OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM


Saint Louis University's occupational science and occupational therapy program offers a five-year, freshman-entry master's program. Students earn a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Science (BSOS) (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-science-bs/) after the completion of four years, including one summer, and then a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-therapy-mot/) after successful completion of an additional post-baccalaureate year. Students may also enter the program as transfer students or as post-baccalaureates. The occupational science and occupational therapy program has a focus on interprofessional care and occupational justice.

Occupational therapists work with people of all ages across the entire lifespan to improve the quality of their everyday lives and allow people to live life to its fullest. For an occupational therapist, this means focusing on a person's "occupations," including anything a person wants, needs, or has to do. Occupational therapists practice in a variety of settings, ranging from the traditional (schools, hospitals, home health, skilled nursing facilities, etc.) to the non-traditional (prisons, homeless shelters, primary care clinics, etc.). Occupational therapists partner with the client to plan interventions that promote health, focusing on activities that are important and meaningful to the individual or the community.

The post-professional doctorate program (OTD (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-therapy-otd/)) is available for individuals with a bachelor's or master's degree in occupational therapy interested in continuing their education.

Saint Louis University Occupational Therapy Program Cost of Attendance (http://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/ot-cost-2020.pdf)

Curriculum Overview

The occupational therapy program at Saint Louis University provides students with the coursework, faculty and resources to graduate as competent and caring health care professionals. Highlights of SLU's program include:

- Undergraduate students in the occupational science program have a seamless, direct entry to the graduate-level occupational therapy master's program if all of the academic and professional behavior requirements of the undergraduate program are successfully completed.
- The curriculum is divided into the pre-professional (years 1-3) and professional (years 4-5) phase. Once accepted, a student will progress through the entire program without the need for re-applying or taking a graduate entrance exam, provided the student meets the program's academic and professional behavior standards.
- Applied experiences are an integral and complementary part of the occupational therapy curriculum. Occupational science and occupational therapy students participate in several levels of clinical experiences and fieldwork, beginning in year 3 and culminating in the completion of two 12-week full-time fieldwork experiences in a variety of settings beginning in the spring semester of year 5.
- Upon graduation with the MOT degree (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-therapy-mot/), students must pass the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy examination to obtain a license to practice occupational therapy.
- The curriculum is carefully planned to form students holistically and includes a liberal arts education in the Jesuit tradition with an emphasis on interprofessional health collaboration, a foundation in occupational science, occupational therapy coursework and field experiences in research and service.
- Students have the opportunity to study abroad in the spring semester of their sophomore year.
- The undergraduate program (BSOS (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-science-bs/)) is one of a select few U.S. programs focused on the discipline of occupational science — the underpinnings of the occupational therapy profession.
- Students are assigned to a faculty mentor who supports the student's professional development.
- Undergraduate students have the option to conduct research and produce projects/papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences.

Clinical and Research Opportunities

Clinical fieldwork is an integral and complementary part of the occupational therapy curriculum. Through classroom and fieldwork experiences, students develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors that allow for occupation-centered and evidence-driven occupational therapy practice. Occupational science and occupational therapy students participate in several levels of clinical experiences and fieldwork.

Applied Community Service Experiences take place during year 3 and are aligned with students' engagement in occupational science courses. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 20 hours of experiences throughout the fall and spring semesters.

Level I Fieldwork is the applied experience that is coordinated with coursework during the fall and spring semesters of year (professional year) 1 and the fall semester of year 5 (professional year 2). Level I Fieldwork provides occupational therapy students with opportunities to develop professional behaviors, establish relationships with clients/patients and staff, identify the role of occupational therapy in various treatment settings, formulate goals and objectives in the therapeutic process, and demonstrate emerging occupational therapy skills. Course instructors design assignments to be completed during Level I Fieldwork to assist students with meeting the learning objectives of the fieldwork experience, while also addressing the learning objectives of the course.

