

Occupational Therapy (MS)

Degree Requirements

Master of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy Requirements for Graduation Effective December 2021		Credit Hours
The Master of Science degree program consists of the following courses:		
OT 500	Occupation in Context	3
OT 501	Occupational Development	4
OT 504	Neuroscientific Basis of Occup Perf	3
OT 505	Scientific Inquiry I	2
OT 506	Research Design I	1
OT 507	ADL/IADL Evaluation and Intervention PEDS	2
OT 508	Experiential Learning - PEDS	2
OT 509	OT Foundations	3
OT 511	Neuromusculoskeletal Assessment Lecture	1
OT 513	Neuromusculoskeletal Experiential Learning	2
OT 515	Psychosocial Evaluation & Intervention	3
OT 517	Occupational Evaluation I	3
OT 521	Practicum I	1
OT 525	Documentation	3
OT 526	OT for Adults	2
OT 528	OT for Adult Experiential Learning	2
OT 531	Practicum II	1
OT 535	Foundations in Low Vision Rehabilitation	2
OT 539	Professional Development Seminar	1
OT 545	Scientific Inquiry II	2
OT 547	Research Implementation	1
OT 550	Level II Fieldwork (A)	6
OT 551	Practicum IV Psychosocial	1
OT 552	School Based OT Practice	3
OT 553	OT and the Older Adult	2
OT 554	OT and the Older Adult Experiential Learning	2
OT 555	Level II Fieldwork (B)	6
OT 557	OT for Young Child	3
OT 558	Technology & Environ Interventions in OT	3

OT 567	OT UE/Work	2
OT 568	UE/Work Exp Learning	2
OT 571	Interprofessional Collaboration and Practice	1
OT 572	OT Child & Adolescence	2
OT 573	OT in Acute Care	2
OT 574	OT & Wellness	3
OT 575	Advanced Professional Writing	2
OT 576	Research Publication	1
OT 577	Management & Supervision	3
OT 578	Intervention Competencies	2
OT 581	OT Clinical Practice I (Online)	2
OT 582	Clinical Practice 2 (Online)	2
	Plus, one elective course	1

Expenses

Students admitted in the Occupational Therapy program will be charged a matriculation deposit of \$300 required to secure a seat in the entering class. This amount is not refundable but will be applied towards tuition expenses after classes begin.

Students should be prepared for extra expenses associated with professional studies including books, local travel to and from fieldwork sites and out-of-town travel and living expenses during Level II Fieldwork assignments. Special lab fees are assessed for the following courses:

Abbr	Course Description	Fees
OT 500	Occupation in Context	\$30.00
OT 501	Occupational Development I	\$21.00
OT 504	Neuroscientific Basis of Occup Perf	\$70.00
OT 508	Experiential Learning	\$26.00
OT 513	Neuromusculoskeletal Experiential Learning	\$30.00
OT 515	Psychosocial Evaluation & Intervention	\$26.00
OT 517	Occupational Evaluation I	\$50.00
OT 521	Practicum I	\$50.00
OT 528	OT for Adult Experiential Learning	\$65.00
OT 531	Practicum II	50.00
OT 535	Foundations in Low Vision Rehabilitation	\$32.00
OT 545	Scientific Inquiry II	\$25.00
OT 550	Level II Fieldwork (A)	\$55.00
OT 551	Practicum III	\$50.00
OT 552	School Basted OT Practice	\$38.00
OT 554	OT and the Older Adult Experiential Learning	\$32.00
OT 555	Level II Fieldwork (B)	\$5.00

OT 557	OT for the Young Child	\$35.00
OT 558	Technology and Environmental Interventions in OT	\$50.00
OT 568	UE/Work Experiential Learning	\$85.00
OT 572	Evaluation & Intervention Child & Adolescence	\$33.00
OT 573	OT in Acute Care	\$30.00
OT 574	OT & Wellness	\$13.00
OT 578	Intervention Competencies	\$40.00
OT 582	Clinical Practice 2	\$25.00

Retention Policies In accordance with the Policies of the University of South Alabama Graduate School:

- A minimum overall 3.0 GPA on all work attempted in the student's specific program of study is required. A maximum of two courses with the grade of "C" may be counted toward a degree program.
- Any term in which a graduate student drops below a 3.0 GPA, the student is placed on probationary status and has a period of two terms to attain a 3.0 GPA or be dismissed from the Graduate School.

