

Occupational Therapy

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Department of Occupational Therapy (MC 811)
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OT Department home page: go.uic.edu/ot, MS program home page: go.uic.edu/ms-ot

Administration:

Head of the Department, Interim: Kelly Tappenden
Director of MS and Entry-level OTD: Elizabeth Peterson

Program Codes:

20FS1511MS (Professional/Entry-Level MS)
20GF5999EOTD (Entry-Level OTD)

The Department of Occupational Therapy offers a Master of Science (MS) degree for students who have a bachelor's degree in another subject. This course-only program prepares students to be eligible for a national certification examination and for practice as an occupational therapist.

The MS program is accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education® (ACOTE®) located at:

6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
(301) 652-AOTA
<http://www.acoteonline.org>

The MS degree was replaced in Fall 2022 by the Doctor of Occupational Therapy: Entry-level. Applications for the entry-level OTD program are now being accepted. The entry-level OTD degree is for students who have a bachelor's degree in another subject. This program prepares students to be eligible for a national certification examination and for practice as an occupational therapist.

The entry-level OTD program has been granted Candidacy Status by the AOTA Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education® (ACOTE®). The pre-accreditation review process leading to accreditation of the entry-level OTD program is underway. Accreditation of the entry-level OTD program is anticipated in December of 2024, pending successful review by ACOTE®.

An occupational therapy program must be accredited by ACOTE® prior to students' graduation for its students to be eligible to sit for the national certification examination offered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of the NBCOT certification exam, the graduate will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure to practice, however state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

The entry-level OTD program at UIC includes eight terms (33 months) of didactic and clinical education that includes lecture-discussion courses, laboratory-discussion classes, seminars, six fieldwork experiences, a capstone experience and a capstone project. All graduation requirements, including Level II fieldwork and the doctoral capstone must be completed within six years.

The entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy is a professional clinical doctorate degree program. Detailed information on the entry-level OTD program, including admissions requirements, is available on the Department of Occupational Therapy's [entry-level OTD website](#). Applications for this program must be submitted through the Occupational Therapist Centralized Application System (OTCAS). The applications are then forwarded and processed through the Department of Occupational Therapy. Entry-level OTD applicants must also complete a UIC professional student application to be considered for admission.

Two PhD programs are available to students who wish to complete advanced preparation for research. These programs are in the areas of Disability Studies and Kinesiology and Nutrition. Please refer to the [Disability Studies](#) section of the graduate catalog for a description of the PhD in Disability Studies and the [Kinesiology and Nutrition](#) section for that program.

The Department of Occupational Therapy also offers a postprofessional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (P-OTD) degree that prepares students to fulfill roles as advanced practitioners, educators, and leaders or managers. Postprofessional OTD students must already be certified occupational therapists. More information on the P-OTD program can be found on the Department of Occupational Therapy's [postprofessional OTD website](#).

Admission and Degree Requirements

- [MS in Occupational Therapy \(Entry-Level Degree\)](#)