Level II Fieldwork occurs January through June of year 5. Level II Fieldwork is the in-depth practical experience in the delivery of occupational therapy services that focuses on the promotion of clinical reasoning and reflective practice skills, the application of the treatment process including evaluation, intervention, and discharge, and professional behavior development with the ultimate goal of preparing our graduates for entry-level occupational therapy practice. Level II Fieldwork can take place in either traditional or emerging practice settings.
Students complete two 12-week Level II Fieldwork experiences following the successful completion of all didactic coursework. Fieldwork objectives for these experiences are collaboratively established by fieldwork sites and the academic program. During each Level II Fieldwork experience, students participate in weekly assignments in order to maintain close contact with the academic program, track the progress of learning and skill development, and assist with the achievement of Level II Fieldwork learning objectives. The MOT program (https://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/health-sciences/occupational-science-therapy/occupational-therapy-mot/) is affiliated with approximately 300 fieldwork sites across the United States.

Regulations require all students to complete a criminal background check and a drug test at least once during the program; either or both may be repeated as agency requirements demand. Positive results from the criminal background check or drug tests may result in ineligibility to graduate from the program. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's eligibility for professional certification and licensure.

Research
Occupational therapy students who choose to pursue a master’s project are matched with a faculty member who mentors their development of a comprehensive project that is closely associated with the faculty member’s scholarship. Through this process and concurrent applied research seminars, you’ll have opportunities to gain an understanding of the research process in a practice setting or the academic environment.

Careers
Upon completion of an accredited educational program and earning a master’s degree or entry-level clinical doctorate degree in occupational therapy, graduates are required to successfully pass the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) examination. After successfully passing the exam, students will receive the designation of OTR: occupational therapist, registered

In most states, practitioners must hold a current license or limited permit in order to work. Typically, therapists must fulfill continuing education requirements in order to maintain certification and/or licensure.

Employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase by 18% between 2018 and 2028, much faster than the average occupation according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

About half of occupational therapists work in offices of occupational therapy or in hospitals. Others work in schools, nursing homes and home health services. Additional opportunities include consultation to industry, community settings, teaching and research. The salary of an occupational therapist varies based upon geographic location, years of experience and type of employment. The 2018 median annual salary for an occupational therapist was $84,270, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Admission Requirements
Freshman
Admission criteria include a minimum GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale and an ACT composite score of at least 24, with no subsection lower than 22 (or equivalent SAT scores). Four years of high school science, including chemistry, biology and preferably anatomy or physics, is also required, along with four years of math and four years of English. Admitted occupational therapy students have an average GPA of 3.70 and an average ACT composite score of 26.

In order to qualify for early occupational therapy admission consideration, students must have an ACT composite score of 30 or higher with no subsection lower than 28 (or equivalent SAT scores), a 3.85 GPA (weighted) or higher on a 4.00 scale, and have satisfied the curriculum requirements listed above.

The application deadline is Dec. 1. Late applications are not considered. Admission decisions will be made Feb. 1.

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Transfer
• The program reserves up to 10 seats for qualified sophomore and junior transfer students with entry beginning in the fall term.
• Transfer students must have a minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA, write a 500-word personal essay and have a minimum 20 hours of experience in a variety of occupational therapy practice settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools or community organizations.
• Per university policy, courses with grades of C or above may be eligible for transfer credit.
• Students with fewer than 75 earned credit hours when entering the program are eligible for transfer admission.
• All prerequisite courses must have been completed within the last five years.
• It is recommended that science courses be taken at a four-year university; however, community college coursework will be accepted.
• Science courses taken online are not accepted.
• In-progress coursework must be completed by the semester of entry.
• Students must have their 20 hours of experience documented in the Journal of Experiences.
• Students should apply no later than the last day of February for fall entry. For further information, contact the undergraduate program coordinator at ot@slu.edu.
• Current students interested in declaring this major should make an appointment with their academic adviser to review coursework and eligibility. Students will also need to schedule a meeting with the occupational therapy academic adviser, Tara Ernst at tara.ernst@slu.edu.
• External transfer students can determine which of their credits will transfer (https://www.slu.edu/admission/transfer/credits/). Transfer students with additional questions should contact the Transfer Admissions Office at 314-977-2500. A transfer advisor will review
your coursework and eligibility for the program, as well as discuss admission procedures to the university.

