

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program is to prepare future occupational therapy professionals with a commitment to moral purpose and personal character, who embody and enable purposeful occupational engagement for all people who experience limitations in participation, promote health and well-being across the lifespan, and within diverse contexts. Students develop the knowledge, abilities and character to be life-long learners, use critical thinking and clinical reasoning to create innovative, evidence-based solutions to society's increasingly complex and ever-changing needs, and lead a life rich in productive work and community involvement.

Program Description

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program is a twenty-four (24) month program designed to prepare qualified entry level occupational therapists. Freshman and transfer students enter an accelerated occupational therapy program completing an undergraduate degree and the Master of Science Degree in 5 years. Students must meet the outlined criteria in order to advance to the professional phase of the program. The program is structured as a hybrid curriculum combining online class instruction with hands on learning laboratories on campus. The curriculum interweaves 4 threads throughout the courses: Occupation, Clinical Reasoning, Evidence-Based Practice, and Professional Identity. The Occupational Therapy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA (2682) or (301) 652-6611, and its web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program 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 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.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates from the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at the University of Charleston will:

1. Promote the distinct value of occupation and the importance of meaningful occupation to enhance the overall health and well-being of persons, groups, communities, and populations.
2. Analyze the constructs and contexts from the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework (OTPF) that promote and enhance engagement in meaningful occupations to identify and meet the needs of persons, groups, communities, and populations.
3. Demonstrate effective critical thinking skills to evaluate evidence, develop innovative practice ideas, use a variety of knowledge sources, and be intellectually flexible to meet the occupational demands of an ever-changing world.
4. Use clinical reasoning skills to develop and provide occupational therapy services that are appropriate, effective, culturally sensitive, theory-driven, evidence-based, client-centered, and target meaningful occupations.
5. Reflect on the outcomes of interventions and the therapy process to facilitate professional development and a zest for life-long learning.
6. Assess through standardized and non-standardized means the well-being and occupational engagement of oneself and those who may need occupational therapy services to determine unmet needs and develop a plan for intervention or programming that addresses these needs to promote health and well-being, remediation or restoration, health maintenance, disease and injury prevention, and compensation and adaptation for individuals, families, communities, and populations.
7. Communicate effectively in both intraprofessional and interprofessional contexts to promote the profession and the distinct value of occupation in meeting the needs of those we serve.
8. Develop a strong professional identity and deep understanding of the various roles of the occupational therapy practitioner (mentor, educator, practitioner, and researcher), increased self-awareness, and increased self-efficacy through consistent self-reflection.
9. Obtain the knowledge and skills needed to be a generalist practitioner with a commitment to moral purpose and personal character who provides services and supervision that are ethically sound, within the scope of practice of the profession, and in accordance with the accompanying state practice act.
10. Demonstrate cultural humility and ethical decision making necessary to provide compassionate care to all clients, members of the care team, stakeholders, and community partners to support human occupation regardless of the beliefs, practices, backgrounds, income, identity, of those we serve.

What You Will Study

The Master of Occupational Therapy program awards the MSOT degree at the successful completion of twenty-four (24) months of study.

Plan of Study

Summer I

	Course Title	Credit Hour
MSOT 510	Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation	4
MSOT 511	Foundations of Occupational Therapy	3
MSOT 512	Ethics in Occupational Therapy Practice	1
MSOT 514	Introduction to Practice Settings	1
MSOT 515	Occupation Based Kinesiology	3
MOST 516	Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice and Research	3
		15

Fall I

	Course Title	Credit Hour
MSOT 520	Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation – Pediatrics	5
MSOT 521	Occupational Therapy Intervention – Pediatrics	4
MSOT 522	Level I Fieldwork A – Pediatrics	1
MSOT 524	Activity and Occupational Analysis	2
MSOT 525	Assistive Technology in Occupational Therapy	2
MSOT 526	Research – Data Analysis and Dissemination	3
		17

Spring I

	Course Title	Credit Hour
MSOT 530	Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation – Physical Disabilities	5
MSOT 531	Occupational Therapy Intervention – Physical Disabilities	5
MSOT 532	Level I Fieldwork B – Physical Disabilities	1
MSOT 535	Administration, Management, and Leadership	2
MSOT 536	Capstone	2
		15

