Occupational Therapy

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program is currently being developed by the School of Health Sciences within the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. Pending approval by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), the first cohort is tentatively scheduled for admission in fall 2022.

The OTD is an entry-level clinical doctoral program designed using a hybrid model combining online and face-to-face courses in a weekend format to allow allied health professionals the flexibility to maintain their current occupation while advancing in the profession. Students applying to the OTD program must possess a bachelor degree. Preference will be given to applicants employed in an allied health profession. The clinical doctorate curriculum is designed as a 3-year degree allowing students to attend on a weekend basis that meets nine times per semester.

Occupational Therapists assist people across the lifespan participate in activities of their choice through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations). Common occupational therapy interventions include helping individuals participate in school, work, home and social situations, assisting those recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing support strategies for those with cognitive deficits. Occupational therapy services may include a comprehensive evaluation of the home, school, work or other environments, recommendations for adaptive equipment and instructions in its use, and instruction and guidance for family members and caregivers.

Admission

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate program accepts students to begin the course sequence each fall semester. In order to be considered for admission to the occupational therapy program, students must have obtained a bachelor degree prior to applying to the program. Preference is given to students with degrees in an allied health program and current employment in an allied health profession. A selective admissions process will be used to help ensure the most qualified applicants enter the OTD program.

The minimum admission guidelines of the OTD program are the criteria provided below: Candidates will be granted admittance into SIUC as a graduate student.

- Candidates will possess a bachelor degree
- Minimum overall grade point average of 3.25 (4.0 scale)
- Three satisfactory professional recommendations.
- Demonstration of college-level writing ability. (written essay)
- Completed Occupational Therapy program application
- Resume

Enrollment in the Occupational Therapy Doctorate program is limited and based on a competitive process. Applicants will be evaluated on the overall submitted application package. Students will be selected by the Admissions Committee.

Degree Requirements

Students must have obtained a bachelor degree prior to application. The Occupational Therapy Doctorate program is an entry-level hybrid weekend program designed for working professionals. The curriculum
is designed as a 3-year, full-time program requiring a total of 103 credit hours that combines lecture, laboratory and assigned clinical experiences. Successful completion of the program provides graduates with the educational requirements necessary to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Examination (NBCOT). Licensure is required for practice in each state.

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Catalog Year Statement:
Students starting their collegiate training during the period of time covered by this catalog (see bottom of this page) are subject to the curricular requirements as specified herein. The requirements herein will extend for a seven calendar-year period from the date of entry for baccalaureate programs and three years for associate programs. Should the University change the course requirements contained herein subsequently, students are assured that necessary adjustments will be made so that no additional time is required of them.