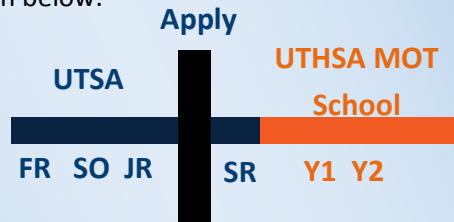


Applying to Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) Degree Programs

Application Information

UTSA **does not** offer advanced degrees in occupational therapy studies. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their master of occupational therapy degree. Students should choose a major of their interest and purposefully take coursework in preparation for their application to the program of their choice.

A common timeline for students attending OT school is shown below:



This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Applicants use the **Occupational Therapist Centralized Application Service (OTCAS)** to apply to the program of their choice.

UTHSA Application Information

For students seeking the UT Health San Antonio's (UTHSA) program, the application period is **July 19, 2018-October 14, 2018** for May entry in the following year.

Admission to MOT programs is increasingly competitive and is often determined on a holistic basis. UTHSA's criteria include the following:

- Overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- MOT Program prerequisite GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- All prerequisite coursework completed with 'C' or better grades. Prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester prior to the year of program entry.
- Applicants must complete their Bachelor's degree no later than the Fall semester prior to the year of program entry..
- Minimum of 40 hours of observation under the general supervision of a licensed Occupational Therapist. Competitive applicants will have more hours.
- Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score.
- Two reference letters.

Application information (continued)...

- Supplemental Applications for OTCAS.
- Official Transcripts for each school attended.
- Highly qualified candidates are invited for interviews.

More information related to UTHSA admissions can be found on their website at: <http://www.uthsca.edu/academics/health-professions/programs/master-occupational-therapy>

Occupational Therapy Pre-requisites

Requirements vary, please refer to the admission website for your school of interest for specific prerequisite information. You may also contact the University Health Professions Office to discuss which UTSA courses fulfill occupational therapy prerequisites.

Health Professions Advising

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing Occupational Therapy pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA's Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine coursework and requirements related to their OT studies.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:

- Orientation
- At least once per academic year to discuss coursework, holistic admissions, academic standing
- In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:

- Discussion of GPA competitiveness
- Application timeline
- Health Professions Pathways
- Holistic applicant assessment

Multidisciplinary Studies Building (M.S.) 3.03.14
(210) 458-5185

utsa.edu/healthprofessions
hpoffice@utsa.edu

Shadowing/Volunteering/On-Campus Involvement

Admission to occupational therapy programs is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in health care-related activities, community service and on-campus leadership experiences. Experience in these areas contributes to a student's understanding of and commitment to the occupational therapy field and facilitates personal development prior to the application process.

Ways to get involved:

- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: <http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html>.
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and OT-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: <https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/>.
- Students are encouraged to volunteer or shadow occupational therapists in various settings to gain an understanding of the profession.
- Pre-OT students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA's Health Professions Day, to meet with representatives from various OT schools.

Other Helpful Skills for OT

While coursework and academic achievement are important for an OT candidate, students should strive to hone skills in other areas. Some skills prospective OTs should develop are:

- Communication Skills
- Compassion
- Flexibility
- Interpersonal Skills
- Writing Skills
- Patience
- Problem-Solving Skills
- Creativity

In addition, prospective Occupational Therapy candidates should engage in as many OT-related experiences as possible. Although each school has a minimum required number of hours, students with more exposure are better prepared for their interviews, their OT school experience and their future career as an OT.

OT Fast Facts and Helpful Websites

- There are 8 MOT programs and one Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program in the state of Texas. To learn more about these programs, you can visit their online sites at www.texashotjobs.us.
- Additional information about Texas OT programs and the OT profession can be found on the **Texas Occupational Therapy Association (TOTA) website**, www.tota.org.
- Most MOT programs accept no more than 45 students per year. However, some select even fewer students.
- **The American Occupational Therapy Association** provides resources about the occupational therapy profession and out-of-state OT programs via their website at www.aota.org.
- To further explore the career of occupational therapy, visit www.explorehealthcareers.org.
- Each OT program requires OT shadowing, but the hours vary by school. Please view each school's website to determine the number of required hours and the specific paperwork required by each school.