

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) Program is designed for students who have a baccalaureate degree and are ready to apply for the

#### **How do I become an occupational therapist?**

First, you must complete an accredited educational program. Accredited programs are available in colleges, universities and vocational, technical or community colleges throughout the country. There are no on-the-job training programs in hospitals or other healthcare facilities.

#### **What kinds of educational programs are available?**

To become an occupational therapist (OT), you must complete a masters or doctorate program. Each type of program includes a minimum of six months of supervised clinical education or fieldwork. Because educational requirements vary from school to school, it is important to obtain specific information from each institution and program.

#### **Can I transfer credits from another educational program toward a degree in occupational therapy?**

OT program requirements differ among institutions. If you have completed courses in another discipline, or are considering taking prerequisites at another educational institution, contact the individual occupational therapy program about their requirements. The USI OT Program Chair can review your transcripts and offer recommendations.

#### **How do I find an occupational therapy educational program that fits me?**

Students can enter the OT Profession as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) or as a Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR). Most COTA programs lead to an associate degree, but in the near future, COTA programs may lead to a bachelor's degree. All OT and OTA programs must meet standards developed by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and all graduates must pass a national examination before obtaining a license to practice. USI is one of only a few institutions that offer both OT and OTA Programs.

#### **What is the employment outlook for occupational therapists?**

The employment outlook for OTs is bright! Recent information published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected the demand for OTs is expected to grow.

#### **Where do occupational therapists work?**

One of the greatest advantages of a career in OT is the wide variety of opportunities available to graduates. OTs work with all age groups to promote health and wellness, and prevent disease and/or injury. OTs also work in schools with students who have learning disabilities or behavioral problems. Others work in pediatric hospitals with premature infants or with children born with cerebral palsy, Erb's palsy or Down syndrome. OTs work with individuals in their homes, at community centers, in rehabilitation hospitals, businesses and skilled nursing facilities. In these settings, OTs help people with traumatic injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease or mental health problems learn to live productive lives through the use of meaningful occupations.

#### **What is the average salary earned by an occupational therapist?**

Earning potential for occupational therapy personnel is very good, however salaries may vary somewhat with practice settings and geographic location. Check the U.S. Department of Labor website for more information.

# USI Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Curriculum

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

College of Nursing and Health Professions  
University of Southern Indiana  
Stone Family Center for Health Sciences  
515 Walnut Street  
Evansville, Indiana 47708



Occupational Therapy Program SFC 3052  
812-492-7818 (phone)  
812-492-7800 (fax)  
[USI.edu/health](http://USI.edu/health)