



WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

Occupational therapy is a client-centred health profession concerned with promoting health and well-being through occupation. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life. Occupational therapists achieve this outcome by working with people and communities to enhance their ability to engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do, or by modifying the occupation or the environment to better support their occupational engagement. (WFOT Statement on Occupational Therapy, 2012)

WHAT DOES AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST DO?

Occupational therapists use a systematic approach based on evidence and professional reasoning to enable individuals, groups and communities to develop the means and opportunities to identify, engage in and improve their function in the occupations of life. The process involves assessment, intervention and evaluation of the client related to occupational performance in self-care, work, study, volunteerism and leisure.

Occupational therapists may assume different roles such as advising on health risks in the workplace, safe driving for older adults, and programs to promote mental health for youth. Occupational therapists also perform functions as manager, researcher, program developer or educator in addition to the direct delivery of professional services. (Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, 2013)

We not only finished school with flying colours, we became what the Department of OS & OT envisioned for us: leaders in occupational therapy. – 2012 Valedictorian

DEGREE PROGRAM

- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (*MScOT*)
- Accredited by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (www.caot.ca)

PROGRAM LENGTH

- Two years (e.g. September 2014 to August 2016), including summer sessions, offered **only** on a full-time in-class basis, including fieldwork placements

WHERE ARE CLASSES LOCATED?

The vast majority of coursework takes place at the Rehabilitation Sciences Building on University Avenue in Toronto. This is in close proximity to Canada's leading research and teaching facilities, including the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto General Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, and Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS PROGRAM

- Strong leadership in the field
- Innovative teaching methods
- Inter-professional education
- Exposure to a diverse client population
- Faculty research focus in several areas of interest
- Personalized student services with dedicated on-site staff
- A large geographic catchment area for fieldwork placements within the GTA and internationally

"...not only do we have access to some of the country's greatest healthcare facilities, but there is also a large community of tight-knit OTs who return frequently to help facilitate labs, present guest lectures, and act as fieldwork supervisors to contribute to a rich and practical learning experience." – MScOT Student (Year 1)

FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITIES

Fieldwork education is an exciting time, providing an opportunity to consolidate academic learning with clinical learning, develop skills in assessment and treatment, and develop professional behaviours. It gives students an understanding of the nature of occupational therapy practice in a variety of settings. Fieldwork education is designed in such a way as to give students a broad range of experience and learning. Throughout the fieldwork experience students will work with clients across the lifespan and across the health care continuum in the areas of both psychosocial and physical health. (Donna Barker, Director of Clinical Education).

The University of Toronto catchment area includes local facilities in areas outside of Toronto, including the Regions of Peel, Halton, York, and Durham. Students may also apply for placements in Northern Ontario as well as other parts of Canada. A limited number of International Placements are available to students. The placements currently prioritized are those linked with the International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (see www.icdr.utoronto.ca for more information on this centre which is part of the Rehabilitation Sector).

“At the end of our placement, [the local OT department head] commented that out of all the international students who visit their department, the University of Toronto OT students are the best students they receive each year” – MScOT Student, following an international placement at an East African medical centre

HOW TO APPLY

You must either be in the final year of study or have completed an appropriate bachelor’s degree with high academic standing from a recognized university. You must be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident. You are then eligible to submit a comprehensive application online at www.ouac.on.ca/orpas. This includes official transcripts from all universities attended, two letters of reference each attached to a “Confidential Assessment Form” (rating form template), one of which must be from an academic source and the other from a professional source, a personal statement submission, and a Resume or Curriculum Vitae.

DEADLINES

Applications are available on the Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service (ORPAS) website by mid-October each year. The application deadline for September 2014 entry is January 10, 2014. Final decisions on admission and waiting list notifications are released as early as mid-May.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR GRADUATES

“During my job search, I've noticed that recruiters for jobs I've applied for have been interested in my research project experience and have brought it up during candidate screenings and interviews. Being able to present a year's worth of hard work to fellow students, clinicians and faculty from all over the country was a very humbling and rewarding opportunity.”

“The chance to step out of the student role and into that of a competent researcher and occupational scientist inspired me to continue in my research.”

“It has been my experience that OTs are friendly and engaging and make wonderful friends - any experience where I can develop those friendships and meet new colleagues, such as at a conference, is invaluable.”

QUESTIONS

- Phone: 1-416-978-0455 Email: occupational.therapy@utoronto.ca
- **Application: www.ouac.on.ca/orpas (starting in October)**
- Website: www.ot.utoronto.ca