

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, OTD

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Mission

To prepare practice scholars, educational innovators, and professional leaders to utilize clinically meaningful research in the implementation of best practice to meet the changing demands of the Occupational Therapy profession. The Department of Occupational Therapy offers two distinct program tracks, entry-level and post-professional.

General Information For the Entry-Level OTD Program

Program Description

The Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (EL OTD) program provides an accelerated, learner-centered, occupation-based, hybrid educational program that emphasizes academic excellence, life-long scholarship, and servant leadership. This 2-year, hybrid-education program prepares doctoral-level, reflective Occupational Therapy practitioners with the requisite clinical reasoning skills and professional values to be responsive to the occupational needs of persons, organizations and populations within the communities they serve. Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Graduates are employed as Occupational Therapists in such settings as hospitals, school systems, long-term care facilities, mental health facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, out-patient settings and the community.

The entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program is accredited 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 www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program 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 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.

Students must complete 24 weeks of Level II fieldwork as well as an individual 14-week capstone experience within 20 months following the completion of the didactic portion of the program. The doctoral capstone experience must be started after completion of all coursework and Level II fieldwork as well as completion of preparatory activities defined in 2023 ACOTE OTD Standard D.1.3.

To be eligible to take the National Board for the Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification exam, OTR candidates must graduate with an entry-level occupational therapy degree from an ACOTE

accredited occupational therapy (OT) program. Per USDE regulations, all credits and degrees earned and issued by a program holding Candidate for Accreditation status are considered to be from an accredited program. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. The Baylor University OTD Program meets the educational requirements for certification in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NBCOT maintains for the public a database of graduation rates for every accredited program.

Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences

The Department of Occupational Therapy is housed within the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences (RCHHS). The following policies and guidelines apply to the OTD program.

Entry-Level OTD Program Admission Requirements

The following requirements apply to the EL OTD program and must be met by every applicant to be considered for admission.

Program Admission Requirements

Admission to the OTD program closely follows the admission criteria for all health science programs in the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences with differences reflecting the need for prerequisite courses unique to, and in support of the OTD curriculum. Students applying to the EL OTD program should have the requisite skills and demonstrated potential to navigate the academic rigors of an accelerated and hybrid model of OTD education.

Prerequisites for Admission

The following prerequisites (or their approved transfer equivalents) are required for admission:

Completion of all prerequisite coursework with a GPA of 3.00 or greater on a 4.00 scale:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology I with laboratory (4 semester hours)
- Human Anatomy and Physiology II with laboratory (4 semester hours)
- Biomechanics (3 credits) (Kinesiology or physics may be acceptable if the course contains mechanics or biomechanics)
- Psychology (6 credits) (3 of those credits must be Abnormal Psychology, Neuropathology, or Behavior Disorders)
- Human Development (lifespan) (3 semester hours)
- Social Sciences (3 credits) (These credits may be from psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health, ethnicity, gender studies, religious studies, or philosophy coursework)
- Statistics (3 semester hours)
- Medical Terminology (1 semester hour)

Note: We do require Anatomy and Physiology coursework to be completed within 5 years of the program start date. Other than these two courses, prerequisite coursework does not expire.

Application

Completion of an Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) application and a Baylor University Graduate School supplemental application.

- The Occupational Therapy Program uses the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) for those wishing to apply to the program. All students use the **Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS)** to apply to the occupational therapy

program. Visit the website at: <https://otcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>.

- It is strongly encouraged that all applicants thoroughly review the instructions for submitting an application through OTCAS as available for download through the OTCAS website before attempting to apply to the Baylor University Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program.
- Supporting Materials submitted through OTCAS:
 - **Official Transcripts:** Applicants must arrange for OTCAS to receive an official transcript from each college and university from which a degree was earned (bachelor's or higher) in the United States and/or Canada.
 - **References:** Applicants must arrange for references to be submitted electronically through OTCAS. Each evaluator providing a reference will be contacted using an email address provided in OTCAS by the applicant. It is required that one recommendation be from a licensed occupational therapy practitioner.
- Current CV/Resume
- **Writing Sample:** Applicant must provide a carefully written 5-paragraph essay describing one treatment activity observed during an occupational therapy observation. Describe the purpose of the activity and the client's response. Sample is scored for writing mechanics and content.
- OTD Essay
- **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or Duolingo:** If English is not an applicant's first (primary) language, official TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo scores must be submitted to OTD@baylor.edu.
- For assistance with applications students may contact: Admissions Program Manager at OTD@baylor.edu.

