



ADMISSION TO THE MScOT - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND DETAILS

WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

Occupational therapy is a client-centred health profession concerned with promoting health and well-being through occupation. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life. Occupational therapists achieve this outcome by working with people and communities to enhance their ability to engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do, or by modifying the occupation or the environment to better support their occupational engagement. (WFOT Statement on Occupational Therapy, 2012)

WHAT DOES AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST DO?

Occupational therapists use a systematic approach based on evidence and professional reasoning to enable individuals, groups and communities to develop the means and opportunities to identify, engage in and improve their function in the occupations of life. The process involves assessment, intervention and evaluation of the client related to occupational performance in self-care, work, study, volunteerism and leisure. Occupational therapists may assume different roles such as advising on health risks in the workplace, safe driving for older adults, and programs to promote mental health for youth. Occupational therapists also perform functions as manager, researcher, program developer or educator in addition to the direct delivery of professional services. (Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, 2013)

IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY THE SAME AS PHYSICAL THERAPY?

No. An Occupational Therapist works with people of all ages and conditions to enable them lead satisfying and productive lives. This role can differ depending on the client's needs. Physical Therapists assist people with various physical disorders to overcome barriers to physical performance.

DEGREE PROGRAM

- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (*MScOT*)
- Accredited by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (www.caot.ca)

PROGRAM LENGTH

- Two years (e.g. September 2018 to August 2020), including summer sessions, offered **only** on a full-time in-class basis, including fieldwork placements

WHERE ARE CLASSES LOCATED?

The vast majority of coursework takes place at the Rehabilitation Sciences Building on University Avenue in Toronto. This is in close proximity to Canada's leading research and teaching facilities, including the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto General Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, and Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

- You must either be in the final year of study or have completed an appropriate bachelor's degree with high academic standing from a recognized university
- You must be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Official transcripts from all universities attended, showing an appropriate bachelor's degree completed or in progress (i.e. in your final year of study at the time of application)

- Two letters of reference each attached to a “Confidential Assessment Form” (rating form template), one of which must be from an academic source and the other from a professional source.
- Personal statement submissions (essay questions to be answered via the ORPAS online application)
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Complete the official application online at www.ouac.on.ca/orpas and note the deadlines

HOW IS GPA CALCULATED?

Grade point average (GPA) will be calculated based on an applicant’s last 20 half courses of university academic study (i.e., the equivalent of 10 full courses) completed by December 31 of the application year, and will include summer, part-time, intersession, correspondence and failed university courses taken beyond the four-year undergraduate degree. Please note, due to the discrepancy in grade reporting across universities, in order to capture 20 half credits, the GPA must be calculated based on yearly versus term marks. Thus, where grades must be extracted from a year to achieve the equivalent of 20 half courses, the average of that entire year (including both the Fall and Winter terms) will be used. GPA is based on a 4-point scale. GPA varies from school to school and the GPA provided by ORPAS may not be equivalent to the GPA at your school. ORPAS uses the Undergraduate Grading System Conversion Table to process GPA: www.ouac.on.ca/orpas

HOW STRONG DO MY GRADES NEED TO BE?

It is highly recommended to have a grade point average no lower than a “B+” (GPA of 3.30/4.00) over the most recent ten full-course equivalents (**An “A-minus”, or GPA range from 3.65 to 3.75 or higher is competitive**)

Courses not considered: Pass/Fail (i.e. no grade awarded), graduate degree (Master’s and Doctoral level courses), teacher/educational theory (B.Ed), “continuing education” certificate courses, sports performance, visual or dramatic arts performance, musical performance, many theological courses, nil/zero-credit courses, community college, and vocations/apprenticeships.

When you complete an online ORPAS application, ORPAS will provide you with access to an applicant data summary by February which includes an exact breakdown of how your GPA was determined. Applicants from Canadian universities can view the ORPAS Undergraduate Grading Conversion Table at: www.ouac.on.ca/orpas

FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITIES

Fieldwork education is an exciting time, providing an opportunity to consolidate academic learning with clinical learning, develop skills in assessment and treatment, and develop professional behaviours. It gives students an understanding of the nature of occupational therapy practice in a variety of settings. Fieldwork education is designed in such a way as to give students a broad range of experience and learning. Throughout the fieldwork experience students will work with clients across the lifespan and across the health care continuum in the areas of both psychosocial and physical health. (Donna Barker, Director of Clinical Education). International placements are also available. The placements currently prioritized are those linked with the International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (visit www.icdr.utoronto.ca for more information).

DEADLINES

Entry 2018 applications will be available on the Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service (ORPAS) website by mid-October 2017. The application deadline for September 2018 entry, **subject to change**, is tentatively set as January 5, 2018. Please visit the ORPAS website in October to view the finalized deadline.

QUESTIONS

- **Website:** http://ot.utoronto.ca/prospective/mscot_24month/
- **Phone:** 1-416-978-0455 **Email:** ot.studentservices@utoronto.ca
- **Application:** www.ouac.on.ca/orpas (starting in October)