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 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. 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.

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 therapists 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 percent 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.

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. (The list of required courses can be found at hofstra.edu/MSOTPrereqs).
• Documentation of observation of occupational therapy-related experience.
• Interviews may be requested.
• On-site essay.

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.

*The list of required prerequisite courses can be found at hofstra.edu/MSOTprereqs.

About the Curriculum

The graduate-level curriculum of 68 credits requires 2.5 years of full-time study, which includes four Level 1 fieldwork experiences and two three-month Level 2 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.