



School of Occupational Therapy
P.O. Box 425648
Denton, TX 76204-5648
940-898-2801 Fax 940-898-2806

Dear MOT Applicant:

Thank you for requesting information on the Master of Occupational Therapy program at TWU. You have selected a program that is nationally recognized as one of the best. TWU has been graduating occupational therapy practitioners since 1947 and is the largest school of occupational therapy in the nation. With programs on the Dallas, Houston, and Denton campuses, the TWU School of Occupational Therapy is close to resources throughout the state of Texas and is invigorated by more than 25 full time faculty members with diverse areas of expertise and a strong commitment to teaching.

The MOT program on the Denton campus is structured for students who are entering or currently engaged in undergraduate course work. The MOT program in Denton is based on an accelerated plan that combines undergraduate and graduate level study.

Enclosed you will find the following materials:

- Overview of Occupational Therapy
- Becoming an Occupational Therapist through the pre-OT undergraduate degree plan and MOT Program on the Denton Campus of Texas Woman’s University
- Overview of the Selection and Application Process
- Prerequisite information
- School of Occupational Therapy Application form
- Volunteer Experience – recommendation form and cover letter

The TWU Master of Occupational Therapy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).* Graduates are eligible to apply for the certification examination given by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy (www.nbcot.org). *Note: Students are advised that NBCOT may deny an individual’s application to take the exam if he or she has a criminal felony conviction. The School of OT recommends that students with a felony conviction contact NBCOT for an “early determination review.”*

Please feel free to contact us at 940-898-2801 if you have any questions. We look forward to receiving your application. If you wish to obtain a catalog, contact the Office of Admissions at 940-898-3188. You can also visit the TWU website, www.twu.edu/ot, for more information. The catalog is available online at www.twu.edu/downloads/schedules-catalogs-calendars/general-catalog-2009-11.pdf.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Candler

Catherine Candler, PhD, OTR, BCP
Director, School of Occupational Therapy
Texas Woman’s University

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Overview of Occupational Therapy

What does an occupational therapist do?

Occupational therapists help people with physical or emotional problems to best overcome their difficulties, adapt, and be able to lead a meaningful life. The profession shares the view that a fulfilling life is made up of satisfaction in roles such as: mother, child, teacher, mayor, doctor, husband, student, etc. Roles consist of performing specific occupations or activities. These occupations are the focus of occupational therapy. The occupational therapist identifies those roles most important to the patient, assesses physical, emotional, and cultural barriers, and provides therapy that enables the patient to become more adaptive. This is the focus of therapy. Since most of the individuals treated by occupational therapists will not overcome their actual impairment, it is their adaptiveness that will determine how well they perform the occupations that make up their roles in life. The job of the therapist is not to do the adapting for the patient, but to help the patient become the one who adapts himself and his world. It is not a physical or mental problem that makes one disabled, it is the inability to adapt effectively. You will note that the TWU curriculum is organized around these beliefs.

What's the average salary and employment picture?

The U.S. Dept. of Labor projects a 25% increase in the need for occupational therapists. There is a significant shortage. Many employers are now offering signing bonuses and covering relocation expenses for recent graduates. The average salary in the Dallas metroplex is \$63,000 for beginning therapists. Therapists are most often employed by long term care facilities, hospital/rehabilitation centers, followed by public schools, assisted care and home health agencies, private pediatric centers, early childhood programs that are home-based, and other community and social service agencies.

Where can I learn more?

The American Occupational Therapy Association is the national organization of occupational therapy practitioners. You can find a wealth of information concerning occupational therapy on the website www.aota.org.

Preparing for Application to the MOT Program on the Denton Campus of Texas Woman's University

The MOT Program in Denton and the pre-OT Degree Plan

The pre-OT degree plan prepares the undergraduate student for application to the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program offered on the Denton Campus. Students from the undergraduate majors of child development, family studies, kinesiology, health studies, or psychology complete the TWU undergraduate core requirements, the required courses in the major, and the prerequisite courses for the MOT program. In addition, all declared pre-OT students attend an information seminar each fall and spring semester, hosted by the School of Occupational Therapy. At the seminar pre-OT students receive information concerning the profession, network with current MOT students, and are updated on the MOT selection process.