In addition, the following Departmental Retention Policies apply:

- Students in the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degree program are required to achieve a minimum grade of "C" in each course in the occupational therapy curriculum. This minimum grade of "C" reflects only the letter grade since many courses will require an 80% or 90% competency in order to be considered passing level.
- A student who receives a grade below "C" will be academically dismissed.
- Any combination of nine (9) semester hours of grades of "C" in OT courses will result in academic dismissal.
- If for any reason a student must withdraw from the occupational therapy program, re-admission will require approval of the department chairperson and the Dean of the Pat Capps Covey College of Allied Health Professions.
- All occupational therapy coursework taken prior to Level II Fieldwork must be successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in order for a student to be eligible to proceed with Level II Fieldwork.
- Level II Fieldwork will be graded as Pass/Fail using the criterion scores developed by the American Occupational Therapy Association. A student will be allowed to withdraw from fieldwork, without penalty, under special circumstances, for example, a serious illness/newly acquired disability. Withdrawal from Level II Fieldwork requires the recommendation of the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and the permission of the Department Chairperson. All repeat fieldwork experiences must be completed within one year.
- If a student fails a Level II Fieldwork course (OT 550, OT 555), a "U" or unsatisfactory will be recorded as the grade. IF the student is permitted to repeat the Level II Fieldwork course, the student may be required to complete remediation tasks prior to repeating the course. The Academic Fieldwork Coordinator will schedule the repeated fieldwork at the earliest available time, but no later than 12 months following completion of all other academic requirements. A student failing to satisfactorily complete two out of three attempts of the 12-week fieldwork placements (OT 550, OT 555) shall be dismissed from the program.

Note: In some semesters, courses may not start and/or finish during the regular University beginning and ending dates for the semester. For example, one course may start at the beginning of a semester and finish at the semester midpoint, while another course starts at the midpoint of the semester and finishes at the semester's end. Accreditation: The Department of Occupational Therapy MSOT Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's phone number is (301) 652-6611 (x2914). 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). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may adversely affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Clinical fieldwork placements will be provided, as safely available, to our students and may require variations in dates for starting and for completion of the clinical rotations. In addition, simulation may be utilized for the completion of level I fieldwork

Graduation Plan

Master Of Science (MS): Occupational Therapy (OT) (95 Total Hours)

First Year - Fall Semester

Course ID	Course Title	Hours
OT 500	Occupational in Context	3
OT 501	Occupational Development	4
OT 509	Occupational Therapy Foundations	3
OT 511	Musculoskeletal Assessment	1
OT 513	Musculoskeletal Experiential Learning	2
OT 517	Occupational Evaluation I	3
Total Hours		16

First Year - Spring Semester

Course ID	Course Title	Hours
OT 505	Scientific Inquiry I	2
OT 506	Research Design	1
OT 507	ADL/IADL Eval & Intervention Pediatrics	2
OT 508	Experiential Learning-Peds	2
OT 515	Psychosocial Eval & Interventions	3
OT 526	OT for Adults	2
OT 528	Adult Experiential Learning	2
OT 535	Foundations Low Vision Rehab	2
OT 521-101	Practicum I	1
Total Hours		17

First Year - Summer Semester

Course ID	Course Title	Hours
OT 525	Documentation	3
OT 552	School Based OT	3
OT 553	OT and the Older Adult	2
OT 554	OT & Older Adult Experiential Learning	2
OT 551	Practicum Psycho/Social	1
One Elective course -OT 590 or AHP 510		1

Total Hours 12

Second Year - Fall Semester

Course ID	Course Title	Hours
OT 504	Neuroscience Basis of Occupational Performance	3
OT 545	Scientific Inquiry II	2
OT 547	Research Implementation	1
OT 557	OT for the Young Child	3
OT 558	Technology	3
OT 567	OT UE Injuries/Work	2
OT 568	UE Injuries/Work Experiential Learning	2
OT 531-101	Practicum	1
Total Hours		17

Second Year - Spring Semester

Course ID	Course Title	Hours
OT 539	Professional Development Seminar	1
OT 571	Interprofessional Collaboration and Practice	1
OT 572	OT Child/Adolescent	2
OT 573	OT in Acute Care	2
OT 574	OT and Wellness	3
OT 575	OT Advanced Professional Writing	2
OT 576	Research Analysis and Presentation	1
OT 577	Management and Supervision	3
OT 578	Intervention Competencies	2
Total Hours		17

Second Year - Summer Semester

Course ID	Course Title	Hours
OT 550	Level II Fieldwork (A)	6
OT 581	OT Clinical Practice I (online)	2
Total Hours		8

