

Occupational Therapy, Entry-Level OTD (Professional Program)

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<https://ahs.uic.edu/occupational-therapy/admissions-and-programs/entry-level-occupational-therapy-doctorate-e-otd-program> or <https://go.uic.edu/E-OTD>

Administration:

Head of the Department: Susan Magasi
Director of the Entry-level OTD: Elizabeth Peterson

Program Code:

20GF5999EOTD (Entry-Level OTD)

Applications for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy: Entry-level are 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 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 (301) 652-AOTA www.acoteonline.org

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[®]. The program must complete an onsite evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates 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 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.

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.

The Entry-Level OTD is considered a professional program and is not administered by the Graduate College.

Admissions Requirements

- **Prior Degree** Bachelor's degree completed by the time of enrollment, no specific major is required or preferred.
- **Prerequisite Courses** Completion of six prerequisite courses by the time of enrollment, with a grade of B or above recommended:
 - Introduction to sociology: Introduction to anthropology or social psychology course is also acceptable.
 - Developmental psychology: Child development, child psychology, or lifespan development course is also acceptable.
 - Psychopathology: Course must cover child and adult conditions.
 - Statistics: One course offered in a math, statistics, psychology, sociology, or similar department. A research methods course is not acceptable.
 - Human anatomy (minimum of four semester hours): Course must cover all body systems. 30 clock hours of human cadaver lab study is required. The lab can be completed at UIC after enrollment. A two-course sequence in combined human anatomy and physiology is acceptable if both courses are completed at the same school.
 - Human physiology: Course must cover all body systems. Lab required. Exercise physiology lab is acceptable if general physiology lab is not available. A two-course sequence in combined human anatomy and physiology is acceptable if both courses are completed at the same school.
 - Medical terminology: Course is recommended but not required. Students may also complete a self-study course in medical terminology upon acceptance.
- Prerequisite courses must be a minimum of 3 semester credits, unless indicated otherwise.
- **Grade Point Average** GPA of at least 3.00/4.00 (B average) for baccalaureate and graduate course work to date is expected; however, exceptions can be made if other components of the application are higher than the cohort average. Students with a GPA below 2.75 are not typically admitted unless special circumstances have affected the GPA.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score** (for international applicants)
 - TOEFL 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21 (iBT Test); 60, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Writing 21 (revised Paper-Delivered Test), **OR**,
 - IELTS 6.5, with subscores of 6.0 for all four subscores, **OR**,
 - PTE-Academic 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three letters of recommendation using the OTCAS form.
- **OTCAS Personal Statement** A statement that addresses choice of career, experiences to date, and short-term and long-term goals.
- **UIC Essay** Required.

- **Experience** While the program does not require a prescribed number of experience hours, the admissions process values experience of different types, and includes a rating of experience with the application. Experiences include extracurricular (school-related clubs and athletics), leadership, employment, volunteer, research, international, and personal disability experiences.
- **Achievements** Special achievements are also considered, including awards and recognitions, and exemplary accomplishments.
- **Other Requirements for International Applicants**
 - **Financial Documents** See [OT Department website](#) for detailed description.
 - **Academic Translations** See [OT Department website](#) for detailed description.
- **Tests** The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required.

Degree Requirements

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 110.
- **Course Work** The 38 required courses include 26 didactic courses, 7 fieldwork courses, 2 seminar courses, a 14-week capstone experience, and 2 capstone project courses. Successful completion of the course work, which is supported by the Blackboard learning management system, is necessary to be eligible to sit for the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy® (NBCOT®).

Code	Title	Hours
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Year 1, Fall (16 Hours)

OT 600	Introductory Occupational Therapy Knowledge and Skills	
OT 601	Communication and Therapeutic Relationships	
OT 602	Client-Centered Practice Using Occupation-Focused Models	
OT 603	Occupational Development Across the Lifespan	
OT 604	Fieldwork Level I-A	
OT 605	Professional Development and Leadership I	
OT 607	Research Foundations for Evidence-based Practice I: Examining Client Factors and Interventions	

Year 1, Spring (16 Hours)

OT 610	Conceptual Practice Models	
OT 611	Occupational Performance	
OT 612	Occupational Performance	
OT 615	Prof Develop & Leadership 2	
OT 617	Research Foundations 2	

Year 1, Summer (7 Hours)

OT 624	Policy, Payment, Advocacy and Access to Occupational Therapy	
OT 626	Population Health and Community Participation	
OT 628	Group Theory and Process	
OT 629	Fieldwork Level I-B	

Year 2, Fall (15 Hours)