One year preceding the completion of all non-OT courses on their plan, pre-OT students may apply to the School of Occupational Therapy for approval to begin occupational therapy coursework. Enrollment in a pre-OT degree plan as an undergraduate student does not guarantee admission into occupational therapy coursework. A predetermined number of students can be accepted based on availability of clinical facilities, space, and faculty. Entrance is competitive. Selection is based on:

- Academic performance
- On-campus interview
- Writing sample
- Therapist recommendation after completion of 20 volunteer hours with an occupational therapist
- Total number of students that can be admitted in the program

Application for approval to begin occupational therapy coursework must be submitted by **September 15th** for the subsequent fall semester. Selection is made the January preceding the student's completion of all requirements of the major with the exception of occupational therapy courses. Applicants who are not selected for admission into occupational therapy courses have ample time to meet with their undergraduate advisors, explore alternatives, adjust goals and plan for timely graduation.

The MOT program

Pre-OT students who have been selected begin occupational therapy courses the following fall semester. The undergraduate degree plan determines whether the student completes one or two semesters of occupational therapy coursework as part of the undergraduate degree. One semester prior to undergraduate degree completion, students taking occupational therapy coursework apply to the Graduate School. To begin graduate level coursework a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above in all occupational therapy courses completed is required. To be accepted into the Master of Occupational Therapy program as a graduate student the student must meet the requirements of the Graduate School. Once accepted by the Graduate School, pre-OT students transition from undergraduate to master's level and are admitted to the Master of Occupational Therapy program. To complete the Master of Occupational Therapy degree, the student must complete the remaining graduate course work in occupational therapy and six months of full-time occupational therapy internship.

The Master of Occupational Therapy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE*). With successful completion of the Master of Occupational Therapy degree, the student is eligible to apply for the national certification examination given by the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy (www.nbcot.org). *Note: Students are advised that NBCOT may deny an individual's application to take the exam if he or she has a criminal felony conviction. The School of OT recommends that students with a felony conviction contact NBCOT for an "early determination review."*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATION

Step 1: Apply to Texas Woman's University as an undergraduate student (Transfer students welcome!)

Navigate online to www.twu.edu/admissions/ to begin the process.

Step 2: Select a major, meet with your undergraduate advisor in that major and select a pre-OT degree plan.

- child development
- family studies
- kinesiology
- health studies
- psychology

Step 3: Attend the School of Occupational Therapy pre-OT information seminar each Fall and Spring semester while taking courses in undergraduate major.

Step 4: Complete 20 volunteer hours under the supervision of an occupational therapist

No more than two years prior to actual application, contact an occupational therapist and arrange for 20 hours of observation/volunteer experience of occupational therapy practice under his or her supervision. Present the occupational therapist with the enclosed recommendation form and instruction letter. As indicated in the instruction letter, provide the supervising therapist with an envelope for the recommendation form to be sealed and signed. You will submit this with your application prior to September 15th. Note – The School of Occupational Therapy does not refer applicants to specific clinical sites or therapists for observation hours. This choice is the responsibility of the applicant. Typically occupational therapy practitioners are glad to provide this service to persons interested in joining the profession.

Step 5: Apply to the School of Occupational Therapy to take occupational therapy courses

Submit the School of Occupational Therapy application by **September 15th** before the fall you will be ready to begin occupational therapy courses as indicated on your pre-OT degree plan. Your undergraduate advisor will help you in determining when that is.

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Minimum requirements to apply to take occupational therapy courses

- An advisor and major department approved pre-OT degree plan
- Consistent attendance at the pre-OT information seminars (held once each fall and spring semester during undergraduate work under a pre-OT degree plan)
- Pre-OT degree plan including completion of all core and major courses before entry into occupational therapy courses
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in higher education (*includes all courses completed, at TWU or elsewhere, at the time of application.*)
- Submission of a School of Occupational Therapy application
- A grade of a B (3.00) or higher for each prerequisite course (*each course can be repeated only once; both the original and repeat grade will be included in the pre-requisite average.*)
- Pre-requisites differ somewhat by undergraduate major but have the following content:

- *Math Sciences*
 - Elementary Statistics
 - *Biological Sciences*
 - Anatomy & Physiology I
 - Anatomy & Physiology II
 - Kinesiology/ biomechanics
 - Neuroanatomy/Physiology Lecture
 - Neuroanatomy/Physiology Lab
 - *Behavioral Sciences*
 - Developmental Psychology or lifespan development
 - Abnormal Psychology
 - Introduction to Psychology
- A minimum of 20 hours of recent volunteer work under the immediate supervision of an occupational therapist. This must be done no more than 2 years before applying for permission to enroll in OT course work. The applicant is responsible for arranging the volunteer experience and securing the recommendation materials from the School of OT at 940-898-2801.

