2019-20 M.S. in Occupational Therapy Information Guide

(In effect for the 2019-20 OTCAS application cycle which opens July 18, 2019 for the Fall 2020 M.S. OT Day and OT Weekend cohorts)

Thank you for contacting us about our MS in Occupational Therapy program. Attached, you will find our OT Info Guide which will help you understand both the qualifications and the application process. Please review this document carefully and let us know if you have questions.

TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF APPLICATION, YOU WILL NEED TO EMAIL A COPY OF YOUR TRANSCRIPTS TO GRADUATE ADMISSIONS FOR REVIEW IF YOU MEET OUR MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENT OF AN OVERALL GPA OF 3.0-3.2* (a 3.2 minimum is strongly preferred)

If you meet the GPA requirement, please email your transcripts, along with your contact information (mailing address, current school, phone) to either Lynn Cope at lcope@utica.edu or John Rowe at jrowe@utica.edu. We should be able to do a prerequisite review in 3 to 5 working days and email you with the results.

- Because we are different than most MS OT programs in terms of length (five straight semesters as opposed to three years), you most likely DO NOT have the required prerequisite coursework necessary. That is why we require the prerequisite evaluation at the beginning of the process.
- Prerequisite coursework MUST be taken through a regionally accredited community college, college or university (online courses from these schools are acceptable) and successfully completed by June 1, 2020 (you may apply while you are taking them).
- For more information about prerequisites, please carefully review the prerequisite coursework section of the attached guide.
- Please remember that completing all prerequisites successfully and having a GPA of 3.0-3.2* or higher is not a guarantee of acceptance.

The MS in Occupational Therapy program is a highly desired, medical-based program that leads to professional licensure. The degree is in great demand and requires a high level of scholarly ability.
For the Fall 2020 day and weekend cohorts, we have between 40 and 45 seats available. We normally get between 275 and 300 applications each year through OTCAS and will interview between 65 and 75 applicants during Fall 2019 and early Spring 2020. Deadline for application through OTCAS is February 15, 2020.

The answers to many basic questions can be found in the attached OT Info Guide. We prefer that you email us with any questions rather than call. Please email us at the addresses listed below.

Successful candidates will be notified by March 15, 2020. A wait list will also be announced that day.

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### Lynn Cope
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### Required Items for Application

1. Completed, verified OTCAS application (portal.otcas.org – opens July 18, 2019; closes on February 15, 2020.) Please note that the verification of your OTCAS application needs to be completed before we can interview you which is why it is important to apply early on in the cycle.

2. A BS or BA degree completed by June 1, 2020.

3. A minimum overall GPA of 3.0-3.2* out of a 4.0 scale or higher. If you have questions about your GPA, please contact us.

4. Eleven successfully completed prerequisites. You may apply as long as you have had an official transcript review by graduate admissions and have a plan to complete remaining prerequisites no later than June 1, 2020.

5. 25 hours of shadowing with an OT/R in two different settings (hours need to be verified by cooperating OT/R). These hours must be completed, entered in your OTCAS application and verified by the cooperating OT/R in OTCAS no later than January 15, 2020. However, you should have your shadowing experiences done much earlier. (More on observation hours below).

6. You cannot be interviewed without having a significant number of shadowing hours completed and verified. To be considered for our Interview Days in the Fall of 2019, you should complete shadowing hours (with verification) in Summer 2019 or before. If you are having difficulties completing shadowing hours before then, contact Graduate Admissions.

7. Two letters of recommendation with evaluation form (must be done in OTCAS)
8. Personal statement (done as part of the OTCAS application).

In addition, the OT Department will require you to produce other items (such as CPR, First Aid, etc.) if you are accepted.

1. Our Program Is One of the Oldest in the Northeastern US

Utica College has been educating OT’s for 53 years. The OT Weekend program has been in existence for 28 years. We have a nationwide reputation and a network of thousands of OT alumni.

Most likely, you will need to take several prerequisite courses to meet our admissions requirements. The successful completion (with a grade of C or better) of all of these courses does not automatically earn you admission into the program. Therefore, please carefully consider this fact before you make the decision to spend extra time and money taking any needed prerequisite coursework.

2. Our Program Is One of the Shortest In the Nation

Students complete Utica College’s MS in Occupational Therapy program in five straight semesters. A cohort starts each fall (late August).

Prior to admission, we require the successful completion of eleven (11) prerequisite courses. Please review the list carefully (see below).

