The full-time in-person entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program is designed for students who have a baccalaureate degree and are ready to apply for the entry-level graduate program in occupational therapy. The OTD Program does not have a preference as to the major for the bachelor's degree as long as the required prerequisite courses are completed. The best undergraduate degree is one that aligns with the student's interests and is in an area they enjoy studying.

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (Entry-Level)

How do I become an occupational therapist?
First, you must complete an accredited educational program. Accredited programs are available in colleges, universities and vocational, technical or community colleges throughout the country. There are no on-the-job training programs in hospitals or other healthcare facilities.

What kinds of educational programs are available?
To become an occupational therapist (OT), you must complete a master's or doctorate program. Each type of program includes a minimum of six months of supervised clinical education or fieldwork. Because educational requirements vary from school to school, it is important to obtain specific information from each institution and program.

Can I transfer credits from another educational program toward a degree in occupational therapy?
OT program requirements differ among institutions. If you have completed courses in another discipline, or are considering taking prerequisites at another educational institution, contact the individual OT program about their requirements. The USI OT Program Chair can review your transcripts and offer recommendations.

How do I find an occupational therapy educational program that fits me?
Students can enter the OT profession as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) or as a Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR). Most COTA programs lead to an associate degree, but in the near future, COTA programs may lead to a bachelor's degree. All OT and OTA programs must meet standards developed by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), and all graduates must pass a national examination before obtaining a license to practice. USI is one of only a few institutions that offer both OT and OTA Programs.

What is the employment outlook for occupational therapists?
The employment outlook for OTs is bright! Recent information published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected the demand for OTs is expected to grow 24% from 2016–2026, much faster than in other fields. OTs held about 126,900 positions in the United States in 2018.

Where do occupational therapists work?
One of the greatest advantages of a career in OT is the wide variety of opportunities available to graduates. OTs work with all age groups to promote health and wellness, and to prevent disease and/or injury. OTs work with individuals in their homes, at community centers, in hospitals, in schools, at businesses and in skilled nursing facilities. In these settings, OTs help people learn to live productive lives through the use of meaningful occupations.

What are the technology requirements for the USI OTD Program?
The USI OT Program requires technology both in the classroom and for online learning. Technology requirements include:

- A reliable computer: a dedicated computer with an updated operating system. No Chromebooks.
- High-speed internet connection: (e.g. DSL or Cable). All USI online students are required to have a stable high-speed Internet connection. A wired Internet connection is recommended for online meeting, exams and assignment submission.
- Office 365 (USI login needed) and Adobe Acrobat Reader installed
- Supported web browser: Firefox or Google Chrome
- Microphone and webcam

ACCREDITATION

The entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Candidacy Status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its web address is acoteonline.org. The program must have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

USI Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Curriculum

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

PREREQUISITE COURSES

23 Credit Hours		
BIOL 121	Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL 122	Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PSY 201	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 261	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	3
PSY 322	Abnormal Psychology	3
EXSC 383 **OR** EXSC 392	Kinesiology **OR** Biomechanics	3
HP 302 **OR** PSY 353 **OR** STAT 241	Biostatistics **OR** Research Methods and Statistics II **OR** Principles of Statistics	3

PROFESSIONAL COURSEWORK

First Year

Fall Semester – 17 Credit Hours		
OT 701	Doctoral Orientation Camp	1
OT 713	Fundamentals of OT Practice	3
OT 724	Psychosocial & Cognitive Strategies	3
OT 731	OT Theory & Clinical Reasoning	4
OT 752	Applied Neuroscience	3
OT 765	Systems & Disease	3
Spring Semester – 16 Credit Hours		
OT 711	Human Occupations	3
OT 741	Evidence-Based Practice	4
OT 753	Kinesiology in Rehabilitation	3
OT 757	Specialized Evaluation	4
OT 761	Pharmacology	2
Summer Semester – 11 Credit Hours		
OT 767	Biomechanics of Occupation	3
OT 775	Children & Adolescents	4
OT 785	Aging	4

Second Year

Fall Semester – 15 Credit Hours		
OT 743	ADL/Work	3
OT 762	Therapeutic Media	2
OT 763	Orthopedics in OT	3
OT 791	OT Research	3
OT 795	Professional Practicum	3
OT 801	Doctoral Capstone Development	1
Spring Semester – 8 Credit Hours		
OT 786	Ethics in Rehabilitation	2
OT 796	Level II Fieldwork A	6
Summer Semester – 8 Credit Hours		
OT 723	Social Determinants of Health	2
OT 797	Level II Fieldwork B	6

Third Year

Fall Semester – 15 Credit Hours		
OT 751	Professional Trends/Emerging Practice	3
OT 771	OT Leadership	3
OT 773	Program Evaluation	3
OT 781	OT Education	3
OT 793	Advanced OT Research	3
Spring Semester – 10 Credit Hours		
OT 811	Doctoral Capstone Experience	6
OT 821	Doctoral Capstone Project	3
OT 831	Doctoral Capstone Dissemination	1

Total OTD Credit Hours: 100

See the other side of this curriculum sheet for a list of frequently asked questions about the OTD Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions
University of Southern Indiana OT Program
Stone Family Center for Health Sciences
515 Walnut Street
Evansville, Indiana 47708

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA®
Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions

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