



THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INFORMATION SHEET

<https://www.mercy.edu/degrees-programs/ms-occupational-therapy>

The Graduate Program in Occupational Therapy:

- is a full-time, ACOTE** accredited 60-credit weekend program. Classes are completed in 5 trimesters, followed by 24 weeks of full-time clinical fieldwork.
- requires a Bachelor's degree, typically with a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher*, an completion of *both general prerequisite courses, and Mercy-specific prerequisite courses*. Note: Students without a Bachelor's degree can apply to the Bachelors in Health Science Program from Mercy, which includes required prerequisites.

*Applicants with a lower average may be considered for admission with special parameters based on professional experience.

**Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education, 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929, Ph# (301) 652-6611

Mercy's program is unique in that it's a full time, condensed, weekend program.

- It meets 8 weekends over a trimester (15 weeks)
- Classes held 6-8:30 on Friday evenings and 9-5:30 on Saturdays and Sundays.
- *However*, fieldwork usually takes place during a regular Monday-Friday workweek. Level I fieldwork takes place 1-day a week for 7 weeks, and Level II Fieldwork requires a regular 40-hour/week schedule.
- There are co-curricular activities that take place during the week that students are expected to attend. Advanced notice is provided to accommodate scheduling.

Mercy's curriculum contains content related to human occupation, along with content specific to occupational therapy assessment and intervention. It occurs over 5 trimesters as students study children, adolescents, adults, & older adults. Students repeatedly practice specific occupational therapy skills, ways of thinking, assessment, intervention and evidence and theory to guide practice as they examine each lifespan age. Our curriculum includes:

- Fall I: 3 credits OT Theory; 1 credit Applied Research; 7 credits infant and child-based content, including assessment, intervention, fieldwork and problem-based learning.
- Spring I: 10 credits adolescent and transition to young adult content, including assessment, intervention, fieldwork and problem based learning.
- Summer I: 4 credits assessment/treatment coursework in assistive technology and splinting; 3 credits of research methods for occupational therapy; 2 credits advanced study in a special topic
- Fall II: 10 credits young adult and adulthood-based content, including assessment, intervention, fieldwork and problem based learning.
- Spring II: 7 credits older adult based content, including assessment, intervention, fieldwork and problem based learning; 3 credits Management and Leadership; 3 credits in cognitive assessment and intervention across the lifespan; 1 credit advanced study in a special topic
- Summer II and Fall III: Level II Fieldwork Experience (4 credits each); 1 credit of advanced topic, presented in summer

For more detail, please visit <https://www.mercy.edu/degrees-programs/ms-occupational-therapy>.

Mercy's program is also unique in that Mercy-specific prerequisite courses are required.

- 20 General prerequisite credits typically required by all occupational therapy programs are required.
- 26 Mercy-Specific prerequisites (some of which may be waived) must be taken at Mercy and are required.
- Mercy-specific prerequisites are typically included in the first year of *traditional* graduate programs. Taking them as undergraduate prerequisites allows: 1) students to continue to work while taking prerequisites; 2) in-depth preparation for graduate content and work; and 3) in-depth exploration, synthesis, and practice of occupational therapy specific content within the graduate program. Our weekend program offers an *immersion experience* in occupational therapy, where students have the time to learn and practice concepts on a deeper level.

General Prerequisites – 20 credits taken at any accredited institution.

Students should check with the OT Program to ensure that their courses comply with Mercy standards.

Course Title	Mercy Course Code–Credit	Notes
Anatomy & Physiology I & II: <i>Lecture with a Lab including vertebrae dissection</i> <i>Online/web-based labs are not acceptable. Bio I or II may be an acceptable substitute.</i>	BIOL 130 <i>and</i> BIOL 131 – 8 cr.‡	<i>Grade of “B;” taken within last 5 years recommended; OT Faculty Review required if otherwise.</i>
Abnormal Psychology	PSYN 312 – 3 cr.	<i>Offered online</i>
Developmental Psychology- Lifespan	PSYN 233 – 3 cr.	<i>Must cover the entire lifespan. Offered online</i>
Statistics for the Social & Behavioral Sciences	BHSC 370 – 3 cr.	<i>Must be at a 200-level or above. Offered online</i>
Social & Behavioral Sciences(s): <i>Intro to Sociology, Anthropology or Cultural Diversity</i>	SOCL 101 <i>or</i> BHSC 295 – 3 cr.	

Mercy-Specific Prerequisites – 26 credits taken at Mercy

Course Title	Mercy Course Code – Credit	Terms Offered
Safety Precautions for the Health Care Professional	HLSC 205 – 1 cr. ‡	Fall, Spring and Summer
Overview of Occupational Therapy Practice†	HLSC 210 – 1 cr.*	Fall, Spring and Summer
Introduction to Accessing & Reading Scholarly Literature	HLSC 225 – 1 cr.‡	Fall, Spring and Summer
Scientific Writing	HLSC 402 – 2 cr. ‡	Fall and Spring
Group Process for Health Professionals	HLSC 344 – 3 cr.	Fall and Spring; B- or higher required
Pathology for Rehabilitation	HLSC 302 – 3 cr. ‡	Fall, Spring and Summer
Human Anatomy with Cadaver	HLSC 303 Lecture – 3 cr. <i>and</i> HLSC 303A Lab – 1 cr. ‡	Fall, Spring and Summer
Clinical Kinesiology and Applied Physics	HLSC 314 – 4 cr. ‡	Fall and Spring
Applied Neuroscience for the Rehabilitation Professional	HLSC 410 – 4 cr. ‡	Spring
Foundation of Occupational Therapy	HLSC 420 – 3 cr.	Spring and Summer

* OTAs are exempt ‡ Acceptance of transfer credit and and/or exemption criteria may apply.

General Application Information

The application submission window is March 15th through June 15th of each year. Applications will not be processed *before or after* the application window, however supporting material may be accepted under certain circumstances. No more than seven credits of the General Prerequisite courses may be in progress during the summer of the application year. Summer courses in progress must be completed in August of the application year. Any in progress courses should be indicated on the required Prerequisite Completion form indicating completion date. The application process has several steps and specific supporting documents that are required. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to contact Admissions at Mercy University and make an appointment with an admissions counselor. In addition, they can consult the “Overview of the Application and Admission Process,” which can be found at: <https://www.mercy.edu/academics/programs/occupational-therapy>