

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

[www.sru.edu/ot](http://www.sru.edu/ot)



**DELIVERY METHOD**  
On-site

**START TERM**  
Summer start only

**COMPLETION TIME**  
Three years

**NUMBER OF CREDITS**  
115 credits

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The entry-level doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy curriculum at Slippery Rock University is designed to be a rigorous 36-month program for students who will receive training in advanced clinical, professional and leadership skills.

SRU's Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program is offered in an on-campus, face-to-face learning format with scheduled off campus fieldwork and doctoral capstone placements. The curriculum focuses on contemporary practice using evidence-based strategies to provide students with generalist and advanced learning experiences. Classroom and laboratory learning opportunities are influenced by accreditation standards established by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®).

The first academic year of the program is comprised of clinical and applied sciences along with foundational occupational therapy courses.

In the second academic year, students are involved in classroom learning experiences that include assessment and intervention with children, youth, and adults and related technology that can be utilized with these populations.

The third year in the program is based primarily in community and occupational therapy practice settings off campus during fieldwork and the doctoral capstone.

## ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

The entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at Slippery Rock University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Information regarding the program accreditation process and Slippery Rock University's current status can be obtained by contacting ACOTE® c/o AOTA at (301) 652-AOTA or online at [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org). ACOTE® is located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929.

Graduation from an ACOTE® accredited educational program makes one eligible to sit for the certification exam administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) to become a Registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) and to apply for state licensure in the state(s) in which one wishes to practice.

**Professional Licensure Certification:** Candidates who have completed the OT program are eligible to be nationally registered after achieving a passing score on the national certification examination. Satisfactory completion of the national certification exam is first step towards state licensure, which is a different process in each state.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SRU's Doctoral of Occupational Therapy Program boasts the following:

- **Affordability** - The program is the first doctorate in the field of occupational therapy in the State System, and will attract highly prepared students throughout Pennsylvania and surrounding areas at a cost less than other programs in the region.
- **Unique Curriculum** - The curriculum features evidence-based information in didactic and clinical training experiences integrated with real-life applied clinical case studies.
- **Doctoral Capstone Experience** - A doctoral capstone is the final learning experience and provides students with advanced professional development in clinical practice, administration, leadership, research, program or policy development, advocacy, education and/or theory development.
- **Faculty/Student Research** - Students engage in research with faculty members and may have an opportunity to present locally, nationally, and even become published.
- **Interprofessional Education** - Students participate in established inter-professional learning opportunities to develop heightened clinical understanding and collaboration.
- **Leadership & Advocacy** - Professional opportunities are offered for students and faculty members aimed at communicating with elected officials and improving client access to occupational therapy services.

## TUITION & ASSISTANTSHIPS

Information on current tuition and assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate). Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office [www.sru.edu/FinAid](http://www.sru.edu/FinAid) or the Office of Graduate Admissions.

*Full Graduate Assistantships are not recommended for first year OT students due to a very challenging academic load.*

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICANTS

International applicants, please visit [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate) for requirements.



**SlipperyRock**  
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System  
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

[www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate)