Summer II

	Course Title	Credit Hour
MSOT 540	Occupational Therapy Process and Evaluation – Mental Health	4
MSOT 541	Occupational Therapy Intervention – Mental Health	5
MSOT 542	Level I Fieldwork C – Mental Health	1
MSOT 544	Communities and Populations	3
MSOT 545	The Occupational Therapist as an Innovator	2
		15

Fall II

	Course Title	Credit Hour
MSOT 550	Level II Fieldwork A	12
MSOT 552	Culminating Competency and Fieldwork Preparation	2
MSOT 553	Clinical Reasoning and Application in Practice Seminar I	1
		15

Spring II

	Course Title	Credit Hour
MSOT 560	Level II Fieldwork B	12
MSOT 562	Leadership and Transition to Professional Practice	2
MSOT 563	Clinical Reasoning and Application in Practice Seminar II	1
		15

Admission Requirements

The program offers three tracks for admissions: high school, undergraduate, and graduate entry.

High School Track

Qualified high school students can apply for admission to the pre-professional occupational therapy program. Once at the University of Charleston, students must take the designated prerequisites, complete the general education requirements, and the coursework related to their undergraduate major (e.g. exercise science). To transition into the professional phase of the program, they must demonstrate a 3.0 overall grade point average and earn a ‘C’ or higher in each prerequisite course and complete a minimum of 82 credit hours including 8 at the upper division level (300 – 400 level). Students who fulfill the general education requirements of the University of Charleston will earn a bachelor’s degree after successful completion of the first year of the professional phase of the occupational therapy program.

Undergraduate Transfer Track

Students without an earned bachelor’s degree can apply for admission to the pre-professional occupational therapy program. Once at the University of Charleston, students must take the designated prerequisites, complete the general education requirements, and the coursework related to their undergraduate major (e.g. exercise science). To transition into the professional phase of the program, they must demonstrate a 3.0 overall grade point average and earn a ‘C’ or higher in each prerequisite course and complete a minimum of 82 credit hours including 8 at the upper division level (300 – 400 level). Students who fulfill the general education requirements of the University of Charleston will earn a bachelor’s degree after successful completion of the first year of the professional phase of the occupational therapy program.

Graduate Track

Students with an earned bachelor’s degree can apply for admission to the professional phase of the occupational therapy program. Applicants must earn a ‘C’ or higher in each prerequisite course. Applicants with a 3.0 overall GPA will be automatically reviewed for admission. Applicants with a 2.5-2.9 overall GPA may be considered if prerequisite coursework GPA is 3.0 or higher.

Graduate admission and progression requirements to the professional phase of the MSOT program include:

1. Prerequisite coursework completed prior to starting the professional phase with the grade of a “C” or higher:
 - Statistics (3 credit hours)
 - Biology with Lab (4 credit hours)
 - Anatomy and Physiology with labs (8 credit hours)
 - Medical Terminology (1-3 credit hours)
 - Sociology (3 credits)
 - Introduction to Psychology (3 credit hours)
 - Life-Span Development (3 credit hours)
 - Abnormal Psychology (3 credit hours)

2. Cumulative GPA of 3.0
3. Students applying for direct admission to the professional phase of the program must include:
 - a. A brief typed essay (300 words or less) responding to the prompt: Describe your personal characteristics and experiences that you believe will lead to your success in the occupational therapy profession.
 - b. A resume documenting your academic and work experiences.
4. A bachelor's degree is not required for admission to the MSOT program. Students who are admitted to MSOT without a conferred undergraduate degree may work with their advisor to see if they are eligible for bachelor's degree conferral after their first year of professional course work. If not, they will be awarded a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy after successful completion of the program.

Offers of acceptance will be provided based upon cohort space availability.

Preference for admission to the professional phase of the MSOT program is given to University of Charleston students and alumni who:

1. Demonstrate a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in all major and general education requirements by the end of the spring semester of Year Three of the Pre-Professional phase of study.
2. Complete a minimum of 82 college credits including a minimum of 8 credit hours at the 300 and 400 level.
3. Demonstrate completion of all general education core and prerequisite courses.
4. Demonstrate a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average and a grade of 'C' or higher in each prerequisite course.

International student applicants to the MSOT program must follow the University of Charleston international student admissions processes and complete the prerequisite criteria.

The MSOT program utilizes a rolling admission process. Candidates are accepted until the classes start or until the class size reaches its maximum number. Applications open in July of each year.

