DEPARTMENT OF
OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE &
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

This Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy offers three degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Science (BSOS), a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree, and a Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD).

Leadership
Debra A. Rybski, Ph.D., M.S.HCA, OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/rybski-debra.php)
Department Chair

Overview
Occupational science is the study of the forms and meaning of human activity, and how everyday activities influence an individuals’ sense of identity and roles within families and communities. Occupational therapy is a health profession that employs everyday activities in the service of helping people to live healthy and satisfying lives. Services are provided to individuals who are at risk, or who have disabling conditions or life circumstances that prevent full participation in the roles and activities that are valued.

Students in Saint Louis University’s department of occupational science and occupational therapy master’s program apply their occupational science knowledge to supporting the health and quality of life of individuals throughout the lifespan, including those with disabilities and chronic illness.

Students have guaranteed entry into the graduate level master’s program if all requirements of the undergraduate program are successfully completed. The combined BSOS and MOT program is five years of study.

Qualified post-baccalaureate students with degrees in other fields may apply to the MOT program for an additional two years of study (including one summer semester).

The Post-Professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy is for Bachelor’s or Master’s educated Occupational Therapy practitioners designed to prepare them for roles as academicians, advanced practitioners, policymakers, program evaluators and advocates of the profession.

Programs
- Occupational Science, B.S. (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-science-bs)
- Occupational Therapy, M.O.T. (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-therapy-mot)
- Occupational Therapy, O.T.D. (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-therapy-otd)

Faculty
S. Omar Ahmad, Ph.D., OTD/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/ahmed-omar.php)
Karen F. Barney, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Emerita (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/barney-karen.php)
Megan Doherty, OTR, OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/doherty-meghan.php)
Julia Henderson-Kalb, MS, OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/henderson-kalb-julia.php)
Lisa A. Jaegers, MS, Ph.D., OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/jaegers-lisa.php)
Cynthia S. Matlock, Ph.D., MBA, OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/matlock-cynthia.php)
Debra A. Rybski, Ph.D., MS, MSHCA, OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/rybski-debra.php)
Kathleen L. Serfas, OTD, OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/serfas-katie.php)
Sarah Walsh, MOT, OTR/L (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/faculty/walsh-sarah.php)