Division of Occupational Therapy

Health Advisors’ Handbook

Academic Year

2017-2018

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Occupational Therapy

Date prepared: May 5, 2017
Program: Occupational Therapy

Degree: Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science - Occupational Therapy

For current detail or changes, see our website: http://www.musc.edu/chp/ot

The Profession
There are over 114,600 occupational therapy practitioners in the United States. The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the nationally recognized professional association for occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students of occupational therapy. See http://www.aota.org. Occupational therapy practitioners are initially certified through the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. See http://www.nbcot.org/. Entry to the field takes place at the post-baccalaureate level for occupational therapists and at the associate degree level for occupational therapy assistants.

Occupational therapy is regulated in all 50 states and three US territories. In the State of South Carolina, licensing information can be obtained by contacting the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, South Carolina, Board of Examiners in Occupational Therapy, PO Box 11329, Columbia, SC 29211; 803.896.4650. See http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/OccupationalTherapy/. For regulation of occupational therapy in other states, see http://www.aota.org.

Occupational therapy is a health profession that helps people participate fully in life. The “occupation” in occupational therapy refers to the way in which people spend their time and energy. Participation in a wide range of human occupations is seen as a health determinant, promoting and adding meaning to life.

Occupational therapists help people throughout the lifespan accomplish their daily living tasks, learn new skills, adapt to permanent losses, fulfill their life roles, and participate fully in life. When people have strokes, sustain injuries, or have chronic mental or physical health problems, occupational therapists help them engage in occupations or everyday activities that are personally meaningful, socially satisfying, and culturally relevant.

Career Options
The major types of work are: clinical work (direct patient care), research, teaching, administration, and consultation. The employment settings include: schools (K-12), hospitals (emergency, acute, and inpatient rehabilitation), outpatient rehabilitation facilities, community clinics, residential and custodial or long-term care facilities, early intervention programs, home health programs, hospice programs, university clinics, private practice, and community outreach programs.

Employment Outlook
In 2014, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor reported that employment of occupational therapists will be “much faster than average and is projected to grow 27 percent from 2014 to 2024.” US News and World Report lists occupational therapy in 23rd place in its 100 best jobs of 2017.

Salary Information
More than 114,600 occupational therapy practitioners are licensed in the U.S. today. The median salary for an occupational therapist is $81,910, depending on position, years of experience, degree of education, geographic location and practice setting. A survey of recent graduates of the MUSC occupational therapy program indicates that the average starting salary is $60,000/year (range $50,000 to $70,000).
The Program

The Occupational Therapy program offers a graduate, entry-level occupational therapy curriculum which begins each year in late May. The program is full-time, year-round and takes 26 months to complete. The first five semesters are based in Charleston and include classroom, laboratory, and clinical work. The final two semesters are devoted to full-time fieldwork at facilities within South Carolina and throughout the United States.

Accreditation

The MUSC program has been accredited since 1977 by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association. The most recent accreditation was approved for the maximum 10 year approval, in August 2013.

Application Procedures

The program commences near the end of May of each year. Applications are available from July 1st of the year prior to the program starting until November 15th of the year prior to the classes commencing. The following is the only application deadline:

- **November 15**

Applications on line only at [http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/em/admissions/application/ot/](http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/esl/em/admissions/application/ot/). For questions about the online application process or for a pre-application review of an undergraduate transcript, call the Office of Enrollment Management (OEM) (843) 792-5396. For additional information, contact Dr. Peter Bowman, Director of Admissions for Occupational Therapy Division at (843) 792-3942 or email: bowmanpj@musc.edu

Application Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Occupational Therapy Program, applicants must:

1. Have a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree from an accredited college or university by the time of matriculation. A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for consideration.
2. Submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Applicants should strive for GRE scores in the 60th percentile or above on each section to be competitive.
3. Submit a reference (on specific reference form) from an occupational therapist after completion of a minimum of at least 30 hours volunteer or work experience in an OT setting.
4. Submit two references (on specific reference form) from a professor or advisor familiar with your academic ability and accomplishments.

Both in-state and out-of-state applicants are accepted based on academic merit and other factors that are important for a future occupational therapist. A profile of life activities is used to assist in ascertaining this.

Program-specific requirements (e.g., clinical observations and specific coursework) are identified in the application materials.

Potential applicants with questions should email: johnsoss@musc.edu or contact the Office of Enrollment Management oesadmis@musc.edu or (843) 792-8712.
**Prerequisites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human anatomy <em>(must include lab)</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human physiology <em>(must include lab)</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifespan human development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology/Anthropology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Terminology <em>(recommended)</em></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anatomy and Physiology I and II to fulfill the separate Anatomy and Physiology requirements. Anatomy and Physiology prerequisites need to be rigorous classroom based courses, not taken online or with open book testing, and must be from an accredited institution.

* We do not allow advanced placement, transfer of credit or credit for experiential learning. Applicants receive additional profile points on their application for service experiences in the AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, or prior military service.

**Selection Factors**

Entrance to the Occupational Therapy graduate degree program is competitive. Offers of admission to the program follows careful review by an Admissions Committee. Depending on the number of applicants and the inherent competitiveness of the application process, there will be variation across individual programs in the final criteria, and weighting of individual factors. The Admissions Committee of the Occupational Therapy academic program will make final decisions regarding admissions.

The Occupational Therapy Admissions Committee gives careful consideration to:

- Cumulative GPA (at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale) 3.6 to be competitive
- Prerequisite GPA (at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale) 3.7 to be competitive
- GRE Scores (at least 25th percentile, preferably 60th percentile);
- References of recommendation;
- Profile of life experience activities
- Log of Occupational Therapy related experience
- Resume.

Factors of interest to the Committee include: the reputation of the applicant’s undergraduate college or university; academic or other awards; employment history; extent of volunteer work; achievements in extracurricular activities such as music, art, sports and university or community service; evidence of leadership; bilingualism and travel; and, unique life events involving personal challenges, or ethnic, racial and cultural experiences.

- **Interviews will be offered to those who meet the criteria from the above factors.**

**Applicant Statistics 2017 Entering Class, Occupational Therapy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applied</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Entering Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>Number 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-State</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>In-State 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of State</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>Out of State 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Male 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>Female 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Age</td>
<td>22.94</td>
<td>Average Age 22.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cum GPA</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>Average Cum GPA 3.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aver Pre-Req GPA</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>Aver Pre-Req GPA 3.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average GRE %ile</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Average GRE %ile 65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

College of Health Professions, Division of Occupational Therapy, Health Advisors Handbook: 2017-2018.