

Occupational Therapy

+ Doisy College of Health Sciences

Saint Louis University is a world-class Catholic, Jesuit institution educating nearly 13,000 students on two dynamic, urban campuses - in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Founded in 1818, the University will soon celebrate its bicentennial.

With a legacy of innovative academics and research, compassionate health care and faithful service, Saint Louis University attracts a diverse community of scholars who push intellectual boundaries in pursuit of creative, meaningful ways to impact the world, striving to serve a higher purpose and seek a greater good.

OVERVIEW ///

Occupational therapy is a health profession that employs everyday activities in the service of helping people to live healthy and satisfying lives. Services are provided to individuals who are at risk or who have disabling conditions or life circumstances that prevent full participation in the roles and activities that they value. Students in Saint Louis University's department of occupational science and occupational therapy master's program apply their occupational science knowledge to supporting the health and quality of life of individuals throughout the lifespan, including those with disabilities and chronic illness.

The design of the occupational therapy curriculum at Saint Louis University is formed by the integration of the following four thematic areas:

- Jesuit-based educational philosophy and goals, including the ultimate outcome of men and women in the service of others
- Reasoning as the ultimate learning objective, resulting in practitioners who are independent and competent problem-solvers and seekers of knowledge
- Occupation as a means and outcome of intervention
- Development of a professional identity

Curriculum themes progress through increasingly complex learning, from understanding to evaluation. Themes in each area combine with the curricular content and evolve into student learning outcomes to produce an educational curriculum that emphasizes compassionate and reflective approaches to achieving occupational performance/participation in the lives of the individuals our graduates serve.

Occupational therapy graduates will engage in practice grounded in the understanding and application of the power of occupation to enhance the health and well-being of individuals, communities and societies.

Master of Occupational Therapy

The Master of Occupational Therapy program promotes individualized and small learning groups within the classes. Every student is paired with a faculty mentor and encouraged to seek guidance throughout the program. Along with this faculty partnership are opportunities for research projects that facilitate learning within faculty members' scholarship.

The program requires 66–72 credit hours for completion. Full-time students typically complete the program in one summer, three traditional semesters and two 12-week fieldwork experiences.

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

SLU is now offering an O.T.D. program for occupational therapy practitioners with a bachelor's or master's degree designed to prepare them for roles as academicians, advanced practitioners, policy makers, program evaluators and advocates of the profession. The program offers three areas of concentration: practice, education, and public policy and leadership.

CONTACT INFORMATION ///

Occupational Therapy Department

EMAIL { ot@slu.edu

PHONE { 314-977-2570

WEB { slu.edu/doisy

APPLICATION DEADLINE ///

M.O.T.

O.T.D.

FALL { N/A

July 15

SPRING { N/A

N/A

SUMMER { Jan. 22

N/A

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED ///

Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.)

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (O.T.D.)

COURSES AVAILABLE ///

DAYS NIGHTS WEEKENDS ONLINE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS ///

- Application form and fee
- Personal essay
- Two professional letters of reference
- Completion of extracurricular activities, honors, work experience and licenses

ADMISSION CRITERIA ///

Courses:

- Biology with lab
- Chemistry with lab
- Basic anatomy (lab optional)
- Physiology (lab optional)
- Physics (lab optional)
- Lifespan human development
- Abnormal psychology
- Research methods and statistics
- Medical terminology

The cumulative GPA for these nine courses must equal 3.2 or higher, regardless of undergraduate academic performance or degree.



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GRADUATE EDUCATION

Occupational Therapy

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FACULTY ///

S. Omar Ahmad, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L: Neuroscience and neuro occupation, translational studies from basic science to implications for occupational performance

Rebecca M. Aldrich, Ph.D., OTR/L: Unemployment, influence of service-seeking and acquisition on daily life, wellbeing and occupation, measurement of change processes

Karen F. Barney, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA: Health promotion, quality-of-life issues for persons with disabilities and older adults, occupational justice with marginalized populations, innovative service models

Julia Henderson-Kalb, M.S., OTR/L: Adult rehabilitation science; primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care

Lisa Jaegers, Ph.D., OTR/L: Behavioral science and health education with a focus on workplace exposure assessment and ergonomic interventions, contractor-based participatory ergonomics intervention in construction

Cynthia S. Matlock, Ph.D., OTR/L: Professional formation process

Debra Rybski, Ph.D., MSHCA, OTR/L: Sensory processing disorders and social emotional problems in young children experiencing delays in important occupations of learning, social participation in the home and community as result of poverty and homelessness

Katie L. Serfas, O.T.D., OTR/L: Pediatrics in primary care and developmental surveillance and screening in community based practice

Sarah R. Walsh, M.O.T., OTR/L: Best practices in fieldwork education, psychosocial occupational therapy, community behavioral health, occupational justice and social sustainability for persons with severe and persistent mental illness

Selena Washington, Ph.D., OTR/L: Community/school based health promotion and programming, occupational justice with marginalized populations, rehabilitation science, innovative service models

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.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ///

Recognition:

The M.O.T. program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education and ranks in the top 15 percent of all occupational therapy graduate schools, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2016 rankings.

Career Paths:

The majority of occupational therapists work in school systems or medical and long-term care facilities. However, there are many other areas of practice, such as behavioral health, ergonomics consulting, design and accessibility consulting and home modification, low vision, and private practice community health services.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT ///

Information concerning financial aid and scholarships can be obtained from the student financial services website: finaid.slu.edu.



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