



The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Program is designed for students who have a baccalaureate degree and are ready to apply for the entry-level graduate program in occupational therapy. The MSOT Program does not have a preference as to the major for the bachelor's degree as long as the required prerequisite courses are completed. The best undergraduate major is one in an area in which the student would enjoy working after obtaining the undergraduate degree and should be selected based on the student's interests.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

How do I become an occupational therapist?

First, you must complete an accredited educational program. Accredited programs are available in colleges, universities and vocational, technical or community colleges throughout the country. There are no on-the-job training programs in hospitals or other healthcare facilities.

What kinds of educational programs are available?

To become an occupational therapist (OT), you must complete a masters or doctorate program. Each type of program includes a minimum of six months of supervised clinical education or fieldwork. Because educational requirements vary from school to school, it is important to obtain specific information from each institution and program.

Can I transfer credits from another educational program toward a degree in occupational therapy?

OT program requirements differ among institutions. If you have completed courses in another discipline, or are considering taking prerequisites at another educational institution, contact the individual occupational therapy program about their requirements. The USI OT Program Chair can review your transcripts and offer recommendations.

How do I find an occupational therapy educational program that fits me?

Students can enter the OT Profession as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) or as a Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR). Most COTA programs lead to an associate degree, but in the near future, COTA programs may lead to a bachelor's degree. All OT and OTA programs must meet standards developed by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and all graduates must pass a national examination before obtaining a license to practice. USI is one of only a few institutions that offer both OT and OTA Programs.

What is the employment outlook for occupational therapists?

The employment outlook for OTs is bright! Recent information published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected the demand for OTs is expected to grow.

Where do occupational therapists work?

One of the greatest advantages of a career in OT is the wide variety of opportunities available to graduates. OTs work with all age groups to promote health and wellness, and prevent disease and/or injury. OTs also work in schools with students who have learning disabilities or behavioral problems. Others work in pediatric hospitals with premature infants or with children born with cerebral palsy, Erb's palsy or Down syndrome. OTs work with individuals in their homes, at community centers, in rehabilitation hospitals, businesses and skilled nursing facilities. In these settings, OTs help people with traumatic injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease or mental health problems learn to live productive lives through the use of meaningful occupations.

What is the average salary earned by an occupational therapist?

Earning potential for occupational therapy personnel is very good, however salaries may vary somewhat with practice settings and geographic location. Check the U.S. Department of Labor website for more information.

ACCREDITATION

The University of Southern Indiana is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission. The USI 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, and its web address is www.acoteonline.org.

USI Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Curriculum

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

PREREQUISITE COURSES

28 Credit Hours

BIOL 121	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL 122	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PSY 201	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 261	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	3
PSY 322	Abnormal Psychology	3
HP 115	Medical Terminology	2
HP 225	Pharmacology & Therapeutics	3
EXSC 383	Kinesiology	3
HP 302	Biostatistics	3

PROFESSIONAL COURSEWORK

First Year

Fall Semester – 17 Credit Hours

OT 611	Disease and Occupation	3
OT 623	Psychosocial & Cognitive Strategies	4
OT 624	Fundamentals of OT Practice	3
OT 631	OT Theory & Clinical Reasoning	4
OT 652	Applied Neuroscience	3

Spring Semester – 19 Credit Hours

OT 641	Occupational Therapy Research	3
OT 643	Occupational Consideration of Activities of Daily Living	4
OT 657	Specialized Evaluation Strategies	4
OT 663	Occupation Centered Practice	4
OT 671	Occupational Therapy Leadership	4

Summer Semester – 7 Credit Hours

OT 637	Occupational Interventions/Evidence Based Practice	4
OT 651	Professional Trends/ Emerging Practice	3

Second Year

Fall Semester – 18 Credit Hours

OT 633	Physical Disabilities/Orthopedics in Occupational Therapy	4
OT 662	Professional Issues	4
OT 683	Advanced Occupational Therapy Research Strategies	3
OT 695	Prof Practicum Seminar A, B, C	3
OT 699	Occupational Therapy Synthesis	4

Spring Semester – 8 Credit Hours

OT 690	Special Topics	2
OT 696	Professional Fieldwork I	6

Summer Semester – 6 Credit Hours

OT 697	Professional Fieldwork II	6
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Total MS Credit Hours: 75

See the other side of this curriculum sheet for a list of frequently asked questions about the MSOT Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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