



■ Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)

Our Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) degree, offered through the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, will prepare you for a successful career in any area of the broad field of occupational therapy. Occupational therapists focus on increasing independence, as well as participation and engagement in activities of daily living for individuals, groups, and populations.

Program Highlights

Practical Experiences

You will begin working with clients in your first year, allowing you to enhance your knowledge base through hands-on involvement.

Year-Round Coursework

You will complete your doctorate-level degree requirements in three years due to the year-round offerings of the program.

Personalized Experience

You will receive individual attention from faculty and staff, helping you to build lifelong mentoring relationships and connections within the occupational therapy profession.

Connections in the Capital

As the only accredited occupational therapy program in Des Moines, Iowa's capital city, you will have many opportunities for unique practice experiences and access to legislative activities related to healthcare and occupational therapy. You can be involved in advocacy by becoming an active member of the Iowa Occupational Therapy Association.

Professional Preparation

We partner with numerous clinics, hospitals, special care facilities, and private practice sites throughout the U.S. Our extensive local and national practitioner network offers opportunities for shadowing, mentoring, and professional experiences. Our dedicated career development staff will work with you to achieve your career goals.

Admission Criteria

Drake University's OTD program operates on a rolling admission process. We will interview and admit students until the O1 class is full and a sufficient number of applicants have been identified for the waitlist. We recommend submitting application materials early to ensure your application is processed and considered in a timely manner.

To be considered for admission, applicants must

- Submit an OTCAS application (<https://otcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>)
- Submit the required Drake application fee of \$70 via the Drake OTD website: <https://www.drake.edu/ot/occupationaltherapydoctorate/otd admission/>
- Complete at least 3 years of undergraduate coursework (approximately 92 semester credit hours)
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (as calculated in OTCAS)
- Complete the Drake Areas of Inquiry: <https://www.drake.edu/dc/areasofinquiry/> (students with prior degrees may be waived from this requirement, contact the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at drakeot@drake.edu for more information)
- Complete (or be in the process of completing) prerequisite coursework outlined below

- Candidates with strong applications and academic credentials will be invited to complete an admission interview

Prerequisites Requirements

Applicants must earn a grade of C or higher to fulfill prerequisite courses. Applicants who wish to fulfill prerequisites through Advanced Placement or other testing options should contact the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at drakeot@drake.edu. More detail about our prerequisite requirements can be found on the Drake OTD website:

<https://www.drake.edu/ot/occupationaltherapydoctorate/otd admission/>.

- Anatomy and Physiology (8 semester credit hours including labs)
- General Psychology (3 semester credit hours)
- Developmental Psychology (3 semester credit hours)
- Abnormal Psychology (3 semester credit hours)
- Social Sciences Elective (3 semester credit hours)
- Statistics (3 semester credit hours)
- Medical Terminology (1 semester credit hour)
- English Composition/Writing (6 semester credit hours)
- Public Speaking (3 semester credit hours)
- General Electives (59 semester credit hours)

The entry-level occupational therapy doctoral degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE's telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, all states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure. Students must complete Level II fieldwork and experiential requirements within 24 months following completion of the didactic portion of the program.

