

Doctor of Occupational Therapy

Admission FAQs

APPLICATION PROCESS

When should I have my materials in to OTCAS in order to meet Chatham's application deadline?

Applications must be complete and e-submitted to OTCAS by November 1.

However, it is highly recommended that you submit your application to OTCAS on or before October 1. OTCAS's verification process occurs once an applicant e-submits the application and all official transcripts have been received. Verification involves some processing time, so it is in your best interest to submit all materials as early as possible to ensure your complete, verified application is available for us to review.

What are the interviews and when are they conducted?

Interviews are typically conducted on a Saturday in November for half a day. The session includes an introduction, overview of the program, and a facility tour. Students must also complete an oral interview and a written portion which includes 2-3 essay questions. Interviews are by invitation only.

Is there a supplemental application for Chatham's OTD program in addition to the OTCAS application?

No, Chatham does not require a supplemental application. All documents, including transcripts and GRE scores, must be sent to OTCAS.

Do I have to take the GRE? How heavily is the test weighted in the admission process?

Yes, all prospective students must take the GRE. Please keep in mind that Chatham does evaluate the student as a whole. So, for example, if you have a low score on your GRE but high GPAs, excellent letters of recommendation, and solid OT experience, this could overcome your low GRE score. **Official GRE scores must be sent directly to OTCAS using school code 4271.**

Will you review my application before it is completed?

An application will not be reviewed by the OTD program until it is a complete, verified application by OTCAS. It is your responsibility to contact OTCAS directly to verify receipt of application materials as well as the current status of your application.

PREREQUISITES

Do I need to have all of the prerequisites complete in order to apply?

No, you may have prerequisite courses still in progress; however, applicants need to have completed three of the five prerequisite courses by August 31 of the application year, and at least one of those courses must be human anatomy with lab or physiology with lab or anatomy & physiology I with lab, in order to be considered for invite to interview day. All prerequisites must be completed prior to matriculation if admitted into the program.

May I take prerequisite courses at a community college?

Yes, you may take or retake prerequisites at a community college or any other accredited school. Online courses are also permitted. If you are unsure whether courses meet our criteria and have a course description, you may e-mail it to Chatham's Office of Graduate Admissions at graduate@chatham.edu.

If I have retaken a prerequisite class, does Chatham look at the higher grade or the average of both?

Chatham takes the better grade for your prerequisite GPA; OTCAS uses both grades for the overall GPA.

How long are prerequisite courses acceptable?

Chatham will not accept a course that is more than ten years old to fulfill a prerequisite.

ONCE ADMITTED

If I am admitted, how do I secure my seat in the program?

There is a financial commitment of a non-refundable deposit of \$800 to secure a seat.

Can I transfer credits to reduce the number of courses I must take?

Because of the integrated nature of the program, no advanced standing or transfer of credits is granted. Each class is an integral part of the academic experience and is necessary for a complete education.

When do classes start?

Chatham's OTD program is a cohort that commences each year at the end of August.



Can the program be done as a part-time student?

Chatham's OTD program is completed as a full-time, cohort program only. All students complete their course of study in 32 months (8 terms). The program begins in the fall (August) and classes graduate in April after completion of the program.

Do I need to purchase a laptop for the program?

Each student will be required to have a laptop computer. Specifications will be provided to admitted students.

Is University housing available to OTD students?

Chatham is currently not able to provide on-campus housing options for graduate students. However, there are a variety of local housing options that are within walking distance or a short bus ride on the Pittsburgh Port Authority (free with your Chatham ID).

CHATHAM'S OT PROGRAM

What distinguishes Chatham from other OT programs nationally?

1. Our OT program boasts 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.
2. The program supports students in developing and actualizing their individual professional leadership path through engagement in specific leadership learning activities each term, involvement in individual and group mentoring, and participation in professional advocacy and community-based experiences throughout the curriculum.
3. Chatham's OT program has been in existence for almost 25 years and has educated successful occupational therapists working in roles throughout the country as clinicians, researchers, administrators and private practice owners to make a difference in peoples' lives.
4. Affiliations with over 350 facilities, as well as strong alumni and international connections, provide numerous options for fieldwork experiences and capstone project implementation in traditional and emerging areas of practice.

How many applicants does Chatham receive for the OTD program and how many seats are available per incoming class?

Last year, Chatham had more than 300 applicants for 40 seats.

What is the profile of a successful applicant?

On average, admitted applicants have an overall GPA of 3.55, prerequisite GPA of 3.65, and combined GRE score of 296.

What can I do to make myself a competitive candidate for the OTD program at Chatham?

- Exceed Chatham's overall and prerequisite GPA minimum requirements. The admitted student profile can be viewed at chatham.edu/otd.
- Shadow, volunteer, or work in an OT setting.
- Understand the role of an OT and be able to articulate your understanding as related to your personal, academic, and professional strengths and goals.
- Brush up on your writing skills and be able to answer questions in a clear and concise manner within an allotted timeframe.

How do Chatham OTD graduates perform?

- 98% Graduation Rate
- 99% Licensure Examination Pass Rate
- 100% Employment Rate (within six months of graduation)

What is the job market for OTs?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov) occupation outlook: "Employment of occupational therapists is projected to grow 18% from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations."

LOCATION

Chatham is uniquely situated on a 39-acre campus in Shadyside that is designated as an arboretum, providing a serene environment in the center of a thriving urban educational and medical center in the east end of Pittsburgh. The OTD program is housed at Chatham Eastside, a "green LEED-rated" facility located at the intersection of Penn and Fifth avenues, just a few blocks from the Shadyside location.

LEARN MORE

Attend a graduate open house to connect with OTD faculty and current students. You can register at chatham.edu/gradopenhouse. For questions, call 412-365-1825 or e-mail graduate@chatham.edu.