

Occupational Therapy

Department Information

Department of Occupational Therapy Staff	(251) 445-9222
Chair	Donna A. Wooster, PhD.
Associate Professor	Wooster
Assistant Professors	Brock, Deacy, O'Connor, Taylor, Thompson, Somerville
Instructors	

Department of Occupational Therapy website
<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/alliedhealth/ot>

Occupational Therapy is a health care profession devoted to providing skilled treatment that helps individuals achieve independence in all aspects of their lives. Occupational therapists work with persons with acute and chronic physical, psychosocial, mental and developmental disabilities. An occupational therapist may aid in the growth and development of premature babies; create a learning environment for physically and mentally challenged children; adapt home environments for persons with stroke, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury and other disabilities; or create activities that are designed to restore mental health for persons with emotional, mental, or substance abuse problems. Occupational therapy focuses on "skills for the job of living" which includes all of the necessary skills for individuals to "live life to its fullest" and lead independent and satisfying lives.

The Master of Science degree program in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) is an entry-level professional program designed to enable the student to develop advanced critical reasoning skills and to prepare the graduate for professional practice in a variety of settings. Graduates will also have the capability of assuming responsibilities in the areas of administration, program development, consultation and research in occupational therapy.

The program consists of 95 semester hours and is seven consecutive semesters in length. This includes 24 weeks of full-time Level II Fieldwork as required by accreditation standards. Level II Fieldwork is available in a variety of medical and community sites representing a diverse range of learning opportunities for students. All Level II Fieldwork must be completed within 12 months following completion of academic requirements.

The program is designed to accommodate applicants who have a baccalaureate degree in another field.

Accreditation By:

The University of South Alabama Occupational Therapy Program is Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

Status Is: Currently Accredited Until 2022

ACOTE Address:

c/o Accreditation Department

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

6116 Executive Boulevard Suite 200

Bethesda, MD 20852-4929

Phone: (301) 652-AOTA

Website: <http://www.acoteonline.org/>

Criteria For Admission

OT Program

A new class of OT students begins each year in the fall semester. Applications are available in July each year for fall of the following year. Selected applicants, who meet all academic admission requirements, may be invited for an interview. Students offered admission may choose to guarantee a seat by submitting a matriculation fee (applied toward tuition) or be placed on the alternate list. All students accepted to the program must complete a criminal background check. Admission is contingent on the background check being clear of criminal charges. Admissions information is available on the Occupational Therapy Department website with instructions.

Incoming Fall Term

The candidate is expected to satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university earned prior to Fall start
- Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 (A=4.0) overall cumulative GPA. Minimum 3.0 GPA OT prerequisite courses.

You may not mix/match scores from different exam attempts.

GRE scores must have been taken within the past 5 years.

Applicants must have a minimum grade of "B-" in each of the OT prerequisite courses (see list below).

International students must meet the minimum requirements for admission and apply to the University Office of International Services with certified translations of transcripts at least 60 days prior to applying to the occupational therapy program. International coursework must be evaluated by the USA Office of International Services to verify equivalency to USA courses. International applicants must have a TOEFL score = 100 on Internet based tests, OR iTEP Academic = 4.9, OR IELTS = 7.5, OR PTE Academic = 75. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution are not required to submit TOEFL results.

Completion of OTCAS Application with all required documents including official transcripts and course verification

Completion of USA Supplemental Application and payment

Observation hours may be required refer to OTCAS instructions.

Prerequisite Courses Required For All Applicants

- Developmental (life span) psychology (PSY 250)
- Abnormal psychology (PSY 340)
- Statistics (ST 210)
- **Anatomy & physiology I (BMD 251)
- **Anatomy & physiology II (BMD 252)
- **Kinesiology (biomechanics) preferred / or physics with algebra/trigonometry (KIN 380 or PH 114)

** These prerequisite courses must be taken no more than ten years prior to submitting your application.

AP credit and CLEP scores are not accepted for any of the prerequisite courses.

Selected applicants will be invited for an interview as part of the application process.

In order to be considered for admission to the MSOT program at USA, students should submit to OTCAS

Applications will be reviewed in Fall and Spring terms following OTCAS deadlines

Completed USA OT Supplemental Application which will be uploaded in the documents section;

Pay the \$75 non-refundable supplemental application fee and upload the receipt in documents;

Upload required documents (transcripts, etc..) in OTCAS

GRE scores submitted to OTCAS by deadline

Complete the OTCAS application process

Have transcripts verified by OTCAS. Please note that the OTCAS verification process may take 4-6 weeks.

