academic Standards

In addition to the standard policies of academic standing, the following additional policies must be upheld by all students:

- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 for all courses in the major.
- Students may receive a maximum of two "C" grades and are dismissed from the program upon receipt of a third grade of C or lower (or "unsatisfactory"), regardless of whether a grade was replaced if a course was repeated.
- Students may repeat a maximum of one course, including Level II Fieldwork.
- A withdrawal for academic reasons is considered a failure.

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

Plan of Study

First Year

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units Term 3	Units
Summer	Fall	Spring	
OCTH 600	3 BIOL 527	2 OCTH 606	3
OCTH 600L	1 OCTH 521	3 OCTH 607	3
	OCTH 614	5 OCTH 619	3
	OCTH 620	3 OCTH 678	3
	OSC 742	3	
	4	16	12

Second Year

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units Term 3	Units
Summer	Fall	Spring	
OCTH 603	3 OCTH 612	3 OCTH 635	9
OCTH 609	3 OCTH 624	5 OCTH 636	9
	OCTH 626	3	
	OCTH 782	3	
	6	14	18

Third Year

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units Term 3	Units
Fall	Minimester	Spring	
OCTH 627	3 Elective	3 OCTH 882	3
OCTH 881	3	OCTH 895	9
OSC 744	3		
Elective	3		
	12	3	12

Total Units 97

- Fulfill an occupational therapist's role as a team member of a service delivery team by using knowledge of health care systems, organizations, and management principles.
- Analyze, adapt, and apply purposeful activities and other modalities to facilitate the ability of clients to lead their lives with a meaningful balance in the areas of human occupation.
- Use research theoretical models and research evidence to support and modify occupational therapy evaluation and intervention processes and occupational therapy programs.