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 $60 for each subsequent application.

4. Is the SRU OT application available to complete on the OTCAS web site now?
The application is not available now. It will be posted for all applicants around September 10, 2017.

5. What is the deadline to submit the application to OTCAS?
The deadline to submit an application to the SRU Occupational Therapy program on OTCAS is December 1, 2017.

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 better. Admission to the SRU OTD Program is likely 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. Your undergraduate degree and all prerequisite course requirements have to be completed by the end of spring semester 2018. This information needs to be verified through documentation from all institution(s) attended by the time classes begin on June 4, 2018. Please indicate when your degree and prerequisite courses will be completed on the OTCAS application or in your personal statement to the program.

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 you were supervised by an occupational therapy practitioner. Remember the 20-hour requirement is the minimum total of volunteer/shadowing hours required.

9. Where can I access volunteer/shadowing and reference forms that the program will require?
Go to www.sru.edu/graduate, click on the “Forms” link on the left-hand side then scroll down to locate the three OTD forms. Thoroughly complete both forms then click “submit” for the form to be sent to the SRU Graduate Admissions Office.

It is the policy of SRU Graduate Admissions and the OTD Program that the OTD Applicant Reference Form & Volunteer Shadowing Form, OTD Evaluator/Volunteer Rating Form, and the OTD Professional Aspirations forms be completed and submitted online. OTD applicants are responsible for forwarding the OTD Evaluator/Volunteer Rating Form link to references to complete. Once the applicant’s reference completes the form and clicks “Submit” the form is sent to the Graduate Admission Office. Handling this process entirely electronically helps to ensure forms are returned promptly.

Applicants should not submit any other form. All applicants will be evaluated using forms approved by SRU.

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 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, a leader (living or deceased) you have admired during your life and why this person has received your respect, and what special training or skills that you may have. Please see the SRU OTD Program website for additional information about this requirement or “Requirement by Program” on the Graduate Admissions webpage, www.sru.edu/graduate.

11. How many applicants will be admitted into the first occupational therapy class that will begin coursework on June 4, 2018?
At this time, it is planned that 30 students will be admitted into the first cohort of the program to begin on 6/4/18.

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 all at the same time. Applicants will be informed if they are admitted to the program, on the waiting list or not accepted to the program as soon as possible.

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 mind prior to classes beginning on June 4, 2018.

15. Will the SRU OTD program be located on SRU’s main campus?
No- the program will be located in the Harrisville facility six miles west of main campus beginning in May 2018. The SRU OT and PA Programs will both be located in the Harrisville facility. Construction specific to the OT Program will begin at this site in December 2017 and will be finished in early-May 2018.
16. Is the SRU Occupational Therapy Program accredited?
The program has initiated the process to achieve accreditation, which occurs in three-steps. Step one is the application status in which the program is currently at. 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. Once candidacy status is obtained, 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. 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?
Over 100 graduate assistantships are awarded each academic year to deserving graduate students at Slippery Rock University. Students admitted to the SRU OTD program who are interested in graduate assistantships should review the Graduate Admissions webpage at www.sru.edu/graduate and click the “Assistantships” tab on the left-side of the webpage. GA positions are offered in quarter time, half-time, three-quarter time, and full-time. A full-time graduate assistant position allows students to receive a $4,000 academic year stipend and a full tuition waiver for up to 9 graduate credits per semester. All graduate assistants are responsible for paying tuition fees. Occupational therapy students who are interested in GA positions will work in a program outside of OT and should only consider committing to a quarter position (4.375 hours/week including finals week or 4.6875) or a half-time position (8.75 hours/week including finals week or 9.375 hours/week not including finals week) 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- and 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.

Dr. Loveland’s office will be located in 300P Vincent Science Center until May 2018.

Updated: October 12, 2017