

UW MOT Admissions and Curriculum

Last updated March 2026

Admissions

In our holistic admissions process, we consider a balance of an applicant's experiences and academic history. Our admissions reviews are conducted entirely online and do not include an interview. Please review all application instructions and requirements carefully, ask us for clarification, and prepare and submit the complete application by the deadline. We do not grant exceptions or extensions for submitting application materials, and we require complete applications for review.

Technical Standards

Read our Technical Standards Policy for students. Technical standards can be met with or without accommodations. For more information about accommodations, visit the Disability Resources for Students office.

Applications

Two applications are required. Submit an application through the [Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service \(OTCAS\)](#) and the [University of Washington Graduate School](#) Slate application.

English Language Requirements

Demonstration of English proficiency is required of all non-native English speakers by the UW Graduate School and Division of OT. Please visit the UW Graduate School website for more information. Applicants should submit their test scores directly to the UW Graduate School by the application deadline. The Division of OT requires applicants to meet the UW Graduate School's recommended scores where ELP is satisfied.

Education

A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the US (or equivalent from a foreign institution). All majors are accepted.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Competitive applicants will have at least a Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. We will consider applicants with less than a Cumulative GPA of 3.0 if their last 90 graded quarter credits or 60 graded semester credits average to at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

OT-related Experience

A minimum of 20 hours is required from the following list of options:

- Clinical site observation
- Shadowing or interviewing OT or OTA
- Completion of online OT module designed by a university
- Rehabilitation-related research participation
- Work or volunteer experience with persons with disabilities

Submit this information via the OTCAS "experience" section. No timesheets or forms are required. Do not submit this information to the UW Graduate School Slate application.

Prerequisite Coursework

There are seven required prerequisite courses:

- Natural sciences: general chemistry, human anatomy, human physiology
- Social sciences: statistics, developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, and a course in sociology/anthropology/other course in how health practices intersect with society/culture/global relations
- Prerequisite courses must be graded 3.0 (B) or higher.
- One prerequisite course can be graded as low as 2.7 (B-).

Priority consideration will be given to applicants who submit grades for all seven required prerequisites at the time of application submission. Applicants missing one or more prerequisites will be considered for "conditional admission" and missing grades will be required to be submitted by August 1st prior to the start of the OT program.

Courses must be taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher education which may include traditional or online courses at universities, community colleges, or AP scores/CLEP posted as earned college credit on an official college transcript. Courses do not expire but we do expect applicants to be knowledgeable and comfortable with the material.

Transcripts

Official transcripts for all colleges attended are required to be sent to OTCAS, including from study abroad and transfer institutions. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for the UW Graduate School Slate application until admitted.

Letters of Recommendation

Three electronic letters are required to be submitted to OTCAS. Letters should speak to your potential to be an occupational therapist and can be written by professors, supervisors, or OTs. Do not submit letters to the UW Graduate School Slate application.

Non-OT Experience

Submit any volunteer, work, or extracurricular activities via the OTCAS "experience" section. Do not submit this information to the UW Graduate School Slate application.

Essays

The prompts are in OTCAS. Submit both essay responses in OTCAS.

- Essay 1 - Personal Statement (no character limit)
- Essay 2 - UW school specific essay (3500 character limit includes spaces)

Do not submit essays to the UW Graduate School Slate application.

Email any questions to ot@uw.edu.

Curriculum for the 2025 and 2026 Academic Years

The UW Master of Occupational Therapy degree is a 9-quarter lock-step program that begins in Autumn Quarter. The first 7 quarters of coursework are followed by 6 months of full-time Fieldwork II clinical placements. We focus on preparing graduates for the complexity of occupational therapy practice through didactic coursework and authentic, immersive Clinical Learning Experiences in the community.

Year 1

First-year students focus on the foundations of occupational therapy, the therapeutic analysis of activities and occupations throughout the lifespan, the process of occupational therapy service delivery, and therapeutic communication groups. They also learn applied human sciences such as functional anatomy and neurobiology.

Year 2

In the second year, students learn occupational therapy theory and practice in mental health, physical disabilities, pediatrics and geriatrics through academic coursework integrated with approximately 4 weeks of community-based Fieldwork I and other Clinical Learning Experiences.

Clinical Learning Experiences

Our philosophy is that clinical skills are best refined through working with real clients in real-world environments. We provide a variety of immersive Clinical Learning Experiences in the community in addition to typical classroom-based labs and simulations. Students gain real-world practical experience outside the classroom and develop clinical reasoning and technical skills through course-related assignments, the Graduate Capstone Project, and Fieldwork Levels I and II.