Transcripts submitted must demonstrate completion of a minimum of 4 of the prerequisite courses at time of application.

The student must be able to complete the last two prerequisite courses during the semester of application. (for example, to apply for Fall, you must have 4 completed prerequisite courses with grades on transcripts, and you will complete the last two required courses by December. If you still have courses to take in the Spring, you can not apply until Spring.)

Additional Requirements

1. Occupational Therapy is a full-time graduate program that provides scientific evidence and clinical education needed for clinical practice. Course work and clinical fieldwork placements are full-time in nature. Students must be able to manage full-time clinical placements which are scheduled both on weekdays and weekends, between semesters and within semesters, not always following the academic calendar. Students should have the resources to commute to clinical placements that are not local to the Mobile area.
2. Students matriculating into and within Occupational Therapy will be required to have continuous health coverage and provide documentation of this throughout the program of study. Students are responsible for the cost of this health insurance coverage.
3. Students matriculating into and within Occupational Therapy will be required to complete background checks, drug screens, immunizations, and specific trainings at various times within the program and clinical fieldwork placements. We are unable to accept students into the clinical programs that are unable to sit for the NBCOT exam or achieve licensure in the US. Students are responsible for the costs of these.
4. Students may be required to have observation hours depending on COVID-19.
5. Students will submit documentation of volunteer hours (unpaid) for service that required direct work with individuals with disabilities, See OTCAS for details.
6. Selected applicants will be invited to participate in an interview as part of the application process.

This will be a rolling application process with deadlines in Fall and Spring.

Admissions Information And Instructions

All applicants who have met the prerequisite requirements and wish to apply to the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at University of South Alabama must complete and/or submit the following items:

1. OTCAS application completed by due date.
2. The Supplemental Application must be uploaded to OTCAS by due date.
3. A \$75.00 non-refundable USA OT Dept. application fee with copy of your receipt must be uploaded to the OTCAS application by due date.
4. GRE scores: All applications must submit official report of GRE scores by due date directly from the testing service to the OTCAS code: 2109. Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing sections are utilized. GRE scores must have been taken within the past 5 years.
5. Official Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended should be sent directly to OTCAS and updated upon completion of degree requirements.
6. The Department of Occupational Therapy will not process any application that is incomplete (for any items noted above) or that is not submitted by the deadline.
7. Preference MAY BE shown to Alabama residents, however, highly qualified out-of-state applicants whose academics and experiences indicate that they may be a success in both the program and the OT profession will be given the same consideration as residents. Residency and tuition information.
8. Students accepted to the program must submit completed health and physical forms to include required immunizations for completion of their matriculation package. Accepted students must also read, sign, and submit the Core Performance Standards document outlining fundamental tasks of which applicants should be capable upon entering the OT program.
9. Acceptance into the OT program is provisional pending a clear background check, submission of required medical forms, and completion of bachelor's degree.
10. Acceptance into the OT program is provisional pending completion of any additional required prerequisite courses with a grade of "B-" or better and submission of required medical forms as supplied in the acceptance packet. Failure to make a grade of "B-" or better in any required prerequisite course will result in a nullification of acceptance into the professional program. **Spring Semester 2020 only, courses listed as Pass in the Pass/Fail grading system or Satisfactory in the Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory grading system will be accepted for prerequisite courses.
11. Accepted students must submit a \$300 matriculation fee with the Statement of Intent to reserve a seat in the class. This fee is non-refundable and is applied to the student's first semester tuition. Students offered admission may elect not to pay the matriculation fee and be placed on the alternate list.

More Information:

If you have further questions about the application process, please contact the OT Department:

Phone: (251) 445-9222

Email: otadmissions@southalabama.edu

****PLEASE NOTE: A record of criminal charges, including misdemeanor and felony charges, may result in denial of access to fieldwork sites, inability to sit for the NBCOT board exam, inability to obtain a state license to practice, and/or limit job opportunities.**

ACOTE® Accredited Educational Programs

ACOTE® accredited occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational programs satisfy the states' educational requirements in all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Students graduating from an ACOTE® accredited occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant educational program are eligible to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification exam and apply for licensure in all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For more information regarding state qualifications and licensure requirements, please refer to the AOTA State Licensure webpage.