Application Review

The OTD Admissions Committee and faculty will review all completed applications (i.e., application and all supporting materials received) in the order of receipt. Applicants are evaluated based on the following items:

- Cumulative GPA
- Pre-requisite GPA
- Observation hours
- References
- Personal Essay

Other factors considered, but not required:

- Relevant work experience
- Prior military experience

The OTD admissions committee uses this evaluative process to ensure nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all applicants. The OTD admissions committee will grant admission interviews by invitation only. The OTD program does not offer credit for previous work experience, coursework or experiential learning, nor is advanced placement credit available for this program.

Interview Process

The OTD Program Director or designee will contact selected applicants and provide further instructions for completing the interview process. Interviews are conducted using a video-based platform called Kira Talent®. Students record and upload their responses to a series of standardized interview questions for review by program faculty and the

Admissions Committee. Students must have a computer with a webcam and internet service to complete this interview.

Selection Process

The OTD admissions committee and faculty will accept students into the program based on a holistic evaluation of the submitted application, supporting documents, and interview. All applicants will be notified by email and/or mail regarding final selection decisions.

Application Deadlines

The program has two applications windows. Please refer to the Baylor OTD Program website for the current information: <https://otd.robbyns.baylor.edu/>.

For questions related to admission to the program, please contact OTD Admissions at OTD@baylor.edu.

General Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution prior to OTD classes beginning. Provisional admission may be granted pending completion of the undergraduate degree. Students are required to successfully complete and document a minimum of four (4) FTE academic years of preprofessional preparation.
- Minimum prerequisite course GPA of 3.00.
- If cumulative GPA is less than 2.75 on a 4.00 scale, an applicant may still be eligible for admission if a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater has been achieved over the last 60 semester or 90 quarter hour credits of coursework.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation: it is required that one of your recommendations be from a licensed occupational therapy practitioner.
- Thirty (30) hours of volunteer or work experience with an occupational therapy practitioner is required (50 recommended).
- Personal interview.
- Ability to fulfill Technical Standards with or without accommodation.
- Background Check prior to matriculation.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Testing Service (IELTS), or Duolingo exam is required for all applicants for whom English is not the first language or those who have completed a degree and prerequisite courses in a foreign country.
 - Acceptable TOEFL scores: Internet based score = 80
 - Acceptable IELTS scores: are an overall band score of 6.5
 - Acceptable Duolingo scores: are an overall score of 125
 - Official TOEFL scores must be submitted to OTD@baylor.edu.

Note: Meeting minimal entrance requirements does not necessarily guarantee admission.

Additional Requirements Once Accepted into the Program

Once accepted into the Occupational Therapy Program, and prior to beginning classes, students must submit the following documentation to the Department of Occupational Therapy:

- Participate in required OTD program orientation.
- Provide documentation of health insurance annually.
- Provide documentation of a physical exam and required immunizations.
- Purchase all required OTD textbooks, manuals, and laboratory supplies.

- Assume all responsibility for transportation to and from all facilities used for educational experiences, including clinical agencies assigned.
- Complete HIPAA and Blood Borne Pathogen training.
- Adhere to all OTD Program Standards and Procedures
- Complete a drug screening after matriculation into the program but before the first Level I fieldwork experience (OTD 6225 Fieldwork Seminar IA: Mental Health)
- Current BLS certification

Note: A record of a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination and/or attain state licensure. An individual, who has a recorded felony background and is considering entering an occupational therapy program, can have this background reviewed before applying for the NBCOT examination by requesting an Early Determination Review: <https://www.nbcot.org/exam/edr>.

Students accepted to the program may need to complete clinical placements in geographic areas requiring travel and/or housing costs. Student handbooks are provided to all accepted applicants for specific policies and procedures related to academics and fieldwork.

Hybrid Education Format

In designing the OTD curriculum, the faculty embraces a student-centered approach to develop cohorts of learners with a focus toward critical thinking, values and social responsibility, learning goals, and experiential learning. The curriculum provides the best education in a condensed time frame through a blend of online and on-campus education. Students learn through asynchronous online course material such as pre-recorded lectures and interactive media, synchronous online course sessions, hands-on lab immersions, fieldwork experience, and the doctoral capstone. Classes are not bound by geography, thus, allowing students and faculty to live all over the country to coordinate optimal learning experiences.

