Accreditation and Licensure

The entry-level occupational therapy master’s degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE’s telephone number c/o AOTA is 301-652-AOTA and its web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) (nbcot.org).

After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). All states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Hofstra University is committed to extending equal opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, marital status or veteran status in employment and in the conduct and operation of Hofstra University’s educational programs and activities, including admissions, scholarship and loan programs, and athletics and all other school-administered programs. This statement of nondiscrimination is in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, the Age Discrimination Act, and other applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to nondiscrimination (“Equal Opportunity Laws”). The Equal Rights and Opportunity Officer is the University’s official responsible for handling inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies and coordinating its overall adherence to Equal Opportunity Laws. Questions or concerns regarding any of these laws or other aspects of Hofstra’s Nondiscrimination Policy should be directed to the Equal Rights and Opportunity Officer at EROO@hofstra.edu, 516-463-7310, C/O Office of Legal Affairs and General Counsel, 101 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549. The University’s Title IX Coordinator, who is responsible for the University’s efforts to comply with and carry out responsibilities under Title IX, can be reached at TitleIXCoordinator@hofstra.edu, 516-463-5841, 214 Roosevelt Hall, Hempstead, NY 11549. For additional contacts and related policies and resources, see hofstra.edu/eoe.

For more information about the program, please contact:

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About the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program

Hofstra’s Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (OT) program offers an innovative curriculum and advanced training that prepares students to become registered and licensed occupational therapist practitioners and leaders in the field. The OT program is part of a robust slate of academic offerings in the Department of Health Professions, allowing students to take advantage of interprofessional learning activities and projects with other disciplines.

The mission of the OT program is to facilitate the development of effective, compassionate, evidence-based practitioners with the critical-thinking skills and knowledge needed to be lifelong learners who meet professional standards and societal occupational needs. The educational philosophy of the program reflects the core beliefs, values, and theories of the profession promoted by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

Career Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Labor notes that employment for occupational therapists is expected to grow almost 30% by the year 2022, “much faster than the average” for all occupations. Occupational therapy is a vital part of treatment for many disabilities and conditions, including Alzheimer’s disease, cerebral palsy, and autism. Responsibilities can include helping children with disabilities engage fully in school, teaching individuals with injuries or the loss of a limb how to regain skills, and providing support for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes.

About the Curriculum

The graduate-level curriculum of 68 credits requires 2.5 years of full-time study, which includes four Level I fieldwork experiences and two three-month Level II fieldwork experiences. The on-campus program is offered weekdays and evenings, providing a sequential curriculum that integrates classroom instruction with laboratory experiences. Our state-of-the-art occupational therapy lab offers hands-on experience with equipment, evaluation and intervention tools, assistive devices, and technology.

The curriculum emphasizes the interdependence of individuals within an environment and recognizes that culture has an impact on individuals, the community, and the occupation. In addition, client-centered and evidence-based practice principles are integrated into the teaching-learning strategies.

The Occupational Therapy Practice Framework and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health define the program’s four curricular threads and provide the basis of academic and clinical instruction:

- Health and well-being
- Humanism and client-centered practice
- Occupation-based practice
- Evidence-based practice

Throughout fieldwork experiences, students are placed in practice settings such as schools, hospitals, private practices, and community clinics to provide the opportunity for exposure to a wide variety of client populations.

Other key features of our OT program include the embedding of research and scholarship into all course work, along with a research course that culminates in a capstone project that demonstrates the student’s ability to integrate theory with the principles of occupational therapy practice.

Application and Admission Requirements

Students apply to Hofstra’s MS in Occupational Therapy program through the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at otcas.liaisoncas.com. The OTCAS application cycle begins in July, and there is a February 1 deadline for admission for the subsequent September.

The Occupational Therapy program is competitive, and only the strongest applicants will be considered for acceptance and selected for a personal interview with the admission committee. Those who apply earliest have the best chance of being invited for an interview and offered a seat in the program.

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be considered for the MS in Occupational Therapy program:

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or institution, with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and a cumulative GPA of 2.75 in science courses.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation.
- Personal essay identifying areas of interest and reasons for seeking advanced training in occupational therapy.
- Transcript of prerequisite course work, if not completed as part of baccalaureate degree.
- Documentation of observation of occupational therapy-related experience.
- Interviews may be requested.

International students must take the TOEFL exam and pass with a minimum score of 80 on the internet-based test, 213 on the computer-based test, or 550 on the paper-based test.

Prerequisites

- Abnormal Psychology: 3 s.h.
- Developmental psychology (human development across the life span including theories of development): 3 s.h.
- Human Anatomy or API (laboratory component required): 4 s.h.
- Human Physiology or Exercise Physiology or API (laboratory component required): 4 s.h.
- Social behavioral science course (e.g. sociology, anthropology, political science, public health, epidemiology): 3 s.h.
- Structural and Mechanical Kiniesiology: 3 s.h.
- RECOMMENDED: Elementary Statistics (can be online course)
- HPR 130 - Orientation to Occupational Therapy: The Profession and Practice (must be taken at Hofstra University): 2 s.h.