

DEGREE(S)

+ Bachelor of Science in occupational science (B.S.O.S.)*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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.

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.

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 it provides meaningful, productive interaction with faculty.

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's or master's degree in occupational therapy interested in continuing their education.

* A master's degree in occupational therapy is required for practice.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

The occupational therapy faculty are certified occupational therapists that are nationally recognized within their profession and dedicated to developing competent graduates who are responsive to the needs of society.

CURRICULUM

The occupational therapy 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 20814-3449. ACOTE's telephone number, c/o AOTA, is 301-652-2682. 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.

- + 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 Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) 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 practice, research and service both locally and nationally as well as internationally.
- + Undergraduate students have opportunities to conduct research and produce projects/papers acceptable for publication and presentation at professional conferences.
- + The core curriculum contains an interprofessional focus that emphasizes a team approach to health care.

ADMISSION.SLU.EDU

OFFICE OF ADMISSION, ONE NORTH GRAND BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO 63103
(800) SLU-FOR-U • (314) 977-2500 • admitme@slu.edu • www.slu.edu • beabilliken.com

Contact

Doisy College of Health Sciences
314-977-2570
dchs@slu.edu

Graduate Programs

+ Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.)
+ Post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.)
For a full listing of programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Factors considered for admission include academic performance, class rank, college admission test scores and high school profile.

Freshman admission criteria include:

- + ACT composite score of at least 24, with no subsection lower than 22, or equivalent SAT scores
- + Minimum GPA of 3.2/4.0
- + Four years of high school science, including chemistry, biology and preferably anatomy or physics; four years of math; and four years of English

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

Transfer admission criteria include:

- + Minimum GPA of 3.2/4.0
- + The number of prerequisite courses completed determines the point of entry into the program
- + Entry limited to the sophomore and junior level
- + Minimum of 20 hours of experience (observation, volunteerism, employment, etc.) in a variety of occupational therapy practice settings (hospitals, nursing homes, schools, community organizations, etc.). Experiences should be documented on the Journal of Experiences in Occupational Therapy
- + 500-word personal essay describing your reasons for pursuing a career in occupational therapy

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 Alumni Association 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 finaid.slu.edu.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

- + Students with a declared occupational therapy major who successfully complete the requirements for the B.S.O.S. are guaranteed entry into SLU's Master of Occupational Therapy program.
- + The curriculum is carefully planned to form students holistically and includes: a liberal arts education in the Jesuit tradition with an emphasis on inter-professional health collaboration, a foundation in occupational science, occupational therapy coursework and field experiences in research and service to prepare you for practice as a health care professional with heart, and the ability to minor in any area of interest, study abroad for a semester and/or participate in regional/national/global service opportunities.
- + The occupational science and occupational therapy department is committed to providing knowledge, skills, behaviors and attitudes required for competency; therefore, students receive course counseling by designated academic advisors; are partnered with a faculty mentor; participate in faculty practice in various areas such as social skills programming, primary care and outpatient clinics; and are encouraged to be an active member of SLU SOTA.

Benefits of this program also include several career opportunities. Employment of occupational therapists is expected to increase by 27 percent between 2014 and 2024, adding 30,400 more professionals to the 114,600 existing jobs in this field according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As of 2010, 48 percent of occupational therapists worked in hospitals, schools and nursing facilities. The remaining 52 percent 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.

The salary of an occupational therapist varies based upon geographic location, years of experience and type of employment. The median annual wage for occupational therapists was \$81,910 in 2016 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Upon completing an accredited educational program and receiving 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. 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.

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