Occupational therapists work with individuals and their families to improve the quality of their everyday lives. Services are provided to individuals who are at risk for or have disabling conditions that limit their ability to participate in everyday activities. These problems include developmental and learning disabilities, autism, arthritis, cancer and other debilitating illnesses, head and spinal cord injuries, orthopedic, work and sports-related injuries, amputations, burns, head trauma, stroke and other neurological conditions, and mental illness. Occupational therapists evaluate the impact of the disability or illness on the person’s ability to participate in daily life activities. Occupational therapists then provide interventions that promote health and quality of life with a focus on the activities that are important and meaningful to individuals and society.

**DEGREES OFFERED**
- Bachelor of Science in Occupational Science (B.S.O.S.)
- Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.)

Students have guaranteed entry into the graduate level master’s program if they have successfully completed all the requirements of the undergraduate program.

**EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
A master’s degree or higher from an accredited occupational therapy program and passing a national certification (NBCOT) exam are required for entry into the field. Coursework in occupational therapy programs include the physical, biological, and behavioral sciences, as well as the application of occupational therapy theory and skills. All accredited programs require at least 24 weeks of supervised fieldwork as part of the academic curriculum.

Applicants interested in Occupational Therapy should take high school courses in biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, health, art, and the social sciences. Paid or volunteer experience in health care settings is also encouraged.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**
Freshman Entry:
- Minimum of 3.2/4.0 GPA.
- Four years of sciences, to include Chemistry, Biology and preferably Physics; four years of math; four years of English
- Minimum ACT composite score of 24 with no individual score below 22 or an equivalent SAT score.

Transfer Entry:
- Minimum 3.2/4.0 GPA.
- The number of prerequisite courses completed will determine the point of entry into the combined B.S.O.S./M.O.T. program.

Entry is limited to the sophomore and junior level.

Saint Louis University Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy values non-traditional students (students who are older, have various life experiences or who have earned another degree).

**STUDENT ACTIVITY**
Saint Louis University’s Student Occupational Therapy Association’s (SLU/SOTA) purpose is to enhance students’ understanding of occupational therapy through professional, educational, community and social activities. SLU/SOTA facilitates opportunities for camaraderie among students, and provides meaningful, productive interaction with faculty.

Currently, the average GPA of admitted students is 3.7/4.0 scale and the average ACT score is a 26.
WHY CHOOSE SLU

- SLU is one of only four U.S. programs focused on Occupational Science (the Occupational Therapy profession’s foundation), as well as Occupational Therapy.
- Undergraduate students have guaranteed entry into the MOT program if they maintain the entrance standards.
- Students are matched with a faculty mentor who supports the student’s professional development.
- Curriculum emphasizes learning with exposure to local and international opportunities in practice, research, and service.
- Undergraduate opportunities to conduct research and produce projects/papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences.
- Interprofessional focus of core curriculum to build a team approach to health care.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase by 26 percent between 2008 and 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 2008, Laurence Shatkin, Ph.D. ranked Occupational Therapy 18th on the list of “150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs”.

As of 2010 67.7% of occupational therapists worked in hospitals, schools, and nursing facilities. The remaining 32.3% worked in a variety of settings including outpatient clinics, home health, academia, early intervention, community, and mental health. Additional opportunities include consultation to industry, community settings, teaching, and research.

EARNING POTENTIAL

The salary of an occupational therapist varies, based upon geographic location, years of experience, and type of employment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the median annual wage for occupational therapists was $72,320 in 2010.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Upon completion of an accredited educational program and receiving a Masters 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. 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.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) defines its purpose as “the national professional association established in 1917 to represent the interests and concerns of occupational therapy practitioners and students of occupational therapy and to improve the quality of occupational therapy services.”

To learn more about AOTA got to www.aota.org. To learn about the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) go to http://www.wfot.org/. To learn more about the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy go to www.nbcot.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact: Brion Abel, Recruitment Specialist
Phone: 314-977-2570
Email: abel@slu.edu
Website: OT.SLU.EDU

CONNECT

Facebook.com/SLUOSOT
Twitter.com/SLU_OSOT
www.sluot.blogspot.com
The curriculum and schedule are subject to change at the Department’s discretion.

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

#### CURRICULUM AND COURSE SCHEDULE

(revised 04/26/2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOT II – FALL SEMESTER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOT-504 Professional Development III</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>MOT-525 O.T. Policy &amp; Administration</td>
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<td>MOT-526 Professional Reasoning &amp; Development</td>
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<td>MOT-555 O.T. in Rehabilitation II</td>
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<td>MOT-556 O.T. in Mental Health II</td>
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<td>MOT-560 O.T. with Infants and Children</td>
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<td>MOT-565 Applied Research III</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPE-490 Integrative Interprofessional Practicum Experience</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MOT II – SPRING SEMESTER (January-June)</strong></td>
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<td>MOT-570 Level II Fieldwork (12 weeks)</td>
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<td>MOT-575 Level II Fieldwork (12 weeks)</td>
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<td>MOT-566 Applied Research IV</td>
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</table>

**Upon completion of this semester, the Master of Occupational Therapy degree is awarded.**

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Pre-requisite for MOT Program, Entry Point for Post-Baccalaureate Students

ANAT-400 Gross Anatomy (10 week course, mid-May – July) (Must successfully complete for progression to Fall Semester)