Areas Of Study

Occupational Therapy (MS)

Courses

Occupational Therapy (OT) (OT)

OT 201 Intro to Occupational Therapy 3 cr

An introduction to the occupational therapy profession and the scope of occupational therapy practice. Includes self assessment and development strategies to enhance students' readiness for the professional component of the occupational therapy curriculum. Familiarizes students with the functions, policies and services of the University, College and Department and includes an exploration of related allied health professions.

OT 499 Senior Honors Project - H - W 3 TO 6 cr

Under the advice and guidance of a faculty mentor, honors students will identify and carry out a research project relevant to the field of Occupational Therapy study that will lead to a formal presentation at the annual Honors Student Colloquium. The senior project will be judged and graded by three faculty members chaired by the honors mentor. This course is required for Honors recognition and may be repeated for up to 6 credit hours.

OT 500 Occupation in Context 3 cr

An in depth study of human occupation in context with emphasis on analysis of the person, the environment, and the task utilizing official occupational therapy documents. Includes an introduction to the evidence-based occupational science literature and discussion of the impact of occupation on health and wellbeing.

OT 501 Occupational Development 4 cr

This course will include the study of typical human development throughout the life span with emphasis on best practice screening and assessment, theories of development, and normative and non-normative influences on development.

OT 504 Neurosci Basis of Occ Perform 3 cr

Study of the neural development, chemistry, structure, function and pathology of the nervous system. Emphasizes the application of basic science knowledge as it relates to human occupational performance.

OT 505 Scientific Inquiry I 2 cr

An introduction to qualitative and quantitative research concepts and statistical methods with emphasis on evidence-based practice and outcomes research. Includes library search strategies, critical analysis of scientific literature, application of statistical methods and research designs, and scientific writing skills.

- OT 506 Research Design** 1 cr
An introduction to writing a research design proposal. Students will work in small groups and be mentored by faculty to complete a research proposal.
- OT 507 ADL/IADL Eval & Intervention** 2 cr
Occupational therapy best practice assessment and evidence-based interventions to improve participation in ADL/IADL skills in children and adolescence.
- OT 508 Experiential Learning-Peds** 2 cr
This course will consist of experiential learning activities focused on occupational therapy evaluation and interventions for ADL and IADL participation in children and adolescence.
- OT 509 OT Foundations** 3 cr
This course will promote student knowledge of the theories, frames of reference, historical and sociopolitical influences, and professional documents guiding the profession of occupational therapy. Active participation in OT professional organizations will be encouraged.
- OT 511 Neuromusculoskeletal Assessment** 1 cr
This course is a study of the structure and function of human body in order to enhance foundational knowledge for evaluation of occupational performance. Instruction include an emphasis on biomechanical assessment of limb range of motion and manual muscle testing.
- OT 513 Neuromusculoskeletal Experient** 2 cr
This course will provide experiential learning of the structure and function of the human body and assessment of limb range of motion and muscle strength. Students will learn to administer assessments of client factors using appropriate and safe procedures and protocols.
- OT 515 Psychosocial Eval & Intervent** 3 cr
This course will promote OT best practice evaluation and evidence-based psychosocial interventions for individual and groups to promote occupational performance in various environments.
- OT 517 Occupational Evaluation I** 3 cr
An overview of the evaluation process in occupational therapy. Includes the theoretical basis of evaluation, selection of appropriate data gathering methods, use of standardized and non-standardized assessment tools, interpretation of results and documentation of evaluation findings.
- OT 521 Practicum I** 1 cr
Observation and limited participation in clinical and community-based settings. Emphasis on assessment and intervention in performance of occupations.
- OT 525 Documentation** 3 cr
Overview of basic professional writing skills including: reporting evaluation data, intervention plans, progress notes, and discharge summaries. Includes understanding the varied purposes of documentation as well as legal and ethical issues in documentation.
- OT 526 OT for Adults** 2 cr
This course explores conditions and provides instruction on occupational therapy assessments and interventions for adults with acquired impairments and disabilities affecting self-care, ADL, and IADL skills. The course will take a life span approach with emphasis on occupational performance components and context. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize current evidence and student problem-solving, critical reasoning, and performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.
- OT 528 Adult Experiential Learning** 2 cr
This course will consist of hands on experiences with student reflection focusing on occupational therapy assessments and interventions for adults with acquired impairments and disabilities affecting ADLs and IADLS. This course will require students to synthesize information and apply evidence-based interventions to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.
- OT 531 Practicum II** 1 cr
Observation and limited participation in clinical and community-based settings. Emphasis on assessment and intervention in performance of occupations.
- OT 535 Foundations Low Vision Rehab** 2 cr
An in-depth examination of conditions causing low vision and the assessment and evidence-based intervention planning in low vision rehabilitation. Includes the conditions causing low vision, assessments used in the evaluation, interpretation of assessment results and documentation of evaluation findings in intervention planning of low vision rehabilitation.
- OT 539 Professional Dev Seminar** 1 cr
Designed to facilitate students' transition from didactic and part-time fieldwork components of the curriculum to the required full-time fieldwork experience. Emphasizes professional behavior, clinical reasoning and ethical issues.
- OT 545 Scientific Inquiry II** 2 cr
The application of qualitative and quantitative research concepts and statistical methods in the development and implementation of a scholarly project. Includes data collection and preliminary analysis.
- OT 547 Research Implementation** 1 cr
Students will work in small groups with faculty mentor to conduct research study and collect data. The focus will be seeking participants, obtaining informed consent, and conducting data collection. It will include creation of spreadsheets and conducting preliminary data analysis based on data collected to date.