The OTD curriculum is delivered in a hybrid learning format that optimizes technology and web-based teaching strategies. Courses in year one of the program are structured to be delivered in seven (7)-eight (8) week sessions. Year two courses are structured to be delivered in fifteen (15) week trimesters. Students in the Baylor University EL OTD program can anticipate devoting approximately 50 hours per week, on average, to academic study. Intensive lab immersive sessions are scheduled during each session within the academic trimester. The curriculum is designed to provide a quality, rigorous, and flexible learning experience for a diverse student body of traditional and nontraditional students.

Onsite laboratory immersion sessions conducted in Waco, Texas, emphasize intentional practice, self-reflection and peer-feedback of performance, with high-stakes practical examinations in a physically and mentally demanding environment that simulates full-time clinical practice. These sessions range from five (5) to ten (10) days depending on the number of blended courses in the trimester. These lab sessions focus on the development of professional behavior, problem solving, clinical reasoning, and psychomotor skills that are required for effective occupational therapy practice in traditional and emerging practice settings.

The overall curriculum is comprised of courses that prepare the graduate to practice as an occupational therapy generalist in current and emerging practice settings, with individuals of all age groups, and in areas of physical and mental health. This requires completion of Level I and Level II Fieldwork experiences and the Doctoral Capstone Experience. Level

I Fieldwork occurs in year one of the program over three (3) trimesters. Level II Fieldwork occurs in year two of the program. Following the program's Scholarship Agenda, student learning outcomes also support the program's expectations that the OTD student performs beyond generalist-level preparation with the application of in-depth knowledge in clinical skills, research skills, administration, leadership, program development and evaluation, policy development, advocacy, or education, through a combination of a capstone experience and a capstone project. The Doctoral Capstone Experience and the Doctoral Capstone Project occur in year two of the program.

Entry-Level OTD Academic Calendar

Academic calendars are published for each program cohort based on the year of graduation. Key dates and activities contained in these academic calendars are subject to change. Please see the following link for additional information: <https://otd.robins.baylor.edu/entry-level-otd/curriculum/academic-calendar> (<https://otd.robins.baylor.edu/entry-level-otd/curriculum/academic-calendar/>).

Graduation Requirements

For a student to graduate from the Entry level OTD program, the student must be in good academic standing, have had satisfactory progress in all trimesters of the academic program, and satisfactorily complete the following:

1. Successfully complete the required 100 trimester credit hours.
2. Achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better across all academic courses.
3. Exhibit professional behaviors as described in the Professional Behaviors, AOTA Core Values, and the Code of Ethics for the Occupational Therapist.
4. Successfully complete a total of 24 weeks of supervised Level II Fieldwork and a 14-week Doctoral Capstone Experience.
5. Complete all Level II Fieldwork and the Doctoral Capstone within 20 months of completing the didactic portion of the program.
6. Complete all required Baylor University and OTD Program documents in preparation for graduation.
7. Honor all professional and financial obligations to Baylor University, as published in the Baylor University and OTD Program Handbooks, and as specified in any written communications from the University's administrators.

Entry-Level OTD Curriculum

The professional curriculum leading to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree requires students to complete 100 trimester credit hours of coursework in 6 continuous academic trimesters over a 24-month period. Students are enrolled into the EL OTD program as a cohort and complete required courses in a prescribed, sequential manner. Course sequencing within the curriculum is designed to optimize the student's ability to learn and integrate course material into future didactic and clinical education experiences, culminating in the doctoral capstone. The curriculum is dynamic to keep abreast with best evidence in both clinical and educational practice.

The OTD faculty believe that student-centered teaching promotes discovery and clinical reasoning based on scholarly inquiry and instills a sense of awareness of self and others resulting in scientifically based client-centered service delivery characterized by ethical treatment decisions. This approach challenges students to expand their understandings of the relevance of occupational therapy to

include considerations about the dynamic interaction of occupational performance, social participation and Christian values. The OTD curriculum design is comprised of the OTD Practice Sequence developed to prepare students for Fieldwork II and the OTD Scholarship Sequence developed for doctoral-level preparation for research and for application of in-depth knowledge required for the Doctoral Capstone. Stemming from the program's five curricular threads the faculty have established the following curricular learning outcomes.