**Post-Baccalaureate**

Post-baccalaureate applications are not currently being accepted. Please check back periodically for updates.

Post-baccalaureate applicants to the OT program are required to have completed nine prerequisite courses (listed below), earning a minimum cumulative 3.20 GPA:

- Biology with lab (4 credits)
- Chemistry with lab (4 credits)
- Basic anatomy (3 credits)
- Physiology (3 credits)
- Physics (3 credits)
- Lifespan human development (3 credits)
- Abnormal psychology (3 credits)
- Research methods (3 credits)
- Medical terminology

All nine prerequisite courses must have been completed within the last 10 years. Grades below a ‘C’ will not be accepted. It is recommended that science courses be taken at a four-year university, but community college coursework will be accepted. Science courses taken online will not be accepted.

All prerequisite coursework must be completed by the application deadline. Transcripts must be submitted to the Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy system and will not be accepted by SLU.

**Application Requirements**

**Freshman**

Freshmen or undergraduate transfer applicants from the U.S. or abroad can begin the application process online through the SLU Admissions (https://www.slu.edu/admission/) page. SLU also accepts the Common App.

**Post-Baccalaureate**

Apply through the Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy (OTCAS). The OTCAS is a centralized service that enables prospective occupational therapy students to submit all application materials electronically. Application materials that must be submitted to OTCAS include:

- Official transcripts
- Two professional letters of reference
- Personal essay up to 500 words, which should be a discussion of experiences in the field and reasons why you are interested in pursuing a degree in occupational therapy

**Post-Baccalaureate International Students**

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/y)
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

**Post-Baccalaureate Deadline**

Students should apply by Jan. 15. The application period for the occupational therapy program begins in mid-July. All applications are due by Jan. 15. Interviews will be conducted throughout February and all final decisions will be made and communicated by March 1.

**Scholarships and Financial Aid**

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need. In addition to University scholarships, the Doisy College of Health Sciences offers a scholarship to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
- **Financial Aid:** Provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at http://finaid.slu.edu.

**Accreditation**

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, (ACOTE), American Occupational Therapy Association, (AOTA)

6116 Executive Boulevard
Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929
(301) 652-2682
http://www.aota.org

For more information about the SLU Occupational Therapy program outcomes, matriculation rate, graduation rate, certification exam pass rate and employment rate, please see Program Outcomes.

Program Outcomes (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/ot-accreditation-0119.pdf)

The total number of graduates from the Saint Louis University Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program during the three-year period of 2017-2019 was 166, with an overall graduation rate of 96.0%.

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 successfully passing the exam, students will receive the designation of OTR or occupational therapist, registered. In addition, most 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.


### Learning Requirements

**Bachelor of Science in Occupational Science**

1. Graduates will be able to describe the scope of the discipline of occupational science.
2. Graduates will be able to apply occupational science knowledge in practice.
3. Graduates will be able to describe the relationship between situational factors and opportunities for occupational engagement, with an emphasis on identifying injustices.
4. Graduates will be able to analyze disciplinary concepts of humans as occupational beings.
5. Graduates will be able to employ discipline-specific methods of scholarly and clinical inquiry.

**Master of Occupational Therapy**

1. Graduates will be able to apply theories that underlie the practice of occupational therapy.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate skills in assessment and intervention practice in the implementation of occupational therapy with clients across the lifespan.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate skills in research designs.
4. Graduates will be able to effectively interact through written communication in a professionally acceptable manner.
5. Graduates will be able to construct a professional sense of self as an occupational therapist.

