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 (B.S.O.S.) degree after completing four years, including one summer, and then a Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) degree after successfully completing 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 various 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 important and meaningful activities to the individual or the community.

The post-professional doctorate program (O.T.D (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 undergraduate program's academic and professional behavior requirements are successfully completed.
- The curriculum is divided into the pre-professional (years 1-3) and professional (years 4-5) phases. 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 completing two 12-week full-time fieldwork experiences in various settings beginning in the spring semester of year 5.
- Upon graduation with the M.O.T. degree, 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 (https://www.slu.edu/about/catholic-jesuit-identity/) 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 (B.S.O.S.) 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 experience throughout the fall and spring semesters.

Level I Fieldwork is the applied experience coordinated with coursework during the fall and spring semesters of year 1 (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 course’s learning objectives.

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 sites and the academic program collaboratively establish fieldwork objectives for these experiences. During each Level II Fieldwork experience, students participate in weekly assignments 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.
Strong applicants will have:
• Basis.
• Average total 1230 SAT.

Accepted in previous years had an average composite 26 ACT or an
test-optional or with a test score, applicants should note that students
Standardized test scores are optional. When evaluating whether to apply
Freshman Applicants
Admission Requirements
Statistics.

An occupational therapist was $87,840, according to the Bureau of Labor
experience and type of employment. The 2020 median annual salary for
occupational therapist varies based upon geographic location, years of
industry, community settings, teaching and research. The salary of an
home health services. Additional opportunities include consultation to
offices or in hospitals. Others work in schools, nursing homes and
nursing environments. Additional opportunities include consultation to
in a variety of Occupational Therapy practice settings, including
hospitals, nursing homes, schools, or community organizations.
Alternative ideas include discussions with therapists,
conversations/relationships with people with disabilities or their
families, volunteering, or employment. Record your experiences in
the Journal of Experience (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/
program-pdfs/journal-of-experiences.pdf), listing the date,
amount of time, site, and summary of activities.

• Personal Essay
• Students submit an essay discussing the reasons for pursuing a
career in Occupational Therapy. The essay should integrate
an understanding/definition of the profession, experiences
in the profession, and an assessment of personal qualities/
competence for the study and practice as a clinician. The essay
will be evaluated on content, writing style, and a maximum length
of 500 words.

Initial Transfer Admission Steps

Transfer Applicants
General Information

• The Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy program at
Saint Louis University admits both internal and external transfer
students (students currently enrolled in another program at SLU
or students enrolled at another college or university). The number
of students admitted varies and is based on the available space
in the respective cohort. A change of major status and program
entry occurs the next applicable Fall or Spring semester following
acceptance.
• Level of entry (freshman, sophomore, junior) is based on the number
of prerequisite course(s) completed (see curriculum roadmap).
  • Students should apply by March 15 for fall semester entry
  • Students should apply by Oct. 15 for spring semester entry

Admission Criteria

• Prerequisite Coursework
  • Students must have an earned cumulative 3.2 GPA for all prior
coursework.
  • Per university policy, courses with grades of C or above may be
eligible for transfer credit.
  • All prerequisite courses must have been completed within the last
5 years.
  • It is recommended that science courses be taken at a four-year
university; however, community college coursework may be
accepted.
  • Science courses taken online are not accepted.
  • In-progress coursework must be completed by the semester of
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will be evaluated on content, writing style, and a maximum length
of 500 words.
Post-Baccalaureate applicants to the OT program are required to have completed eight 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)
- Lifespan human development (3 credits)
- Abnormal psychology (3 credits)
- Research methods (3 credits)
- Medical terminology (1-3 credits)

- Completion of the eight prerequisite courses with a minimum of 3.20 GPA
- A minimum of 20 hours of volunteering or observation experience with occupational therapists (OT) or occupational therapy assistants (OTA)

All eight prerequisite courses must have been completed within the last five 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. Occupational therapy coursework taken elsewhere will not be accepted. Admitted students must be physically present on campus for the start of Gross Anatomy in mid-May (the exact date varies each year, students will be informed as soon as the start date is known).

Students fulfilling any prerequisite courses in the spring term before our program begins may be conditionally accepted into the program on the agreement that they will complete those prerequisites with a grade of C or higher before the start of Gross Anatomy.

Applications must be completed and transcripts submitted through the Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy system (https://otcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login) by the application deadline of Jan. 22. Transcripts 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 Admission (https://www.slu.edu/admission/) page. SLU also accepts the Common App.

**Post-Baccalaureate**

Apply through the Centralized Application Service for Occupational Therapy (OTCAS) (https://otcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login). 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/) by the application deadline of Jan. 22. Transcripts will not be accepted by SLU.
- 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
Applications for admission to the MOT program must be submitted through OTCAS beginning Sept. 1 and ending Jan. 22. 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, seniors and graduate students.
- **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, see the Doisy College Scholarship page (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/about/scholarships-for-current-students.php).

Accreditation
This program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, (ACOTE), an Associated Advisory Council of the Executive Board of the American Occupational Therapy Association, (AOTA). 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 SLU’s occupational therapy program outcomes, matriculation rate, graduation rate, certification exam pass rate and employment rate, please see the program outcomes document (https://www.slu.edu/doisy/degrees/program-pdfs/ot-accreditation-0119.pdf).