Third Year - Fall Semester

Course ID	Course Title	Hours
OT 555	Level II Fieldwork (B)	6
OT 582	OT Clinical Practice II (online)	2
	Total Hours	8

Fourth Year - Spring Semester

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
	Total Hours	

Notes

*Recommended Course

**See Degree Requirements

Department Information

Department of Occupational Therapy Staff	(251) 445-9222
Chair	Donna A. Wooster, PhD.
Associate Professor	Wooster
Assistant Professors	Brock, Deacy, O'Connor, Taylor, Thompson, Somerville
Instructors	

Department of Occupational Therapy website
<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/alliedhealth/ot>

Occupational Therapy is a health care profession devoted to providing skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all aspects of their lives. Occupational therapists work with persons with acute and chronic physical,

psychosocial, mental and developmental disabilities. An occupational therapist may aid in the growth and development of premature babies; create a learning environment for physically and mentally challenged children; adapt home environments for persons with stroke, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury and other disabilities; or create activities that are designed to restore mental health for persons with emotional, mental, or substance abuse problems. Occupational therapy focuses on "skills for the job of living" which includes all of the necessary skills for individuals to "live life to its fullest" and lead independent and satisfying lives.

The Master of Science degree program in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) is an entry-level professional program designed to enable the student to develop advanced critical reasoning skills and to prepare the graduate for professional practice in a variety of settings. Graduates will also have the capability of assuming responsibilities in the areas of administration, program development, consultation and research in occupational therapy.

The program consists of 95 semester hours and is seven consecutive semesters in length. This includes 24 weeks of full-time Level II Fieldwork as required by accreditation standards. Level II Fieldwork is available in a variety of medical and community sites representing a diverse range of learning opportunities for students. All Level II Fieldwork must be completed within 12 months following completion of academic requirements.

The program is designed to accommodate applicants who have a baccalaureate degree in another field.

Accreditation By:

The University of South Alabama Occupational Therapy Program is Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

Status Is: Currently Accredited Until 2022

ACOTE Address:

c/o Accreditation Department

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

6116 Executive Boulevard Suite 200

Bethesda, MD 20852-4929

Phone: (301) 652-AOTA

Website: <http://www.acoteonline.org/>

Criteria For Admission

OT Program

A new class of OT students begins each year in the fall semester. Applications are available in July each year for fall of the following year. Selected applicants, who meet all academic admission requirements, may be invited for an interview. Students offered admission may choose to guarantee a seat by submitting a matriculation fee (applied toward tuition) or be placed on the alternate list. All students accepted to the program must complete a criminal background check. Admission is contingent on the background check being clear of criminal charges. Admissions information is available on the Occupational Therapy Department website with instructions.

Incoming Fall Term

The candidate is expected to satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university earned prior to Fall start
- Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 (A=4.0) overall cumulative GPA. Minimum 3.0 GPA OT prerequisite courses.

You may not mix/match scores from different exam attempts.

GRE scores must have been taken within the past 5 years.

Applicants must have a minimum grade of "B-" in each of the OT prerequisite courses (see list below).

International students must meet the minimum requirements for admission and apply to the University Office of International Services with certified translations of transcripts at least 60 days prior to applying to the occupational therapy program. International coursework must be evaluated by the USA Office of International Services to verify equivalency to USA courses.

International applicants must have a TOEFL score = 100 on Internet based tests, OR iTEP Academic = 4.9, OR IELTS = 7.5, OR PTE Academic = 75. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution are not required to submit TOEFL results.

Completion of OTCAS Application with all required documents including official transcripts and course verification

Completion of USA Supplemental Application and payment

Observation hours may be required refer to OTCAS instructions.

Prerequisite Courses Required For All Applicants

- Developmental (life span) psychology (PSY 250)
- Abnormal psychology (PSY 340)
- Statistics (ST 210)
- **Anatomy & physiology I (BMD 251)
- **Anatomy & physiology II (BMD 252)
- **Kinesiology (biomechanics) preferred / or physics with algebra/trigonometry (KIN 380 or PH 114)

** These prerequisite courses must be taken no more than ten years prior to submitting your application.

AP credit and CLEP scores are not accepted for any of the prerequisite courses.

Selected applicants will be invited for an interview as part of the application process.

