Towson University’s entry-level programs in occupational therapy have been accredited since 1978. The Accreditation Council on Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) recently approved the Towson University Occupational Therapy department’s intent to establish an entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program beginning Fall 2019, pending final approval from ACOTE, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The development of this program is consistent with current best practices in Occupational Therapy Education. ACOTE also recently released a statement that the entry-level degree requirement for the occupational therapist is moving to the doctoral level, beginning with 2027 graduates, and is advising universities to plan appropriately. Because of these changes, the department will admit the last Occupational Therapy BS/MS cohort of 20 students during the 2018 admission cycle.

For all of you, this means you will have one opportunity to apply for the BS/MS program here at Towson University. This makes it even more important that this year you consider what your back-up undergraduate degree will be in case you are not admitted to the BS/MS program. If you are not admitted and still want to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy while earning your undergraduate degree at Towson, you will need to complete a different undergraduate degree and apply to graduate-level OT programs. This is the traditional route for the field and will likely become the only route once the OTD becomes the educational requirement for those entering the field. Students who successfully complete the master’s program remain eligible to sit for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy exam through 2026.

**ACCREDITED MASTER’S-DEGREE-LEVEL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

The entry-level occupational therapy master’s degree program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA, and its Web address is [www.acoteonline.org](http://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.

(Note: TU’s ACOTE accredited program includes the professional entry-level master’s and combined baccalaureate/master’s programs.)

The doctoral program (OTD), currently at Applicant Status, must be granted Candidacy Status, undergo a pre-accreditation 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 (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.