3. You Will Most Likely Need To Take Prerequisite Coursework Which Must Be Successfully Completed Before You Can Start The Program

Below find the list of prerequisite coursework that must be successfully completed by June 1 of the year cohort you would like to enter the program. All coursework must have a grade of “C” or better (no C-‘s). Coursework may be taken from any regionally accredited community college, college or university. Online coursework from these institutions are acceptable as long as they fulfill the prerequisite requirements as described below:

Please Note: Successfully completing all prerequisites is not a guarantee of admission. Our program is highly competitive and has limited seating.

Applicants to the MS in Occupational Therapy must have:

A bachelor’s degree (with a GPA of 3.0-3.2* or higher on a 4.0 scale) from an accredited institution

Successful completion of eleven prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of C:
• Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab or equivalent
• Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab or equivalent
• An applied anatomy (Gross anatomy, Neuroanatomy, or equivalent)
• Kinesiology/Biomechanics
• A course in Sociology or Anthropology
• General or Introductory Psychology
• Abnormal Psychology
• Lifespan Psychology/Human Development/Developmental Psychology (must cover birth through adult)
• Medical Conditions and Implications/Pathophysiology or equivalent
• Statistics
• Research Methods (psychology or sociology-based)

We are happy to do a prerequisite review for you if you email us copies of your transcripts. The Graduate Admissions office will do a review for you and email you with the results. It will then be up to you to keep the Graduate Admissions office informed of your prerequisite progress each semester.

a. Where Do I Take Missing Prerequisite Coursework?

Some of these prerequisites can be difficult to find. Also, taking prerequisite coursework is usually done as a non-matriculated student, so you will most likely not have access to any financial aid and will have to pay for them out of pocket.

If you cannot locate coursework on the campuses of regionally accredited schools, you may take online coursework from them.

Utica College does offer Medical Conditions and Implications and Research Methods online. Please note that taking prerequisite coursework at UC does not influence admission decisions.

If you find a course you would like to take but are unsure if it meets requirements, please email us a copy of the course description for review. We reserve the right to reject a course that does not meet our prerequisite requirements.

4. We Have Two Options of Study-Traditional Day and Concentrated Weekend

The Utica College MS in Occupational Therapy day option is a traditional Monday-Friday day program that runs five straight semesters. The summer between the two academic years is reserved for a major fieldwork experience.
Utica College is only one of fifteen schools in North America that also offers a weekend MS OT option. The weekend option takes five straight semesters (including one summer) and is completed in the same time frame as the traditional day option. Because we are one of the few colleges with a weekend program, we have students drive and fly in from around the US and Canada each year to attend.

For both options, traditional day and weekend, we start each class in late August. **Please note that you can apply for the program while you complete prerequisites as long as they will be successfully completed by June 1 of the year in which you intend to start.** At the time of admission, you will have to file a Plan of Prerequisite Completion with the Graduate Admissions Office showing that you will take and complete the coursework by that date. Please email the Graduate Admissions Office for the PPC form.

The specifics of the OT Weekend option can be found below.

**5. You Must Have An Overall Undergraduate GPA of At Least a 3.0-3.2 To Be Considered**

While a 3.0-3.2* is the minimum GPA you can have, the average GPA for all accepted external students usually starts around a 3.4 or higher. Note: If you are close to a 3.0-3.2* in the summer when you apply but are not there yet and have more courses to take, go ahead and apply. We will monitor your GPA as you complete courses.

**6. We DO NOT require any graduate exam for entrance (GRE, etc).**

**7. You Are Required To Have Two “Shadowing” Experiences With A Licensed OT/R**

The OT Department and the Graduate Admissions Office want to ensure that all interested applicants have a basic knowledge of the OT profession and understand what they will be doing as an OT someday. That is why we require an applicant to shadow OT’s in two different settings for a total of 25 hours and have their experiences documented by a practicing OT/R.

Shadowing usually occurs in a hospital, an outpatient practice, a long-term care facility or a school setting. You must do one of your shadowing experiences in an acute care setting (hospital, extended or long-term care facility).

You may apply before you have your shadowing experiences but they **must be completed no later than** January 15, 2020. You cannot be considered for an interview (they will occur in late October, November
and January) unless you have completed at least one observation. A critical part of the interview process is being able to explain what you gained from observing and shadowing an OT/R.

The observation verifications are completed in the OTCAS application by the cooperating OT/R.

8. If You Meet Qualifications and Have An Active Plan of Prerequisite Completion In Place, You Will Most Likely Be Asked To Come To UC For An Interview

If it is determined that you will be a viable candidate, the Graduate Admissions Office will schedule an interview day for you at Utica College. At that time, you will be interviewed by OT faculty members and also get a chance to tour our facilities, meet current OT students and ask questions about the program.