OT 630	Occupational Therapy Process: Application 1	
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OT 631	Occupational Performance and Participation: Outcomes and Interventions 2
OT 632	Occupational Performance and Participation: Outcomes and Interventions 3
OT 635	Professional Identity, Development and Leadership 3
OT 636	Research Foundations for Evidence-based Practice 3: Knowledge Synthesis for Clinical Practice
OT 637	Research Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice 4: Assessing Community Needs and Evaluating Programs

Year 2, Spring (16 Hours)

OT 647	Fieldwork Level I-C
OT 648	Fieldwork Level I-D
OT 640	Occupational Therapy Process: Application 2
OT 641	Occupational Performance and Participation: Outcomes and Interventions 4
OT 645	Professional Development and Leadership 4
OT 646	Research Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice 5: Knowledge Translation and Health Communications
OT 649	Fieldwork Level II-A: Part 1
OT 695	Scholarship of Practice Proseminar

Year 2, Summer (10 Hours)

OT 650	Fieldwork Level II-A: Part 2
OT 654	Management & Prog Development
OT 655	Professional Identity, Development and Leadership 5

Year 3, Fall (14 Hours)

OT 690	Capstone Seminar
OT 668	Capstone Project 1
OT 669	Fieldwork Level II-B

Year 3, Spring (16 Hours)

OT 678	Capstone Project 2
OT 679	Capstone Experience

- **Time Limits** Time limits for completion of program elements are as follows:
 - All elements of the program must be completed within 6 years. The program is normally completed on a full-time basis and part-time status is only granted by petition to the Academic Standing Committee. A formal plan for progressing in the program on part-time status must be part of the petition to the Academic Standing Committee.
 - Students must progress to Fieldwork Level IIA (OT 649/OT 650) within 12 months of completing all prerequisites for Level IIA Fieldwork.
 - Each 12-week Level II Fieldwork requirement, i.e., OT 649/OT 650 (FW Level II-A: Part 1/ FW Level II-A: Part 2)

and OT 669 (FW Level II-B) must be completed within 24 months of beginning the Level II fieldwork requirement.

- An individual 14-week capstone experience must be completed within 24 months after it begins.
- The doctoral capstone experience must be started after completion of all pre-requisite coursework and Level II fieldwork, as well as completion of preparatory activities defined in 2018 ACOTE OTD Standard D.1.3.
- Leaves of absence beyond one year are not routinely considered at any point in progression in the program.
- Exceptions to the above may be considered by the Academic Standing Committee on a case-by-case basis.

NOTE: ACOTE[®] requires 24 weeks of Level II Fieldwork. Together, Fieldwork Level II-A: Part 1 (OT 649; 6 weeks), Fieldwork Level II-A: Part 2 (OT 650; 6 weeks), and Fieldwork Level II-B (OT 669; 12 weeks) fulfill the 24-week Level II fieldwork experience requirement articulated by ACOTE[®]. Fieldwork Level II-A is divided into two courses (OT 649 and OT 650) because the first six weeks of the Level II-A fieldwork occurs in the spring semester and the second six weeks occurs in the summer semester.

• **Graduation Requirements**

- All required or elective courses graded A-F must be completed with a grade of C or better. Students who earn below a C in a required or elective course are dismissed. Students have the right to appeal a course grade and/or dismissal decision, following departmental, college and university guidelines.
- All required or elective courses graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis (e.g., Level I Fieldwork, Level II Fieldwork), must be completed with a grade of Satisfactory. Students who earn an Unsatisfactory grade in an S/U course are dismissed. As above, students have the right to appeal a course grade and/or dismissal decision, following departmental, college and university guidelines.
- Students are required to maintain a 3.00 GPA in all required entry-level OTD courses and electives during their OTD matriculation and at graduation. When the OTD GPA falls below 3.00, students are informed that they have two additional terms of registration (including summer, if registered) after the warning term to raise the GPA to 3.00. Students who raise their GPA to 3.00 or above within the deadline will be removed from probation.
- A student with a degree GPA less than 3.00 will not be approved for graduation. Approval for graduation is achieved by raising the OTD GPA to 3.00 or greater prior to the end of the last term required for graduation.
- Students on probation who fail to raise their average to 3.00 or to otherwise fulfill the terms of their probation within the deadline will be dismissed. As above, students have the right to appeal a course grade and/or dismissal decision, following departmental, college and university guidelines.
- **Capstone Project** The entry-level OTD is a professional program. Students are required to complete a doctoral capstone project, per ACOTE[®] requirements.