Occupational Therapy Announcement for Fall 2018 Freshmen Applicants

Towson University’s entry-level programs in occupational therapy have been accredited since 1978. TU will admit the last Occupational Therapy Combined BS/MS program cohort in 2018, meaning that program will not be available for students entering college Fall 2018 or later. We are making this change because the Accreditation Council on Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) recently stated that the entry-level degree requirement for the occupational therapist is moving to the doctoral level, beginning with 2027 graduates. ACOTE also recently approved the TU Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science department’s intent to establish an entry-level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program, pending final approval from ACOTE, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Students are still encouraged to apply to TU and complete their bachelor’s degree in another subject area. 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 interested in applying to the proposed OTD program will have opportunities to meet with an advisor within the OT&OS department while they complete their undergraduate degree.

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. 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.

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.