

Occupational Therapy (Post-Professional Program: OTD)

Mailing Address:

Department of Occupational Therapy (MC 811)
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Contact Information:

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Administration:

Head of the Department, Interim: Kelly Tappenden
Director of Graduate Studies: Joy Hammel

Program Codes:

20GF5000OTD (degree-seeking students)
20GF5000DNEG (nondegree-seeking students)

The College of Applied Health Sciences offers the post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (P-OTD) degree. The P-OTD focuses on developing advanced professional skills for occupational therapy practice, leadership, management, scholarship, and education. The P-OTD program can be done completely online or as hybrid in person/online combination depending on the student's interests. For the currently practicing occupational therapist, an OTD offers opportunities for career development and advancement, and for innovative program development and evaluation. In comparison to a PhD, the P-OTD focuses less on conducting original research and more on applying existing research and evidence to improve everyday OT practice and participation opportunities for diverse people and communities.

The P-OTD program emphasizes UIC's scholarship of practice and mentoring model. Students work closely with faculty members within their lines of inquiry, which assures that students have top-quality experiences doing mentored work that is relevant, forward-thinking, and that will make a difference in practice and in the lives of diverse occupational therapy clients. Students are admitted based on demonstrating a good match between student interest and faculty scholarship and expertise.

The P-OTD is composed of five major components, which can be done online:

1. Core courses (research, theory, proseminar)
2. Advanced practica (clinical, teaching/education, leadership/management, and scholarship of practice applied research)
3. Elective courses
4. Field exam
5. OTD Project (major work in advanced area of specialization)

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy at UIC is considered a professional clinical doctorate degree program, not a graduate program. Applications for this program are processed through the Department of Occupational Therapy. For more information on the P-OTD program, admission

requirements, and the application process, please consult the [Department of Occupational Therapy website](#).

Interdepartmental Concentration

Students earning the Doctor of Occupational Therapy at UIC may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Gender and Women's Studies](#)

Admission Requirements

- **Prior Degrees** The OTD is a post-professional degree and therefore all students must have either an earned entry-level occupational therapy credential (bachelor's or master's level) or be currently enrolled in the UIC Professional Master of Science degree in the Department of Occupational Therapy.
- **Proof of certification or eligibility for certification** in occupational therapy in the U.S., or have an occupational therapy degree from a WFOT approved program outside of the United States.
 - This will be waived for students applying to co-enroll in the MS and P-OTD programs. These students must complete Fieldwork II and all MS coursework in order to continue on in the P-OTD program.
- **Grade Point Average^a** Minimum of 3.00/4.00 for all work beyond the baccalaureate level and at least 3.00^a for the final 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of undergraduate study.
- **Test Required** GRE General Test. Recommended minimum score of 150 on the verbal and quantitative sections. Scores below 150 are acceptable if the GPA is sufficiently high to demonstrate academic potential.^a There is no minimum score for the writing section.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score** (for international applicants)
 - **TOEFL iBT** 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21, **OR**,
 - **IELTS Academic** 6.5, with 6.0 in each of the four subscores, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **UIC Application and P-OTD Application** Required.
- **Transcripts** Required. See [OT Department website](#) for specific requirements related to unofficial and official documents.
- **Personal Statement** Required. Three-to-four-page statement. See [OT Department website](#) for specific requirements.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required. See [OT Department website](#) for specific requirements.
- **Curriculum Vitae** Required. See [OT Department website](#) for specific requirements.
- **Other Requirements for International Applicants**
 - **Financial Documents** Required. See [OT Department website](#) for specific requirements.
 - **Academic Translations** Required. See [OT Department website](#) for specific requirements.

a *Applicants who do not meet the GPA or GRE expectations, but who demonstrate other strengths, may be considered.*

Degree Requirements

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 68 semester hours beyond the baccalaureate. Credit may be awarded for other relevant graduate work completed at UIC or another accredited institution. Any credit will be determined on an individual basis by the OTD Admissions Committee. All students are required to earn a minimum of 36 semester hours in formal coursework in the program, or 32 semester hours minimum with transfer credit of 4 hours not applied to a previous degree.
- **Coursework**

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
OT 500	Theories of Occupational Therapy	
OT 510	Research in Occupational Therapy	
OT 530	Advanced Field Experience: Clinical Specialization in Occupational Therapy	
or OT 531	Advanced Field Experience in Occupational Therapy Leadership	
or OT 532	Advanced Field Experience: Occupational Therapy Education	
or OT 533	Advanced Field Experience: Occupational Therapy Scholarship	
OT 590	Proseminar in Occupational Therapy	
OT 592	Doctoral Project Research	
OT 595	Seminar in Occupational Therapy	

Electives

Exact number elective credits will depend on the student's entry status (i.e. entering the program with a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or co-enrolling with the MS program). OT electives are listed below. Many students take courses in other departments, such as Education, Special Education, Disability and Human Development, Psychology, Neuroscience, Community Health Sciences, Health Policy, Urban Planning, and Sociology.

OT 528	Race, Culture, and Health Disparities	
OT 553	Program Evaluation: Documenting the Impact of Human Services	
OT 558	Writing for Professional Publications in Occupational Therapy	
OT 561	Disability and Community Participation: Policy, Systems Change, and Action Research	
OT 563	Disability and Global Health	
OT 568	Learning, Teaching, Curriculum Design, Delivery and Evaluation	
OT 571	Knowledge Translation for Disability and Rehabilitation	
OT 594	Special Topics in Occupational Therapy	
OT 596	Independent Study	

- **Fieldwork** Advanced practica required. Students take a minimum of 4 and up to 12 hours of OT 530, OT 531, OT 532, or OT 533.
- **Field Examination** Required.
- **Project** Required. Students must complete at least 12 hours of OT 592.