Slippery Rock University  
Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program  

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Where can I find information about the SRU Occupational Therapy Program?  
The following links will take you to the SRU web site for information on the SRU Occupational Therapy Program.

http://www.sru.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/requirements-by-program

http://www.sru.edu/academics/graduate-programs/occupational-therapy-(doctor-of-occupational-therapy)

2. How do I apply to the SRU Occupational Therapy Program?  
All applicants will apply through the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS) at:

https://otcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login

3. How much does it cost to apply to the SRU Occupational Therapy Program on OTCAS?  
You can apply to multiple occupational therapy programs on the OTCAS web site if desired. Cost is $140 for the first application and $65 for each subsequent application.

4. Is the SRU OT application available to complete on the OTCAS web site now?  
The 2018-2019 application cycle for all interested students will open on July 1, 2018.

5. What is the deadline to submit the application to OTCAS?  
The deadline to submit a complete application to the SRU Occupational Therapy program on OTCAS is January 15, 2019.

6. What are the prerequisite courses required by the SRU OTD Program?  
   - All prerequisite courses and other important criteria are listed on the Doctor of Occupational Therapy link provided above. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a C grade (2.0) or higher.
   - Admission to the SRU OTD Program for the 2019 cohort is expected to be very competitive.
   - Minimum Applicant GPA Requirements are: 3.0 for cumulative GPA- 3.0 for prerequisite GPA- 3.0 for natural & behavioral science coursework.
   - Credit for online courses will not be accepted for the following course requirements: anatomy and physiology I & II, and physics/biomechanics/kinesiology.
   - If an applicant has questions about prerequisite courses, he/she can contact jeffrey.loveland@sru.edu for clarification.
7. Can I apply to the SRU OTD Program before all prerequisite courses and my undergraduate degree are completed?

- Yes- you can apply to the program before your undergraduate degree and all prerequisite courses are completed. Applicants can have up to three incomplete prerequisite courses when his/her application is submitted to OTCAS.
- Your undergraduate degree and all prerequisite course requirements need to be completed by the end of spring semester 2019. This information needs to be verified through documentation from all institution(s) attended by the time classes begin on June 3, 2019.

8. If I was employed as an OT or Rehab Aide in an inpatient or outpatient setting am I allowed to substitute work hours for volunteer/ shadowing hours towards my 20-hour application requirement?

- Yes- you can use work experience as volunteer experience, if an occupational therapy practitioner (OT or OTA) supervised you. Remember the 20-hour requirement is the minimum total of volunteer/shadowing hours required.
- A professional other than an OT or OTA (i.e., PT) can sign your volunteer/shadowing form as long as a minimum of 20 hours was verified with an OT or OTA.

9. Where can I access volunteer/shadowing form that the program will require?

For 2019, all reference and volunteer/shadowing information can be placed on the OTCAS application itself.

10. Will I be required to submit a writing statement with my application?

Yes- you will actually be required to submit two writing samples. The first essay will be placed directly on the OTCAS application itself and is content that is more general. The second essay will be submitted to the SRU OTD Program and will focus on:

- Who you are
- Why you have decided on a career in occupational therapy
- Why you are applying for admission to the SRU OTD Program
- Who has effectively mentored you during your formative years
- Identify a leader (living or deceased) you have admired during your life and why this person has received your respect
- What special training or skills that you may have
- How you have developed the resilience to successfully complete a challenging doctoral program

Please see the SRU OT Program web site for additional information about this requirement.

11. How many applicants will be admitted into the occupational therapy class that will begin coursework on June 3, 2019?

35 students will be admitted into the program’s second cohort in 2019.

12. When will students be informed of their admission status after they apply to the program?

This depends on how many completed applications the program receives. A rolling admission process will be utilized. This will result in applicants not being informed of their status at the same time. Applicants will be informed if they are admitted to the program, are on the waiting list or not accepted to the program as soon as possible. This process will like occur between September 1, 2018 through March 2019.

13. If an applicant is admitted to the SRU OTD program, how long will they be given to decide to accept or decline their admission?

Five business days will be provided to each applicant to determine if they wish to accept an admission offer from our program.
14. Will a security deposit be required to secure a spot in the program?
Yes- a $500 security deposit will be required from each applicant who accepts an offer of admission. This sum is credited towards tuition payment when the student begins the program. The security deposit is nonrefundable to applicants who accept admission to the program but change their plans prior to classes beginning on June 3, 2019.

15. Will the SRU OTD program be located on SRU's main campus?
No- the program will be located in the SRU Harrisville facility six miles north of main campus beginning in May 2018. The SRU OT and PA Programs will both be located in the Harrisville facility.

16. Is the SRU Occupational Therapy Program accredited?
The program has initiated the process to achieved accreditation, which occurs in three-steps.

1. Step one is the application status that SRU achieved in June 2016.
2. Candidacy status is obtained A lengthy report was submitted by SRU to ACOTE on 4/17/17 that seeks candidacy status; this will allow the program to admit students, then the program will post its application on OTCAS and begin admitting students to the program at the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018.
3. The third and final step of accreditation will occur in 2020; this will involve submission of a lengthy self-study report to ACOTE (Spring 2020) followed by an onsite visit from two of ACOTE’s accreditation surveyors (Fall 2020). Successful achievement of all three steps in the accreditation process will lead the program to earn full-accreditation that will allow graduates from the first class to sit for the certification exam and apply for an OT license(s).

17. Are graduate assistantships available from the OT Program?
Students admitted to the SRU OTD program who are interested in graduate assistantships should contact the SRU Graduate Admissions Office. GA positions are full-time (17.5 hours/week), 50% time (8.75 hours/week) and 25% time (4.37 hours/week). Occupational therapy students who are interested in GA positions will work in a program outside of OT and should only consider a half-time or quarter-time GA position during their first academic year in the program due to the rigor of their academic schedule and responsibilities.

18. Is it recommended that I work during the first year of the OTD Program?
In a perfect world, all first-year graduate-level occupational therapy students in every program throughout the country would be encouraged not to work. In reality, it is recognized that many students have bills and expenses that they are required to regularly pay. All students enrolled in full-time graduate programs need to manage their time wisely, especially during their first year, and if part-time employment is necessary, it should be carefully factored into the student’s schedule on a week-to-week basis.

19. Will the OT Program require CPR training?
Yes- each applicant is encouraged to obtain CPR training from the American Heart Association since Red Cross CPR training is not accepted by some health care facilities in the area.

Applicants who require clarification to determine if courses taken are comparable to listed prerequisite requirements should contact Dr. Jeff Loveland at jeffrey.loveland@sru.edu

Prerequisite course requirements are determined by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and the SRU Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program.

The Occupational Therapy Program will relocate to the SRU Harrisville Facility by May 30, 2018.

Updated: May 7, 2018