In order to be considered for admission to the MSOT program at USA, students should submit to OTCAS

Applications will be reviewed in Fall and Spring terms following OTCAS deadlines

Completed USA OT Supplemental Application which will be uploaded in the documents section;

Pay the \$75 non-refundable supplemental application fee and upload the receipt in documents;

Upload required documents (transcripts, etc..) in OTCAS

GRE scores submitted to OTCAS by deadline

Complete the OTCAS application process

Have transcripts verified by OTCAS. Please note that the OTCAS verification process may take 4-6 weeks.

Transcripts submitted must demonstrate completion of a minimum of 4 of the prerequisite courses at time of application.

The student must be able to complete the last two prerequisite courses during the semester of application. (for example, to apply for Fall, you must have 4 completed prerequisite courses with grades on transcripts, and you will complete the last two required courses by December. If you still have courses to take in the Spring, you can not apply until Spring.)

Additional Requirements

1. Occupational Therapy is a full-time graduate program that provides scientific evidence and clinical education needed for clinical practice. Course work and clinical fieldwork placements are full-time in nature. Students must be able to manage full-time clinical placements which are scheduled both on weekdays and weekends, between semesters and within semesters, not always following the academic calendar. Students should have the resources to commute to clinical placements that are not local to the Mobile area.
2. Students matriculating into and within Occupational Therapy will be required to have continuous health coverage and provide documentation of this throughout the program of study. Students are responsible for the cost of this health insurance coverage.
3. Students matriculating into and within Occupational Therapy will be required to complete background checks, drug screens, immunizations, and specific trainings at various times within the program and clinical fieldwork placements. We are unable to accept students into the clinical programs that are unable to sit for the NBCOT exam or achieve licensure in the US. Students are responsible for the costs of these.
4. Students may be required to have observation hours depending on COVID-19.
5. Students will submit documentation of volunteer hours (unpaid) for service that required direct work with individuals with disabilities, See OTCAS for details.
6. Selected applicants will be invited to participate in an interview as part of the application process.

This will be a rolling application process with deadlines in Fall and Spring.

Admissions Information And Instructions

All applicants who have met the prerequisite requirements and wish to apply to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at University of South Alabama must complete and/or submit the following items:

1. OTCAS application completed by due date.
2. The Supplemental Application must be uploaded to OTCAS by due date.
3. A \$75.00 non-refundable USA OT Dept. application fee with copy of your receipt must be uploaded to the OTCAS application by due date.
4. GRE scores: All applications must submit official report of GRE scores by due date directly from the testing service to the OTCAS code: 2109. Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing sections are utilized. GRE scores must have been taken within the past 5 years.
5. Official Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be sent directly to OTCAS and updated upon completion of degree requirements.
6. The Department of Occupational Therapy will not process any application that is incomplete (for any items noted above) or that is not submitted by the deadline.
7. Preference MAY BE shown to Alabama residents, however, highly qualified out-of-state applicants whose academics and experiences indicate that they may be a success in both the program and the OT profession will be given the same consideration as residents. Residency and tuition information.
8. Students accepted to the program must submit completed health and physical forms to include required immunizations for completion of their matriculation package. Accepted students must also read, sign, and submit the Core Performance Standards document outlining fundamental tasks of which applicants should be capable upon entering the OT program.
9. Acceptance into the OT program is provisional pending a clear background check, submission of required medical forms, and completion of bachelor's degree.
10. Acceptance into the OT program is provisional pending completion of any additional required prerequisite courses with a grade of "B-" or better and submission of required medical forms as supplied in the acceptance packet. Failure to make a grade of "B-" or better in any required prerequisite course will result in a nullification of acceptance into the professional program. **Spring Semester 2020 only, courses listed as Pass in the Pass/Fail grading system or Satisfactory in the Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory grading system will be accepted for prerequisite courses.
11. Accepted students must submit a \$300 matriculation fee with the Statement of Intent to reserve a seat in the class. This fee is non-refundable and is applied to the student's first semester tuition. Students offered admission may elect not to pay the matriculation fee and be placed on the alternate list.

More Information:

If you have further questions about the application process, please contact the OT Department:

Phone: (251) 445-9222

Email: otadmissions@southalabama.edu

****PLEASE NOTE: A record of criminal charges, including misdemeanor and felony charges, may result in denial of access to fieldwork sites, inability to sit for the NBCOT board exam, inability to obtain a state license to practice, and/or limit job opportunities.**

ACOTE® Accredited Educational Programs

ACOTE® accredited occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational programs satisfy the states' educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Students graduating from an ACOTE® accredited occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational program are eligible to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification exam and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For more information regarding state qualifications and licensure requirements, please refer to the AOTA State Licensure webpage.