

School of Arts and Sciences

PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program prepares students for entry-level practice as occupational therapists. Occupational therapy is a healthcare profession that provides services to individuals of all ages whose lives have been disrupted by physical injury or illness, developmental problems, the aging process, or social or psychological difficulties. Occupational therapists assume the roles of practitioner, manager of occupational therapy services, and contributor to the profession. The occupational therapist practitioner develops and implements a treatment plan to help individuals to function in self-care, home management, school, work, and play/leisure occupations to establish a lifestyle that is optimally independent, productive, and satisfying to the individual. The occupational therapist manager understands the roles and functions of other healthcare professionals and collaborates with them in coordinating and integrating services. The occupational therapist contributor recognizes current issues facing occupational therapy and health care, participates in clinical research, and advocates appropriately for clients and the profession.

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is an integral part of the world-class University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. In addition to the University's six schools of the health sciences, the medical center encompasses a variety of hospitals and clinical facilities that afford students a wealth of opportunities for professional experiences. The occupational therapy faculty is recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise in pediatrics, geriatrics, research, and mental health. Students have the opportunity to participate in clinical research and community service activities.

Occupational therapists work in a variety of settings including hospitals, mental health facilities, sports medicine clinics, work hardening centers, rehabilitation centers, hand clinics, hospices, public or private schools, home health agencies, neonatal units, nursing homes, community agencies, and private practice.

The MOT Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220. Additional information regarding occupational therapy accreditation may be obtained from the AOTA Web site at www.aota.org or from the AOTA accreditation staff at 301-652-6611. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the Occupational Therapist Registered OTR® Certification Examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®). After successful completion of this examination, the individual becomes an Occupational Therapist Registered (OTR®). Most states, including Pennsylvania, require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. A felony conviction may prevent a graduate from taking this examination or obtaining state licensure.

How does an undergraduate student prepare for the Master of Occupational Therapy program?

The entry-level Master of Occupational Therapy program is a two-year professional course of study. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until a class is filled or courses begin in June.

Students are admitted into the occupational therapy program after successful completion of a baccalaureate degree, including the following prerequisite courses:

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| • Human anatomy and physiology | 4 credits |
| • Behavioral sciences (psychology, sociology, and/or anthropology) | 6 credits |
| • Statistics | 3 credits |

Prospective students are encouraged to contact the Department of Occupational Therapy at 412-383-6620 or OTpitt@shrs.pitt.edu.

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