**CURRICULUM GUIDE**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Summer Academic Year I Requirements (10)</b>     |  |   |
| OCTH 605:   | Fundamentals of OT Practice                              | 3 |
| OCTH 610:   | Body Structures for Occupation                           | 4 |
| OCTH 630:   | Theories & Tenets in OT                                  | 3 |
| <b>Fall Academic Year I Requirements (15)</b>       |  |   |
| OCTH 615:   | Neurological Applications in OT                          | 4 |
| OCTH 620:   | Development and Occupation                               | 3 |
| OCTH 640:   | OT Process I: Physical Disabilities                      | 4 |
| OCTH 680:   | Scholarship in OT I                                      | 3 |
| OCTH 681:   | Scholarship in OT I Seminar                              | 1 |
| <b>Spring Academic Year I Requirements (15)</b>     |  |   |
| OCTH 625:   | Factors that Impact Occupation                           | 3 |
| OCTH 650:   | OT Process II: Psychosocial Applications                 | 4 |
| OCTH 665:   | Therapeutic Media in OT                                  | 3 |
| OCTH 730:   | Scholarship in OT II                                     | 3 |
| OCTH 731:   | Scholarship in OT II Seminar                             | 1 |
| OCTH 645:   | Level I Fieldwork A                                      | 1 |
| <b>Summer Academic Year II - Requirements (10)</b>  |  |   |
| OCTH 710:   | Management Applications in OT                            | 3 |
| OCTH 724:   | Community Health & Wellness                              | 3 |
| OCTH 765:   | Leadership, Advocacy & Policy                            | 3 |
| OCTH 720:   | Capstone Preparation Seminar I                           | 1 |
| <b>Fall Academic Year II - Requirements (15)</b>    |  |   |
| OCTH 721:   | Capstone Preparation Seminar II                          | 1 |
| OCTH 740:   | OT Process III: Children & Youth                         | 4 |
| OCTH 745:   | Level I Fieldwork B                                      | 1 |
| OCTH 775:   | Technology in Rehabilitation                             | 3 |
| OCTH 777:   | Impact of Culture on Occupation                          | 3 |
| OCTH 781:   | Scholarship in OT Seminar III                            | 3 |
| <b>Spring Academic Year II - Requirements (16)</b>  |  |   |
| OCTH 722:   | Capstone Preparation Seminar III                         | 1 |
| OCTH 750:   | OT Process IV: Adult Applications                        | 4 |
| OCTH 755:   | Level I Fieldwork C                                      | 1 |
| OCTH 760:   | Educational Strategies in Clinical and Academic Settings | 3 |
| OCTH 770:   | Advanced Theory & Practice                               | 4 |
| OCTH 791:   | Scholarship in OT Seminar IV                             | 3 |
| <b>Summer Academic Year III - Requirements (13)</b> |  |   |
| OCTH 792:   | Professional Practice Seminar (pre-session)              | 4 |
| OCTH 810:   | Level II Fieldwork A                                     | 9 |
| <b>Fall Academic Year III - Requirements (9)</b>    |  |   |
| OCTH 815:   | Level II Fieldwork B                                     | 9 |
| <b>Spring Academic Year III - Requirements (12)</b> |  |   |
| OCTH 820:   | Doctoral Capstone Practicum                              | 9 |
| OCTH 825:   | Post-Doctoral Practicum Seminar                          | 3 |

**TOTAL CREDITS: 115**

For more information about the OT Program, visit [www.sru.edu/ot](http://www.sru.edu/ot).

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

All applicants should complete the OTCAS (Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Services) application. Applications will be accepted from July 21 until January 15. Your OTCAS application must be e-submitted, completed and verified by January 15, 2023.

- Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree preferably in the natural or behavioral sciences, or completion of the first three years of the SRU 3+3 Pre-Occupational Therapy major and the following prerequisites:
  - Anatomy & Physiology I & II: two semesters of lecture and laboratory (3-4 credits each)
  - Biomechanics, Kinesiology or Physics: lecture with laboratory (3-4 credits)
  - Statistics (one course) (3-4 credits)
  - Intro to Psychology (3-4 credits)
  - Life Span Human Development or Developmental Psychology (3-4 credits)
  - Abnormal Psychology (3-4 credits)
  - Sociology or Anthropology (one course in either area) (3-4 credits)
  - Research Methods: an undergraduate introductory or intermediate research course (3-4 credits)
  - Medical Terminology (1 credit)

All prerequisite courses must have been taken within the last 10 years and completed with a C grade (2.0) or higher.

AP/IB courses are only accepted for Intro to Psychology prerequisite.

MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENTS: 3.0 for cumulative GPA; 3.0 for prerequisite GPA, and 3.0 for natural and behavioral science coursework (if a course it taken more than once, all of the grades for that course will be averaged together)

- A minimum of 20 hours of observation of an occupational therapy practitioner (OT or OTA). Hours must be documented with the practitioner's signature and specific details (See SRU OT website for tracking form)
- Personal/professional aspiration statement
- Three letters of reference: Letters should be from a current or former instructor, current or former employer, and a third professional reference
  - References from neighbors and family members are discouraged
  - Professional references may include professors, employers and volunteer supervisors

**Applicants who are offered and accept admission will be required to submit a non-refundable deposit of \$500 within 2 weeks of notification to hold a seat in the upcoming class. The non-refundable deposit of \$500 will be applied to the tuition.**

**NOTE:**

- Must be able to meet occupational therapy student technical standards
- Must have reliable method of transportation for both academic, fieldwork, and doctoral capstone experiences for distances of up to 75 miles one way
- Conviction of misdemeanor, felony or felonious or illegal act may prevent the student from becoming credentialed and/or licensed to practice in field of occupational therapy
- Students are required to carry and pay for their own health insurance and liability insurance with proof required
- Regardless of citizenship, if you are a non-native English speaker, you are required to submit scores that show proficiency in the English language. If applicable, the English Proficiency requirement must be completed and score received by the application deadline

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:**

Ann B. Cook, Ed.D., OTD, OTR/L, CPAM  
Program Director, Department Chair  
724-738-4070  
ann.cook@sru.edu

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:**

Office of Graduate Admissions  
104 North Hall, Welcome Center  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
www.sru.edu/graduate  
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD  
graduate.admissions@sru.edu

The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.