- OT 550 Level II Fieldwork - A** 6 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.
- OT 551 Pract. IV Psych/Soc** 1 cr
Observation and limited participation in clinical and community-based settings serving clients with psychosocial and behavioral needs. Students will study evidence-based interventions that promote performance of various age appropriate and culturally relevant occupations. Emphasis will be placed on the behavioral, psychological and/or social factors promoting or hindering performance.
- OT 552 OT School-Based Practice** 3 cr
This course will focus on Occupational Therapy in School-Based Practice Settings. Emphasis will be on evidence-based practices to enhance occupational performance in the context of school. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, critical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation. This course will explore current legislation impacting the role of OT in the schools, the evaluation process and assessment tools for this environment and populations, working within various educational team models, transition planning, and promotion of life skill development.
- OT 553 OT and the Older Adult** 2 cr
This course focuses on the practice of occupational therapy with the older adult. Course content includes conceptual foundations in gerontology, age-related changes affecting occupational performance, evidence-based interventions, the gerontological continuum of care and the intradisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations that impact the delivery of services to this population.
- OT 554 OT & the Older Adult Exp Learn** 2 cr
This course focuses on the practice of occupational therapy with the older adult. Course content includes demonstration and analysis of assessments and evidence-based interventions used with the older adult population. This course also applies the OT process inside the gerontological continuum of care and emphasizes the intradisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations that impact the delivery of services to this population.
- OT 555 Level II Fieldwork - B** 6 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.
- OT 557 OT for the Young Child** 3 cr
This course will provide the best practice knowledge regarding occupational therapy for children birth to 5 years of age. Emphasis will be on early intervention and preschool services. Focus will be placed on client- and family-centered, occupation-based practice, which includes current and emerging practice areas for this population. Emphasis will be on OT evaluations and intervention planning.
- OT 558 Tech & Environ Interven in OT** 3 cr
An introduction to technology and environmental intervention (TEI; including but not limited to assistive, electronic, information, and rehabilitative) strategies used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities and/or to design and implement accessible environments to support full participation in life activities. This course is designed to meet the basic level of competency in TEI for the entry level occupational therapist.
- OT 567 OT for UE Injuries and Work** 2 cr
Occupational therapy assessments and intervention for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities with emphasis on UE impairments impacting daily life skills and work. Emphasis will be placed specifically on UE and hand injuries and appropriate interventions. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, critical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.
- OT 568 UE Injuries & Work Experientia** 2 cr
This course will consist of hands-on experiences with student reflection that focuses on occupational therapy assessments and interventions for persons with developmental and acquired impairments and disabilities. This course emphasizes UE conditions and impairments impacting daily life skills and work.
- OT 571 Interprofessional Collaboratio** 1 cr
This course will provide in depth knowledge on OT best practice for working collaboratively with a variety of interprofessional teams. Content will include examination of IPEC competencies as well as experiential practice sessions with other disciplines.
- OT 572 Eval and Intervention Child an** 2 cr
This course will provide in depth knowledge on best practices OT evaluation and intervention for middle childhood to adolescence. Emphasis will be on outpatient settings and include both individual and group interventions. Content will included transition planning, community mobility, and best practice evidence based evaluations and interventions.