Course Assignments

At least one course per quarter includes a structured Clinical Learning Experience assignment. These assignments are designed to build on each other throughout the program. For example, to master clinical interviewing skills, students first interview a resident at a local retirement facility to build an occupational profile. They continue to refine this skill by interviewing parents as part of a pediatric assessment, and consumers who use assistive technology in everyday life. More examples of structured Clinical Learning Experience assignments:

- Focused treatment observation and analysis
- Standardized test administration
- Transfer training
- Client assessment and treatment
- Community site usability evaluation
- Home accessibility assessment

MOT Graduate Capstone Projects

Second-year students apply their scholarship to real-world practice settings through collaborative MOT Graduate Capstone Projects. The projects combine an in-depth clinical learning experience with an opportunity to give back to the community through service learning. The projects extend over four quarters. Students write a scholarly paper, design a professional poster, and present their projects at the annual MOT Graduate Symposium. Each team is guided by a faculty advisor and one or more community mentors. Every year, several students present their projects at local, state, and national conferences.

Fieldwork Levels I and II

Fieldwork is the occupational therapy term for clinical education that is required under national accreditation standards. It includes Fieldwork I and Fieldwork II. Fieldwork II always occurs in community settings. The accreditation standards for Fieldwork I placements, however, allow for a variety of clinical experiences including classroom-based simulations and labs.

There are four Fieldwork I experiences in the program at a community setting under the supervision of an occupational therapy practitioner or other health professional. Each placement is linked to a theory and practice course in mental health, physical disabilities, pediatrics, and geriatrics. We integrate this real-world practical experience in the field into core coursework through assessment reports, treatment planning, documentation notes, and class discussions.

There are two full-time Fieldwork II experiences which take place the last two quarters of the program. Each Fieldwork II experience is 12 weeks long. These placements occur at two clinical sites under the supervision of occupational therapy Fieldwork Educators. During each placement, the student gradually assumes full responsibility for a client caseload. By the end of each experience, students have the skills necessary to work as an entry-level occupational therapist in that practice setting. In our program, one Fieldwork II placement must be in physical disabilities. The other is the student's choice between mental health, pediatrics, or geriatrics.

Sequence of Courses

The following courses are taken at the Seattle campus in the scheduled sequence, beginning Autumn Quarter. In total, 113 credits are required for degree completion.

Year 1

- Autumn Quarter
 - REHAB 522-Physiological Topics in Rehab Med, 2 credits
 - REHAB 544-Functional Anatomy-Extremities, 5 credits
 - REHAB 564-Practice Skills for OT, 1 credit
 - REHAB 570-Foundations of OT, 4 credits
 - REHAB 571-OT Professional Seminar (1 of 6)
- Winter Quarter
 - REHAB 533-Diseases and Diagnosis in Rehab*, 2 credits
 - REHAB 545-Functional Anatomy-Spine, 4 credits
 - REHAB 551-Neurobiology for Rehab, 5 credits
 - REHAB 564-Practice Skills for OT, 1 credit
 - REHAB 571-OT Professional Seminar (2 of 6)
 - REHAB 578-OT Domain and Process I, 4 credits
- Spring Quarter
 - REHAB 533-Diseases and Diagnosis in Rehab*, 2 credits
 - REHAB 554-Perspectives Interprofessional Practice, 1 credit
 - REHAB 564- Practice Skills for OT, 1 credit
 - REHAB 571-OT Professional Seminar (3 of 6)
 - REHAB 573-Functional Movement for OT, 2 credits
 - REHAB 579-OT Domain and Process II, 3 credits
 - REHAB 580-Intro to Research in Rehabilitation, 3 credits
- Summer Quarter
 - REHAB 571-OT Professional Seminar (4 of 6)
 - REHAB 572-OT in Psychosocial Dysfunction I, 7 credits
 - REHAB 581-Application of Measurement Systems, 3 credits
 - REHAB 591-Graduate Project Seminar, 1 credit

Year 2

- Autumn Quarter
 - REHAB 510-Rehabilitation Psychology, 2 credits
 - REHAB 571-OT Professional Seminar (5 of 6)
 - REHAB 574-OT in Physical Disabilities I, 6 credits
 - REHAB 576-OT in Pediatrics, 3 credits
 - REHAB 591-Graduate Project, 3 credits
- Winter Quarter
 - REHAB 571-OT Professional Seminar, (6 of 6) 1 credit
 - REHAB 575-OT in Physical Disabilities II, 5 credits
 - REHAB 576-OT in Pediatrics, 4 credits
 - REHAB 585-Leadership and Management in OT, 5 credits
 - REHAB 591-Graduate Project, 2 credits

- Spring Quarter
 - REHAB 577-OT in Geriatrics, 5 credits
 - REHAB 582-Assistive Technology in Rehabilitation, 3 credits
 - REHAB 588-Fieldwork II Seminar, 1 credit
 - REHAB 591-Graduate Project, 2 credits
- Summer Quarter
 - REHAB 594-Clinical Fieldwork in OT, 10 credits

Year 3

- Autumn Quarter
 - REHAB 594-Clinical Fieldwork in OT, 10 credits

The MOT Program is delivered in an in-person format. *Denotes courses currently delivered synchronously online.

Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), 7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 510E Bethesda, MD 20814, Phone c/o AOTA: (301) 652-AOTA, Website: <https://acoteonline.org/>