SELECTION PROCESS

- After initial eligibility is established, the Occupational Therapy Admissions Committee reviews all application packets. Individuals from this group are selected and invited to attend an interview on the Denton campus.
- The Admissions Committee meets approximately two weeks after the Interview. Students are recommended for acceptance on the basis of academic proficiency, ratings by clinical supervisor and interviewers, and ability to communicate well in writing. All applicants are notified in writing as to acceptance status.

IF ACCEPTED INTO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COURSES PROOF OF IMMUNIZATION RECORD AND A BACKGROUND CHECK WILL BE REQUIRED.

Step 6: Apply to the Graduate School

One semester before baccalaureate graduation pre-OT degree plan students apply for admission into the Graduate School: https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX

Minimum requirements to apply from pre-OT into the MOT program in Denton

- Submission of an application to the Graduate School
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in all occupational therapy courses.

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 most states require licensure in order to practice. A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Prerequisites: TWU Pre-OT

The following seven content areas must be completed before the student may apply for approval to enroll in occupational therapy courses. These prerequisites are included as part of the *Pre-OT* undergraduate degree plans at TWU. Some colleges/universities offer these courses in combined or separate lecture/lab. Your undergraduate advisor will determine whether a course satisfies the prerequisite content. It isn't necessary that the course title be the same as below; it is the course content/description that is the critical issue.

Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credit hours) Principles of the structure and functions of the human body. Lecture /lab

Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4 credit hours) Principles of the structure and functions of the human body. Lecture/lab (this is a continuation of A & P I)

Developmental Psychology or Human Development Across the Lifespan (3 credit hours) Development of personality and learning across the life-span. (General Psychology is usually a prerequisite) *Note: some Pre-OT degree plans do not require a separate course in dev. psych. Check with the Pre-OT advisor in the major.*

General Psychology: (3 credit hours) Introduction to psychology. Usually counts toward the Core and is a pre-requisite for Abnormal Psychology.

Abnormal Psychology (3 credit hours) Study of psychopathology in such areas as mood disorders, psychosis, defense mechanisms, comparison between normal and abnormal behavior. *Note: A course in general psychology is usually a prerequisite.*

* Kinesiology (3 – 4 credit hours) Anatomical aspects of the nervous, skeletal, and muscular systems of the human body, biomechanics and applications to movement. Lecture/lab

* Neuroanatomy & Neurophysiology (3- 4 credit hours) Basic anatomy & physiology of the human nervous system. Location, structure, and function of the CNS and associated pathways. Lecture/lab

Introductory Statistics (3 credit hours) Frequency distributions; graphical representation, measures of central tendency and dispersion, normal curve; hypothesis testing/confidence intervals.

* It is strongly recommended that these courses be completed at TWU. The content is highly specialized and will best meet the needs of OT students.



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Dear Occupational Therapist:

This letter is to request your assistance with the selection of students for the occupational therapy program. As part of the application process, prospective students are required to spend a minimum of 20 hours of observation under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist. The applicant must have the attached recommendation form completed by an OTR with whom the applicant has volunteered. We prefer that the experience offer opportunity for the applicant to interact with patients. We request that a single OTR take responsibility for supervising and rating the applicant. Applicants are not permitted to supply additional recommendations.

Attached you will find the form with which to rate the applicant's performance. Your comments will be held in confidentiality. The applicant is to supply you with an envelope in which to place the completed and signed form. Please provide all requested information, sign the form, place it in the envelope, seal it, and sign across the seal. The applicant will include this sealed envelope with the application and other required forms.

We thank you for your willingness to assist in the process of selecting occupational therapy students who will be an asset to the profession.

Sincerely,

Catherine Candler

Catherine Candler, PhD, OTR, BCP
Director, School of Occupational Therapy
Texas Woman's University

RATING SCALE: (circle the number closest to your impression of the applicant)

SA=Strongly agree/5 A=Agree/4 NO=No opinion/3 D=Disagree/2 SD=Strongly disagree/1

Comments are encouraged as you see fit, and are requested if you circle 1 or 2.

	SA	A	NO	D	SD
1. Demonstrates good listening skills. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
2. Communicates effectively with clients and staff. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
3. Exhibits adaptability and flexibility. Exhibits common sense. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
4. Demonstrates appropriate affects, interest and attentiveness are engaged. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
5. Demonstrates effective interpersonal skills. Relates appropriately to clients and staff. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
6. Shows dependability/ reliability/ promptness. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
7. Relates well to person in authority. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
8. Follows directions well. Asks questions for clarification. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
9. Appearance is appropriate to the setting. Comments:	5	4	3	2	1
10. Would you be willing to have this applicant return?	YES	NO			

