OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational therapists work with individuals, families and communities to improve the quality of their everyday lives. Services are provided to those who are at risk for, or have debilitating conditions that limit their ability to participate in daily activities. Common diagnoses include developmental and learning disabilities, autism, arthritis, head trauma, spinal cord injury, amputation, stroke and behavioral illness. Occupational therapists evaluate the impact of the disability. They partner with the client to plan interventions that promote health, focusing on activities that are important and meaningful to the individual or the community.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Bachelor of Science in Occupational Science - B.S.O.S
- Master of Occupational Therapy - M.O.T
- Post-Professional Doctor of Occupation Therapy - O.T.D

Students have seamless entry into the graduate level master's program if they have successfully completed all the requirements of the undergraduate program. The Post-Professional Doctorate program is available for individuals with a Bachelor or Masters of Occupational Therapy interested in continuing their education.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A master's degree or higher from an accredited occupational therapy program and passing a national certification (NBCOT) exam are required for practice. Coursework in occupational therapy programs include the physical, biological and behavioral sciences, as well as 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 complete high school courses in biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics and the social sciences, including psychology. Paid or volunteer experience in health care settings are 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 and four years of English
- Minimum ACT composite score of 24 with no individual score below 22 or an equivalent SAT score

Currently, the average GPA of admitted students is 3.7/4.0 scale and the average ACT is 26.

Transfer entry is limited to the sophomore and junior level:
- Minimum of 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

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.
WHY CHOOSE SLU

• SLU is one of four U.S. programs with a core focus on Occupational Science, the Occupational Therapy profession's foundation, as well as Occupational Therapy
• Undergraduate students have seamless 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, national 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.

As of 2010, 67% of occupational therapists worked in hospitals, schools, and nursing facilities. The remaining 33% 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

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for occupational therapists was $75,400 in 2012.

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 licensure. Students with a felony conviction must submit a request for an Early Determination Review from the NBCOT organization to have their background reviewed in order to sit for the certification exam and attain state licensure. For further information visit www.ncbot.org/early-determination-character-review

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the profession’s national organization, states its purpose as representing 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 go to www.aota.org. To learn about the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) go to www.wfot.org. To learn about the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy go to www.nbcot.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone: 314-977-2570 Email: dchs@slu.edu
Website: OT.SLU.EDU Facebook.com/SLUOSOT
Twitter.com/SLU_OSOT Instagram.com/SLU_OSOT
SLUOT.Blogspot.com

ot.slu.edu