### Requirements

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<tr>
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<td>HSI 2200</td>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
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<td>PHIL 2050</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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<td>Foreign Language</td>
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**Required for B.S. in Occupational Science**

- OCS 1000 | Seminar in OT Practice                             | 2       |
- OCS 1010 | Introduction to Occupational Science and Therapy   | 2       |
- OCS 3120 | The Study of Occupation                            | 3       |
- OCS 3220 | Contexts of Occupation                             | 3       |
- OCS 3320 | Development of Humans as Occupational Beings       | 3       |
- OCS 3520 | Personal and Community Wellness                    | 3       |
- OCS 3620 | Lived Experiences: Disabilities and Chronic Conditions | 3       |
- OCS 3720 | Critical Perspectives of Culture, Occupation, & Justice | 3       |
- OCS 4620 | Clinical Conditions and Phenomenology              | 3       |

**Required for Master’s of Occupational Therapy**

- ANAT 4000 | Human Gross Anatomy                                | 6       |
- OCTH 5011 | Fundamentals of Occupational Science (Post-Baccalaureate Students Only) | 3       |
- MOT 5020 | Professional Development I                         | 1       |
- MOT 5030 | Professional Development II                        | 1       |
- MOT 5040 | Professional Development III                       | 1       |
- MOT 5150 | Kinesiology                                         | 3       |
- MOT 5170 | Neuroscience in Occupational Therapy              | 4       |
- MOT 5250 | Policy & Administration                            | 2       |
- MOT 5260 | Problem-Based Learning in Occupational Therapy    | 2       |
- MOT 5300 | Fundamentals of OT Practice                        | 3       |
- MOT 5350 | Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy    | 3       |
- MOT 5410 | Occupational Therapy in Mental Health             | 3       |
- MOT 5450 | Occupational Performance & Assessment of Children and Youth | 3       |
MOT 5460  Occupational Therapy with Aging Adults  3
MOT 5480  Occupational Therapy & Upper Extremity Rehabilitation  2
MOT 5490  Applied Research I  1
MOT 5500  Applied Research II  1
MOT 5550  Occupational Therapy for Adults with Neurological Dysfunction  3
MOT 5560  Occupational Therapy and Community Practice  3
MOT 5600  Occupational Therapy with Infants and Children  4
MOT 5650  Applied Research IV (optional 1-6 credits)  1

Total Credits  162

Non-Course Requirements
Upon completion of all requirements, students receive the Master's in Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) degree and are eligible to sit for the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). In addition to passing the national exam, most states require licensure in order to practice.

Note: All Level II Fieldwork must be complete within 18 months following completion of academic preparation.

Undergraduate Continuation Standards
The required GPA minimum for freshmen is 2.70, for sophomores is 2.80 and for juniors is 2.90.

Graduate/Professional Continuation Standards
Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap
Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Master of Occupational Therapy (B.S.O.S./M.O.T.) Direct Entry

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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPE 4900</td>
<td>Interprofessional Community Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCS 3520</td>
<td>Personal and Community Wellness</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCS 3620</td>
<td>Lived Experiences: Disabilities and Chronic Conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCS 3720</td>
<td>Critical Perspectives of Culture, Occupation, &amp; Justice</td>
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Credits

Total Credits  16
PHYS 1050  Intro to Physics of Human Body  3  

Credits  14  

Summer  
ANAT 4000  Human Gross Anatomy  6  

Credits  6  

Year Four  
Fall  
MOT 5020  Professional Development I  1  
MOT 5150  Kinesiology  3  
MOT 5170  Neuroscience in Occupational Therapy  4  
MOT 5300  Fundamentals of OT Practice  3  
MOT 5460  Occupational Therapy with Aging Adults  3  
OCS 4620  Clinical Conditions and Phenomenology  3  

