OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MS: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

The Concentration in Assistive Technology and Accessible Design is an interdisciplinary program designed to meet the demand for assistive technology and accessible design specialists. The College of Health Science’s Departments of Occupational Science & Technology and Communication Sciences Disorders, along with the School of Education’s Department of Exceptional Education, collaborate on the course offerings. The concentration emphasizes technologies for disability.

Related Certificates

- Certificate in Assistive Technology and Accessible Design
- Certificate in Trauma-Informed Care
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Gerontology

The Department of Occupational Science and Technology offers a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy that prepares students to become occupational therapists. During the program, students engage in graduate-level instruction embedded in the theory, research, and clinical underpinnings required to become evidence-based occupational therapy practitioners. Students may select a thesis option or project option in pursuing this degree. Students who are interested can choose to combine elective courses from the OT program with other courses on campus to receive the transcript-designated concentration in assistive technology and accessible design and/or ergonomics. (Note: The ergonomics concentration is being revised; admission to the program is temporarily suspended.)

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the occupational therapist certification examination offered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) (http://www.acoteonline.org) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Summit Avenue, Suite 100, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (301) 990-7979. A felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Application Deadlines

If at any time you are unsure about a published date or deadline (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines), call the Registrar’s Office at (414) 229-3800 or submit a contact form (http://uwm.edu/registrar/contact-us) online.

Application

Applications for the MS OT handled annually using the OT Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) (https://portal.otcas.org). OTCAS provides a full-service, Web-based application and admissions process for prospective occupational therapy program applicants.

Following are important dates for the 2017-2018 OTCAS application cycle, i.e. those applying to start the OT Program in Fall 2018.

- July 18, 2017: Applications open.
- January 15, 2018 (December 1 if international): Deadline for submission of all application material to OTCAS.

Once recommended for acceptance to UWM’s MS in Occupational Therapy Program, students need to apply to and be accepted by UWM’s Graduate School. However, students may apply to UWM’s Graduate School at any time prior to being recommended for acceptance to the OT Program.

Admission

The MS in Occupational Therapy Program admits students on the basis of a competitive application process. Students are accepted into the program once per year in Spring and begin professional coursework in the following Fall.

In addition to Graduate School requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission), applicants must meet these departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program.

1. An undergraduate degree completed by the end of the Spring semester of the year prior to beginning the OT Program, from an accredited institution, with an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
2. Six prerequisite courses, required to be completed by end of Fall semester of the year prior to beginning the OT Program, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUM</td>
<td>Human Anatomy</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM</td>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM</td>
<td>Human Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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Select one of the following natural science courses:
Physics
Biology
Chemistry
Psychology

1. Courses requiring a lab component.
2. Courses with laboratory-based data analysis required.

3. Submission of scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre) taken within the last five years

4. Completed OTCAS application.

5. Three letters of recommendation: One letter must be from an academic source and one from a clinical/health-related source. The third letter can be either from an academic or clinical / health-related source. All three letters must use the OTCAS form.

6. Reasons Statement or Personal Essay: This is the same as the OTCAS essay. Address why you selected occupational therapy as a career and how an occupational therapy degree relates to your immediate and long-term professional goals.

For all admission and application related questions, please contact (414) 229-4713 or OT-program@uwm.edu.

**Major Professor as Advisor**

The Graduate School requires that each student have a major professor to advise, supervise, and approve the program of study. Students are assigned faculty advisors in the MS in OT program upon acceptance into the program.

**Credits and Courses**

The program is a tracked curriculum of 69 credits over 28 months, including a minimum of 24 weeks of full-time fieldwork during the program. OCCTHPY 810 serves as the capstone requirement for the degree. Students will enroll as full time students for each term of study (Summer, Fall, Spring). There is no part-time option for students in the MS in OT program. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 and a grade of B- or better in all required courses. Students who do not maintain this will be placed on probation.

**Time Limit**

The student must complete all degree requirements within four years of initial enrollment.

**Assistive Technology and Accessible Design**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCTHPY 593</td>
<td>Introduction to Biomedical and Rehabilitation Instrumentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCTHPY 620</td>
<td>Introduction to Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCTHPY 625</td>
<td>Design and Disability</td>
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| Electives | 6 |

Select a minimum of 6 credits from the following:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCTHPY 595</td>
<td>Vision I: Introduction to Low Vision &amp; Visual Impairment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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