9. IF YOU ARE READY TO APPLY:

1. Utica College uses the OTCAS Centralized Application Service through AOTA. The application portal opens on July 18, 2019 for the Fall 2020 cohort. https://portal.otcas.org

2. You may apply to several colleges using this single application. However, please keep in mind that you must pay a fee for each school you send your application to. That is why it is important to meet or be working toward meeting all Utica College criteria before applying here.

*A minimum GPA of 3.2 is strongly preferred. However, we will consider you if you have a GPA between 3.0 and 3.19.

**OT Weekend at UC**

OT Weekend at UC is entering its third decade. It offers career changers the opportunity to become OT’s while they continue to work at their current jobs. It is limited to 24 seats per cohort.

OT Weekend students spend 26 weekends at UC in class over four out of the five semesters (no weekends during the summer semester).

Typical OT Weekend Schedule by Day
• Fridays-5pm to 9:30pm  
• Saturdays-7:30am to 5pm  
• Sundays-8am to 4pm

As you can see, classes are very concentrated and require a great deal of personal academic discipline in order to be successful. Please carefully consider your learning style and time management skills when considering this option.

In addition, online instruction is used to supplement the face-to-face coursework.

Weekend Schedule by Semester

1. Fall Semester 500-level-meets 8 weekends (the first one is an orientation) usually every other weekend.
2. Spring Semester 500-level-meets 7 weekends usually every other weekend.
3. Summer-full-time 12 week fieldwork at a site based on your location (usually near where you live if one is availablehowever, we cannot guarantee this).
4. Fall Semester 600-level-meets 7 weekends usually every other weekend. The last weekend is early in December after which you do your first fieldwork experience for 2 to 3 weeks.
5. Spring Semester 600-level-meets 4 weekends scheduled through early March; the rest of the semester is dedicated to the last full-time fieldwork.

May of your 5th semester-Graduation

Please Note: This schedule is subject to change.

Academic Requirements (69 Credit Hours)

First Year

First Semester (17 credit hours)

• OCT 505 - Theoretical Basis of Occupational Therapy (3)
- OCT 506 - Human Occupations (3)
- OCT 525 - Fundamentals of Transformative Learning (1)
- OCT 526 - Case-Informed Discussion: Adolescents and Young Adults (2)
- OCT 551 - Community I (1)
- OCT 553 - Fieldwork Level IA (1)
- OCT 571 - Occupational Performance: Adolescents and Young Adults (0.4)
- OCT 573 - Fundamentals of Occupational Therapy Practice (2)

**Second Semester (15 credit hours)**

- OCT 521 - Professional Writing I (1)
- OCT 527 - Case-Informed Discussion: Adults (2)
- OCT 548 - Foundations of Occupational Therapy Research (1)
- OCT 549 - Research Seminar I (2)
- OCT 552 - Community II (1)
- OCT 561 - Professional Roles: Development (3)
- OCT 572 - Occupational Performance: Adults (0.4)
- OCT 655 - Community III (1)

**Third Semester - Summer (6 credit hours)**

- OCT 654 - Fieldwork Level IIA (6) (May/June through July/August, 12 weeks @ 40 hrs/wk)

**Second Year**

**First Semester (15 credit hours)**

- OCT 601 - Occupational Performance: Children (0.4)
- OCT 604 - Case-Informed Discussion: Children (2)
- OCT 622 - Professional Writing II (2)
- OCT 633 - Fieldwork Level 1B (1)
- OCT 637 - Occupational Therapy Manager (3)
- OCT 648 - Occupational Therapy Research Analysis and Integration (1)
- OCT 649 - Research Seminar II (2)

**Second Semester (16 credit hours)**

- OCT 602 - Synthesis: Occupation-Based Practice with Children (2)
- OCT 615 - Synthesis: Theory to Practice (2)
- OCT 663 - Advanced Professional Roles (3)
Note:

A culminating research/project presentation will occur at the end of the spring 600 level semester. A certification exam prep course also occurs at this point.

Housing for OT Weekend

At this time, the college does not offer on-campus housing for OT Weekend. Local hotels offer special discounted rates to weekend OT students. Many OTW students share rooms to reduce costs.

Note to International Students---Tests of English language proficiency such as TOEFL or IELTS are required if English is not your first language -- UC requires a TOEFL score of 525 written, 195 computer-based or 69-70 internet-based. For IELTS, the minimum score is 5.5.

QUESTIONS:

Please EMAIL Graduate Admissions.

jrowe@utica.edu

lcope@utica.edu

Note: This information is accurate as of 7-1-18. However, it is subject to change.