

ENTRY-LEVEL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY OTD

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

Program Director: Sonia Lawson, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
 Phone: 410-704-2313
 Email: slawson@towson.edu

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 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-6611 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.

Requirements Admission Requirements

Application deadlines and a full listing of materials required for admission can be found on the website.

The Entry-level Doctorate in Occupational Therapy Program consists of 89 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.

Prerequisites for Admission

A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.25 (on a 4-point scale) is required for admission. Official transcripts from all regionally accredited colleges and universities attended are required. GPA calculations are based on the last 60 units of the degree. Post-baccalaureate course work is eligible when taken at the 300 or 400 level or graduate level. See graduate admission policies for more information and exceptions.

No GRE scores are required.

Eight prerequisite courses must be completed prior to entering the program. **Five of the eight must be completed at the time of application.** One of the five must be Human Anatomy and Physiology I or Human Anatomy and Physiology II. Any prerequisites incomplete at the time of application (up to 3) must be completed before starting the program:

- Psychopathology OR Abnormal Psychology
- Lifespan Human Growth and Development
- Basic Statistics
- Introduction to Sociology OR Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- Medical Terminology

- Human Anatomy and Physiology I (within 5 years)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology II (within 5 years)
- Mechanics Foundation

Top candidates **will be invited** to participate in our interview process and apply to Towson University Graduate Admissions. Interviews are conducted virtually in a group format and typically occur in early December.

Visit the Admission Requirements & Deadlines page for information about submitting remaining application requirements (official transcripts, references, prerequisite worksheet, personal statement, capstone focus statement, and resume). Instructions for international applicants is also found on this page.

Early Admission Review

Applicants who meet these additional criteria may be considered for early review:

Submit an application through the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) by August 1; receive OTCAS verification by September 1.

Observation Hours: Submit evidence of 10+ hours of direct observation with an occupational therapy practitioner

Prerequisite Completion: All 8 prerequisites are complete with verified grades

A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.6 (on a 4-point scale) based on the last 60 units of the degree

If you meet these criteria, you will automatically be considered for early review. Applicants not selected during the early review process will be included in the general review process later in the year.

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		
OCTH 521	KINESIOLOGY OF OCCUPATION	3
OCTH 527	NEURAL MECHANISMS OF FUNCTION AND BEHAVIOR	3
OCTH 614	PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOSOCIAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE	5
OCTH 620	PSYCHOSOCIAL LEVEL I FIELDWORK	3
OSC 740	FOUNDATIONS 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 603	ISSUES IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	3
Summer 2		
OCTH 609	ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS IN OCCUPATION BASED PRACTICE	3
OCTH 678	ASSESSMENT THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN	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	6
OCTH 636	LEVEL II FIELDWORK II	6
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	6
Total Units		89

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 course work 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 an approved certificate program. 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 as required for fieldwork
- 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 OCTH 521	3 OCTH 606	3
OCTH 600L	1 OCTH 527	3 OCTH 607	3
	OCTH 614	5 OCTH 619	3
	OCTH 620	3 OCTH 603	3
	OSC 740	3	
	4	17	12

Second Year

Term 1	Units Term 2	Units Term 3	Units
Summer	Fall	Spring	
OCTH 609	3 OCTH 612	3 OCTH 635	6
OCTH 678	3 OCTH 624	5 OCTH 636	6
	OCTH 626	3	
	OCTH 782	3	
	6	14	12

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	6
OSC 744	3		
Elective	3		
	12	3	9

Total Units 89

Learning Outcomes

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Use research theoretical models and research evidence to support and modify occupational therapy evaluation and intervention processes and occupational therapy programs.