View Program Outcomes (PDF) (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 (M.O.T.) program during the three-year period of 2019-2021 was 167, with an overall graduation rate of 97.1%.

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.

Occupational Therapy NBCOT Pass Rates (http://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolstats.aspx)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 1000</td>
<td>Basic Human Anatomy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1240 &amp; BIOL 1245</td>
<td>General Biology: Information Flow and Evolution and Principles of Biology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1080 &amp; CHEM 1085</td>
<td>Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab (satisfies CORE 3800)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE 1200</td>
<td>Eloquentia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 1500</td>
<td>Cura Personalis 1: Self in Community</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 1600</td>
<td>Ultimate Questions: Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 1700</td>
<td>Ultimate Questions: Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE 2500</td>
<td>Cura Personalis 2: Self in Contemplation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE 2800</td>
<td>Eloquentia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 3400</td>
<td>Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 3500</td>
<td>Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1900</td>
<td>Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric and Research (satisfies CORE 1900)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCE3XXX/4XXX</td>
<td>Health Care Ethics Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSCI 2200</td>
<td>Medical Terminology</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSCI 2500</td>
<td>Human Development across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPE 2100</td>
<td>Interprofessional Collaboration and Healthcare in Global Context</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPE 4200</td>
<td>Applied Decision-Making in Interprofessional Practice</td>
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### 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.

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<tr>
<td>OCS 1000</td>
<td>Seminar in OT Practice (satisfies CORE 1000)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 1010</td>
<td>General Psychology (satisfies CORE 3600)</td>
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| Total Credits | 155-160 |

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<td>ANAT 1000</td>
<td>Basic Human Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE 3400</td>
<td>Ways of Thinking: Aesthetics, History, and Culture</td>
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<td>HSCI 2500</td>
<td>Human Development across the Lifespan</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPE 2100</td>
<td>Interprofessional Collaboration and Healthcare in Global Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 3XXX</td>
<td>Psychology Elective</td>
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| Total Credits | 155-160 |
Year Two

Fall
CHEM 1080 & CHEM 1085 Principles of Chemistry 1 Lecture and Principles of Chemistry 1 Lab (satisfies CORE 3800) 4
OCS 1010 Introduction to Occupational Science and Therapy (satisfies CORE 3500) 2
ORES 2320 Interprofessional Health Outcomes 2
PSY 3460 Abnormal Psychology 3
STAT 1300 Elementary Statistics with Computers (satisfies CORE 3200) 3

Year Two

Credits 14

Spring
Participation in Study Abroad Optional
CORE 1200 Eloquienia Perfecta 2: Oral and Visual Communication 3
CORE 1600 Ultimate Questions: Theology 3
CORE 2800 Eloquienia Perfecta 3: Creative Expression 3
HSCI 2200 Medical Terminology 3
PHIL 2050 or HCE 2010 Ethics or Foundations in Clinical Health Care Ethics 3

Year Three

Fall
IPE 4200 Applied Decision-Making in Interprofessional Practice 3
OCS 3120 The Study of Occupation 3
OCS 3220 Contexts of Occupation 3
OCS 3320 Development of Humans as Occupational Beings 3
PPY 2540 Human Physiology 4

Year Three

Credits 16

Spring
CORE 3500 Cura Personalis 3: Self in the World 1
HCE 3XXX Health Care Ethics Elective 3
IPE 4900 Interprofessional Community Practicum (satisfies CORE 4000) 2
OCS 3520 Personal and Community Wellness 3
OCS 3720 Critical Perspectives of Culture, Occupation, & Justice 3
OCS 3820 Practical Applications in Occupational Science 3

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

Year Five

Fall
MOT 5020 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

Year Five

Credits 16

Spring
MOT 5020 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

Year Five

Credits 18

Summer
ANAT 4000 Human Gross Anatomy 6

Year Four

Credits 6

Total Credits 160

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

Course Title Credits
Year One
Summer
ANAT 4000 Human Gross Anatomy 6

Year One

Credits 6

Fall
MOT 5020 Professional Development I 1
MOT 5150 Kinesiology 3
MOT 5300 Fundamentals of OT Practice 3
MOT 5460 Occupational Therapy with Aging Adults 3
### MOT 5170
Neuroscience in Occupational Therapy

### MOT 5200
Clinical Conditions & Phenomenology

### MOT 5300
Fundamentals of OT Practice

### MOT 5460
Occupational Therapy with Aging Adults

**Credits**

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<td>MOT 5200</td>
<td>Clinical Conditions &amp; Phenomenology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOT 5300</td>
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**Spring**

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<td>Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Dysfunction</td>
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<td>MOT 5410</td>
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<td>Occupational Performance &amp; Assessment of Children and Youth</td>
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<td>MOT 5490</td>
<td>Applied Research I</td>
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**Year Two**

**Fall**

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<td>MOT 5250</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Administration</td>
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<td>MOT 5260</td>
<td>Problem-Based Learning in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>MOT 5480</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy &amp; Upper Extremity Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>MOT 5550</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy for Adults with Neurological Dysfunction</td>
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<td>MOT 5560</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy and Community Practice</td>
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<td>MOT 5600</td>
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<td>Applied Research III</td>
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**Spring**

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<td>MOT 5750</td>
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<td>MOT 5660</td>
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**Total Credits**

|                |                                                        | **71**  |

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**Contact Us**

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

**Contact Doisy College of Health Sciences:**

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