- OT 573 OT in Acute Care** 2 cr
Occupational therapy assessments and intervention for persons in the acute hospital setting with acquired impairments and/or disabilities affecting self-care and functional mobility skills. This course will have emphasis on physical rehabilitation, occupational performance components and context. Therapeutic interventions will emphasize problem-solving, critical reasoning, and occupational performance synthesis to enhance occupational performance and adaptation.
- OT 574 OT and Wellness** 3 cr
This course will provide in depth knowledge on OT best practice for prevention, health promotion, and wellness. Focus will be on development of prevention/improvement for high-risk, high-need population based interventions.
- OT 575 Advanced Professional Writing** 2 cr
Covers a variety of types of professional writing useful to occupational therapists including: grant proposals; journal articles; books; client education materials; and presentation proposals and papers. Includes both the form and content of a range of technical documents as well as the processes of writing, peer review and critique.
- OT 576 Res Analysis and Presentation** 1 cr
Students will work in small groups with faculty mentor to conduct research study and collect data. Students will complete the data analysis started in previous research classes and then complete a poster presentation of their research.
- OT 577 Management and Supervision** 3 cr
Explores the application of the principles of organizational management and supervision to the development and administration of occupational therapy programs and occupational therapy personnel.
- OT 578 Intervention Competencies** 2 cr
This course will provide an overview of evaluation and interventions to promote student clinical reasoning and hands on practice in preparation for clinical fieldwork. Content will be comprehensive of previous courses with emphasis on case-based clinical reasoning skills and appropriate selection and accurate and safe demonstration of OT evaluations and interventions. Three comprehensive practical competency exams are required. One comprehensive written exam is required. Students must pass with grade B or better to proceed to fieldwork.
- OT 580 Level II Fieldwork - C** 4 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.
- OT 581 Clinical Practice I** 2 cr
Explores concepts and theories of leadership and emphasizes the importance of leadership in context, interdisciplinary teaming and the nature of change processes and diffusion of innovations. Also includes a focus on clinical practice and preparing for the board exam.
- OT 582 Clinical Practice II** 2 cr
Explores concepts and theories of leadership and emphasizes the importance of leadership in context, interdisciplinary teaming and the nature of change processes and diffusion of innovations. Also includes a focus on clinical practice and preparing for the board exam. This course is a continuation of OT 581 Clinical Practice I.
- OT 585 Level II Fieldwork - D** 4 TO 12 cr
A directed experience in evaluation, planning and implementing occupational therapy services under the supervision of an experienced, certified occupational therapist. Designed to emphasize clinical reasoning, entry-level skill acquisition and integration of didactic knowledge with practice.
- OT 590 Special Topics -** 1 TO 6 cr
A variable topics course covering areas not available in other occupational therapy courses. A subtitle identifying the topic will be entered on the student's record.
- OT 598 Independent Study in OT** 1 TO 6 cr
Special studies directly relevant to the practice of occupational therapy. The student will select an area of interest in which they wish to become more proficient. A faculty member will provide guided study, supervision and assistance in developing appropriate learning experiences.

Faculty

BROCK, CATHERINE W.
Assistant Professor
BS, Univ of Alabama-Birmingham
OTD, Univ of Alabama-Birmingham

DEACY, ROBIN M.
Assistant Professor
BS, Univ of Alabama-Birmingham
MS, Univ of Alabama-Birmingham

O'CONNOR, TRACY L.
Assistant Professor
BS, Auburn University
MS, Auburn University
BS, Tuskegee University
DOT, University of St Augustin- HS

SHOKOLENKO, INNA N.
Associate Professor
MS, Kiev State Linguistic Univ
PHD, Univ of South Alabama - COM

SOMERVILLE, SUE E.
Assistant Professor
BS, Mount Mary College
MS, Mount Mary College
DOT, Mount Mary College

TAYLOR, CANDRA
Assistant Professor
BS, Samford University
MS, Univ of Alabama-Birmingham
CERT, Univ of Alabama-Birmingham
MBA, Auburn University

THOMPSON, TARA J.
Assistant Professor
BGS, Univ of Louisiana at Monroe
MSOT, University of South Alabama
OTD, University of St Augustin- HS

WOOSTER, DONNA M.
Associate Professor
AS, Quinsigamond Community College
BS, Worcester State College
MS, University of Connecticut
PHD, University of South Alabama