Occupational Therapy (Post-Professional Program: OTD)

Mailing Address:
Department of Occupational Therapy (MC 811)
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Chicago, IL 60612-7250

Contact Information:
Campus Location: 355 AHSB
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OTDept@uic.edu
ahs.uic.edu/occupational-therapy

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:

a. Core courses (research, theory, proseminar)
b. Advanced practica (clinical, teaching/education, leadership/management, and scholarship of practice applied research)
c. Elective courses
d. Field exam
e. 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 course work in order to continue on in the P-OTD program.
- Grade Point Averagea Minimum of 3.00/4.00 for all work beyond the baccalaureate level and at least 3.00a 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 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.
- 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 course work in the program, or 32 semester hours minimum with transfer credit of 4 hours not applied to a previous degree.

- **Course Work**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OT 500</td>
<td>Theories of Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>OT 510</td>
<td>Research in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 530</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience: Clinical Specialization in Occupational Therapy (NOTE: OT 533 is on OT website but not in most recent SCEP document.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or OT 531</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience in Occupational Therapy Leadership</td>
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<td>or OT 532</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience: Occupational Therapy Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>or OT 533</td>
<td>Advanced Field Experience: Occupational Therapy Scholarship</td>
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<td>OT 590</td>
<td>Proseminar in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 592</td>
<td>Doctoral Project Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 595</td>
<td>Seminar in Occupational Therapy</td>
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- **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.

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