

Entry-level Doctor of **Occupational Therapy**

0620

Help others live life to the fullest

Chatham University's entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program enjoys a 98% graduation rate, with 99% of graduates passing the national certification exam within one year of graduation, and 100% becoming employed within six months of graduation.

The entry-level OTD program is eight terms in length. Fieldwork experiences are integrated throughout the curriculum, and students complete a 14-week mentored doctoral capstone project in an area of professional interest in the last term of the program.

This project provides more real-world experience and can increase the scope of careers to include paths such as leadership, advocacy, research, program development, and advanced clinical practice.

chatham.edu/ot



chatham[®]UNIVERSITY

Entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy

The entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is part of Chatham University's **SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**. The School of Health Sciences has developed a strong reputation for its sought-after healthcare professionals. From high licensure or board pass rates to advanced clinical aptitude, our graduates enter or advance their careers ready to meet the needs of patients and clients, and contribute to improving the quality of care their organizations deliver.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The OTD program offers fieldwork opportunities in traditional and non-traditional practice settings at more than 350 sites nationwide—including the many nearby hospitals, clinics, and community agencies in Pittsburgh, a nationally recognized premier healthcare hub.
- Faculty members are accomplished teachers, scholars, practitioners, and active leaders in the field. Class sizes are small, ensuring each student receives personalized attention and feedback.
- Students take an active leadership role in holistic sustainable health through engagement in community health promotion and advocacy events.
- An elective course in global health perspectives allows students to gain experience in international healthcare settings.
- Students network with numerous OT practitioners, including our esteemed alumni, through guest lectures and fieldwork experiences. Opportunities also exist to present at state and national OT conferences.
- In addition to newly renovated classroom and laboratory spaces, students have the opportunity to practice OT techniques in our full-size, mock apartment. Chatham's location also offers access to a network of resources from nearby colleges and universities.

SAMPLE COURSES

Occupational Performance in Children and Adolescents

This course addresses the occupational development of children and adolescents, and the interrelationship between the child, occupation, and the environment on occupational performance and participation. Students learn theories and conceptual models of practice used in pediatric OT, and the evaluation and intervention process as practiced in a variety of settings (community, hospitals, schools, etc). Influence of the family, environment, and sociocultural factors on the developing child and the OT process is explored.

Environmental Interventions

Students learn principles of assistive technology practice and the occupational therapist's role on the assistive technology team. Students explore and critique technology resources, assess environments, and apply information to evaluation and treatment. The impact of environmental interventions on the consumer's ability to engage in meaningful occupations is discussed and analyzed.

Community Based Fieldwork & Seminar

This community-based fieldwork experience emphasizes higher level management and leadership skills, including program development, advocacy, and consultation. Students learn about community agencies, population and organizational needs, and apply their knowledge to conceptualize, plan, implement, and evaluate a unique program in a community-based agency.

OUTCOMES

OTD graduates work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, long-term care facilities, schools, and early intervention centers. A small sampling of employers of recent graduates includes:

- Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, OH
- KIDS Therapy Associates, San Diego, CA
- River Pediatric Therapies, Pittsburgh, PA
- University of Colorado Hospital, Aurora, CO
- UPMC St. Margaret, Pittsburgh, PA

FACULTY EXPERTISE

Students benefit from the breadth of faculty expertise found in Chatham's OTD program:

- Biomechanics
- Community-based Practice
- Evidence-based Practice
- Geriatrics/Skilled Nursing
- Gerontology
- Holistic practice
- Home Care
- Leadership
- Mental Health
- Neuroscience
- Pediatrics
- Rehab Management
- School-based Practice
- Sensory Integration
- Spinal Cord

“Our faculty has carefully and intentionally designed an entry-level OTD program which lays a foundation for graduates to confidently function as well-informed, generalist practitioners. The program guides students through introspection and self-reflection to develop individualized, authentic leadership skills, and prepares them with the tools and knowledge to be leaders within the OT profession and society at large. Students are provided opportunities both inside and outside the classroom to explore and apply cutting-edge theories and intervention approaches. They gain an understanding of professional responsibilities and advocacy through engagement in various personal and professional leadership and scholarship opportunities.”

— JODI SCHREIBER, OTD, OTR/L, C/NDT,
associate professor of occupational therapy

LEARN MORE

chatham.edu/ot

Chatham University
Office of Admission
Woodland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
800-837-1290 or 412-365-1825
gradadmission@chatham.edu

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Students must apply and submit all relevant materials directly to OTCAS at otcas.org, which opens each July. Students begin their application the year prior to the fall term they intend to start.

Prerequisite Courses

- Human Anatomy with lab
- Physiology with lab (human or animal)
- Abnormal Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Statistics or Research Methods

Applicants must have three of the five prerequisite courses completed by August 31 of the application year, and at least one of those courses must be human anatomy with lab or physiology (animal or human) with lab or anatomy & physiology I with lab. Additionally, prerequisite courses must have been completed no more than ten years prior to the anticipated start date of the program.

For more detailed admission requirements and application deadline information, please visit chatham.edu/ot.

ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE

for students beginning fall 2019

- Average Overall GPA 3.55
- Average Prerequisite GPA 3.65
- Average Combined GRE 296
- Average Writing GRE 3.85

► Apply online at otcas.org

Chatham University's entry level doctor of occupational therapy program (OTD) has been granted Candidacy Status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number is 301-652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. The entry level OTD program is now eligible to proceed to Step 2 of the Accreditation process, which includes submission of a self-study report in November 2020, and an On-Site Accreditation team visit in the fall 2021.