Credits  17  

Spring  
Bachelor of Occupational Science degree awarded upon completion of this semester  
MOT 5030  Professional Development II  1  
MOT 5350  Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy  3  
MOT 5400  Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Dysfunction  4  
MOT 5410  Occupational Therapy in Mental Health  3  
MOT 5450  Occupational Performance & Assessment of Children and Youth  3  
MOT 5490  Applied Research I  1  
MOT 5500  Applied Research II  1  

Credits  18  

Year Five  
Fall  
MOT 5040  Professional Development III  1  
MOT 5250  Policy & Administration  2  
MOT 5260  Problem-Based Learning in Occupational Therapy  2  
MOT 5480  Occupational Therapy & Upper Extremity Rehabilitation  2  
MOT 5550  Occupational Therapy for Adults with Neurological Dysfunction  3  
MOT 5560  Occupational Therapy and Community Practice  3  
MOT 5600  Occupational Therapy with Infants and Children  4  
MOT 5650  Applied Research III  1  

Credits  18  

Spring  
MOT 5700  Advanced Field Work I  6  
MOT 5750  Advanced Fieldwork II  6  
MOT 5660  Applied Research IV (optional 1-6 credits)  

Credits  12  

Total Credits  163  

1: Select one of the following: ANTH 1200, ASTD 3200, SOC 1100, ECON XXXX or POLS XXXX  

2: Select one of the following: ENGL 2XXX-3XXX or HIST XXXX  

3: Select one of the following: CMM 1200, Fine Arts or Foreign Language  

Post-Baccalaureate Entry  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANAT 4000</td>
<td>Human Gross Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTH 5011</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Occupational Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER</td>
<td></td>
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Fall  
MOT 5020  Professional Development I  1  
MOT 5150  Kinesiology  3  
MOT 5170  Neuroscience in Occupational Therapy  4  
MOT 5200  Clinical Conditions & Phenomenology  3  
MOT 5300  Fundamentals of OT Practice  3  
MOT 5460  Occupational Therapy with Aging Adults  3  

Credits  17  

Spring  
MOT 5030  Professional Development II  1  
MOT 5350  Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy  3  
MOT 5400  Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Dysfunction  4  
MOT 5410  Occupational Therapy in Mental Health  3  
MOT 5450  Occupational Performance & Assessment of Children and Youth  3  
MOT 5490  Applied Research I  1  
MOT 5500  Applied Research II  1  
IPE 4900  Interprofessional Community Practicum  2  

Credits  18  

Year Two  
Fall  
MOT 5040  Professional Development III  1  
MOT 5250  Policy & Administration  2  
MOT 5260  Problem-Based Learning in Occupational Therapy  2  
MOT 5480  Occupational Therapy & Upper Extremity Rehabilitation  2  
MOT 5550  Occupational Therapy for Adults with Neurological Dysfunction  3  
MOT 5560  Occupational Therapy and Community Practice  3  
MOT 5600  Occupational Therapy with Infants and Children  4  
MOT 5650  Applied Research III  1  

Credits  18  

Spring  
MOT 5700  Advanced Field Work I  6  
MOT 5750  Advanced Fieldwork II  6  
MOT 5660  Applied Research IV (optional 1-6 credits)  

Credits  12  

Total Credits  163  

1: Select one of the following: ANTH 1200, ASTD 3200, SOC 1100, ECON XXXX or POLS XXXX
MOT 5660  Applied Research IV (optional 1-6 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Notes**

Please note: Due to the large number of students currently enrolled in our program, we are not admitting post-baccalaureate students in the summer 2020 semester. Please contact the department to discuss the next possible start date for post-baccalaureate applicants.

**Contact Us**

Apply for Admission ([https://www.slu.edu/admission/](https://www.slu.edu/admission/))

For additional admission questions please contact:

Julie Miller  
Recruitment Specialist  
314-977-2570  
dchs@health.slu.edu