



Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program Frequently Asked Questions

*Deadline for application submission for the **Fall 2026** entering class: June 19, 2026*

Program Description and Accreditation Information

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program provides the didactic and fieldwork experiences for a professional career as an occupational therapist. The program of study is full-time and spans eight (8) consecutive semesters. Upon successful completion of the OTD Program, the student will be awarded the OTD degree.

The Mercer University Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program has applied for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E, Bethesda, MD 20814. ACOTE's telephone number is (301) 652-AOTA, and its web address is www.acoteonline.org.

The OTD program must be granted Candidacy Status, have a preaccreditation review, complete an on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. After successful completion of this examination, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered.

Admissions Requirements

1. Undergraduate degree (Bachelor's) must be received from an accredited college/university prior to matriculation into the OTD Program
2. Preferred cumulative overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale
3. Required prerequisite GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale
4. Completion of all prerequisite courses prior to matriculation with a required GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale
5. Documentation of at least 40 hours of clinical observation under the supervision of a registered and licensed occupational therapist
6. Three (3) letters of reference must be submitted to OTCAS. At least one letter must come from a practicing occupational therapist, and one must come from a college professor/instructor. The third letter can come from any non-relative professional.

What are the materials required to apply to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program?

Please check our website (<http://chp.mercer.edu/admissions/admissions-requirements/occupational-therapy/>) for more details about the application process before you apply.

Applicants are required to submit a primary application via OTCAS (<http://www.otcas.org/>). All official college/university transcripts must be submitted to OTCAS.

GRE scores are optional, not required. Official GRE scores may be sent directly from Educational Testing Service to OTCAS using the institution code 1935 (Mercer U Occupational Therapy).

International applicants must also meet additional requirements regarding foreign course evaluations and English proficiency (TOEFL).

What are the required courses needed for applying to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program?

- Two course series of Human Anatomy and Physiology (labs preferred)
- Biology
- Physics (lab preferred)
- General Psychology course
- Advanced Psychology course (e.g., abnormal or developmental psychology)
- Sociology
- Statistics

Additionally, we require four (4) of these eight (8) courses to be completed before the application is submitted. Applicants are also encouraged to take Medical Terminology, but this is not a required course.

What courses do you take in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program?

Please see the attached curriculum outline.

Can I transfer into Mercer's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program and receive credit for courses completed at another occupational therapy program?

Mercer's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program does not grant advanced standing nor accept transfer credit from other occupational therapy programs.

Can I work while I am in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program?

The intensity and continuity of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program require the full-time attendance and attention of students. The curriculum is demanding, and as such, we discourage employment while students are enrolled in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. Note that schedule accommodations will not be made for any type of employment.

Who can I contact for financial aid information?

Student Financial Planning Office:	(678) 547 – 6444
Student Financial Planning Website:	https://financialaid.mercer.edu/
FAFSA on the Web:	www.fafsa.ed.gov

Where can I find information about housing for students?

For information about on and off-campus housing options for occupational therapy students, please visit the homepage for campus life (<http://atlstuaffairs.mercer.edu/housing>).

Where can I find more information about the Occupational Therapy profession?

For more information about the occupational therapy profession, please visit the American Occupational Therapy Association's website (<http://www.aota.org>).

Mercer University

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program*

OTD Year 1 Fall	Cr Hrs	OTD Year 1 Spring	Cr Hrs	OTD Year 1 Summer	Cr Hrs
OT 500 Gross Anatomy I	3	OT 501 Gross Anatomy II	3	OT 516 Assistive Technology	2
OT 503 Applied Movement	3	OT 502 Clinical Neuroscience	3	OT 521 Fundamentals of Documentation	2
OT 504 Disease and Occupations	3	OT 513 Development and Occupation Across the Lifespan	2	OT 532 Physical Dysfunction I: Pediatrics	4
OT 511 Ethical Principles and Foundations of OT	4	OT 514 Analysis of Purposeful Activity	2	OT 583 Scholarly Reports	2
OT 512 Introduction to Occupational Therapy Theories	3	OT 515 Techniques of Client-Centered Care	2	OT 592 Level I Fieldwork: Emerging Practice in Pediatrics	1
OT 581 Introduction to Research	2	OT 531 Mental Health and Awareness	4		
		OT 582 Evidence-Based Research	2		
		OT 591 Level I Fieldwork: Emerging Practice in Mental Health	1		
	18		19		11
OTD Year 2 Fall		OTD Year 2 Spring		OTD Year 2 Summer	
OT 617 Community-Based Interventions	2	OT 634 Physical Dysfunction III: Aging Population	4	OT 695 Level II Fieldwork A	11
OT 622 Effective Communication and Documentation Methods	2	OT 636 Therapeutic Intervention	3		
OT 633 Physical Dysfunction II: Adults	4	OT 641 Administrative Management	2		
OT 635 Therapeutic Measurement	3	OT 642 Professional Seminar	2		
OT 684 Capstone I	3	OT 685 Capstone II	3		
OT 693 Level I Fieldwork: Emerging Practice in Adults	1	OT 694 Clinical Intervention Practice: Aging Population	1		
	15		15		11
OTD Year 3 Fall		OTD Year 3 Spring			
OT 796 Level II Fieldwork B	11	OT 786 Capstone Fulfillment	13		
	11		13		
Total: 113 Credit Hours					

**Subject to Mercer University Board of Trustees' Review and Approval*