At the time of graduation from the program, the student will be able to:

1. Utilize clinical reasoning in the occupational therapy process based on critical analysis, reflection and a dedication to excellence;
2. Articulate the positive relationship between occupation and health and appreciate the occupational nature of humans as a core philosophical assumption of the profession;
3. Provide client-centered care based on the principles, beliefs, and values of occupational therapy and a steadfast commitment to Christian values and identity;
4. Demonstrate servant-leadership roles leading to an in-depth understanding of a specialized competency in the profession that contributes to solving problems facing people and communities worldwide;
5. Demonstrate a commitment to scholarly practice and research through lifelong learning and critical inquiry.

Requirements for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy - Entry-Level

Code	Title	Hours
OTD 6122	Conditions Impacting Occupational Performance	1
OTD 6147	Conditions Impacting Occupational Performance II	1
OTD 6185	Scholarly Practice III	1
OTD 6212	Scholarly Practice I	2
OTD 6215	Neuroscience in Occupational Therapy	2
OTD 6217	Analysis of Human Occupation Across the Lifespan	2
OTD 6225	Fieldwork Seminar IA: Mental Health	2
OTD 6238	Fieldwork Seminar IB: Adult and Older Adult	2
OTD 6242	Occupational Therapy Service Delivery and Organization	2
OTD 6246	Scholarly Practice II	2
OTD 6255	Management of Occupational Therapy Services	2
OTD 6256	Fieldwork Seminar IC: Children and Youth	2
OTD 6261	Leadership and Advocacy	2
OTD 6262	Professional Competencies	2
OTD 6265	Program Development	2
OTD 6309	Doctoral Capstone Project	3
OTD 6311	Foundations of Occupational Therapy	3
OTD 6321	Occupational Therapy Process Across the Lifespan	3
OTD 6360	Wellness and Health Promotion	3
OTD 6383	Doctoral Mentorship II	3

OTD 6420	Mental Health Populations and Practice in Occupational Therapy	4
OTD 6430	Adult & Older Adult POP & PRAC in OT	4
OTD 6433	Human Movement	4
OTD 6450	Children & Youth Populations & Practice in OT	4
OTD 6472	Doctoral Mentorship I	4
OTD 6V09	Doctoral Capstone Experience	14
OTD 6V75	Level II Fieldwork I	12
OTD 6V80	Level II Fieldwork II	12
Total Hours		100

Entry-Level OTD Degree Plan

Required:

Year 1

Spring Trimester		Hours
Term 1.1		
OTD 6215	Neuroscience in Occupational Therapy	2
OTD 6217	Analysis of Human Occupation Across the Lifespan	2
OTD 6122	Conditions Impacting Occupational Performance	1
OTD 6311	Foundations of Occupational Therapy	3
Term 1.2		
OTD 6225	Fieldwork Seminar IA: Mental Health	2
OTD 6420	Mental Health Populations and Practice in Occupational Therapy	4
OTD 6321	Occupational Therapy Process Across the Lifespan	3
Hours		17

Summer Trimester

Term 2.1		
OTD 6212	Scholarly Practice I	2
OTD 6242	Occupational Therapy Service Delivery and Organization	2
OTD 6433	Human Movement	4
Term 2.2		
OTD 6147	Conditions Impacting Occupational Performance II	1
OTD 6238	Fieldwork Seminar IB: Adult and Older Adult	2
OTD 6246	Scholarly Practice II	2
OTD 6430	Adult & Older Adult POP & PRAC in OT	4
Hours		17

Fall Trimester

Term 3.1		
OTD 6450	Children & Youth Populations & Practice in OT	4
OTD 6256	Fieldwork Seminar IC: Children and Youth	2
OTD 6255	Management of Occupational Therapy Services	2
Term 3.2		
OTD 6261	Leadership and Advocacy	2
OTD 6262	Professional Competencies	2

OTD 6265	Program Development	2
OTD 6360	Wellness and Health Promotion	3
Hours		17
Year 2		
Spring Trimester		
Term 4		
OTD 6472	Doctoral Mentorship I	4
OTD 6V75	Level II Fieldwork I	12
Hours		16
Summer Trimester		
Term 5		
OTD 6185	Scholarly Practice III	1
OTD 6383	Doctoral Mentorship II	3
OTD 6V80	Level II Fieldwork II	12
Hours		16
Fall Trimester		
Term 6		
OTD 6309	Doctoral Capstone Project	3
OTD 6V09	Doctoral Capstone Experience	14
Hours		17
Total Hours		100