

# Master of Occupational Therapy

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Occupational Therapy is a dynamic profession and an integral part of modern comprehensive health care. Occupational therapy is the use of purposeful activity or interventions designed to achieve functional outcomes which promote health and prevent injury or disability, and which develop, improve, sustain, or restore the highest possible level of independence of any individual who has an injury, illness, cognitive impairment, psychosocial dysfunction, mental illness, developmental or learning disability, physical disability, or other disorder or condition. Occupational Therapy services are provided in a variety of settings, ranging from medical facilities to community health agencies, schools, and private practice.

The Occupational Therapy Program offers a Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) degree. The MOT program begins in the summer. While enrolled in the program, students complete courses in foundational and clinical sciences and general occupational therapy evaluation, treatment and evidence-based practice. Clinical courses address occupational performance in the areas of mental health, pediatrics, and adult orthopedic and neurologic conditions. Most of the third year consists of fieldwork education. Prior to graduation, students complete two full-time, 12-week clinical rotations. Placements in El Paso, TX cannot be guaranteed, and relocation and living expenses are the student's responsibility. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination for the Occupational Therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an occupational therapist, registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT certification examination.

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE),

c/o Accreditation Department  
 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200  
 Bethesda, MD 20814-3449  
 (301) 652-AOTA (2682)  
[www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org) (<http://www.acoteonline.org>)

A felony conviction may affect a graduate's ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure in Texas. Questions may be answered by contacting the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-S10, Austin, TX 78701. You may also call TBOTE at 512.305.6900.

## Admission Requirements

1. Completed a Bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution.
2. Completed Occupational Therapy application (<https://otcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>) by set deadline (Instructions for OTCAS can be found here (<https://portal.otcas.org/otcasHelpPages/instructions/overview/>)).
3. Official transcripts from all universities or colleges attended (must be sent to OTCAS).
4. Minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale - overall and prerequisite GPA.
5. GRE Official Scores within 5 years (must be reported to OTCAS and using the DO Code 1218).
6. Forty verifiable clock hours of volunteer or paid experience in an occupational therapy setting, supervised by a licensed occupational therapist.
7. Three references (letters of recommendation). One must be from a licensed occupational therapy practitioner. All reference requests are handled electronically by OTCAS. Please carefully follow instructions provided by OTCAS.
8. TOEFL is required for all international students when English is not the official or first language. Scores are considered on a case by case basis.
9. To request a course substitution, complete the "Prerequisite Substitution Request Form" with supporting documents (i.e., course syllabus and/or description), and scan and email them to: [ot@utep.edu](mailto:ot@utep.edu) for approval. Once a decision has been returned to you, upload the decision documentation to OTCAS. Deadline for course substitution can be found at OT website (<http://www.utep.edu/chs/ot/academic-programs/application-process.html>).

## Additional Requirements

1. To engage in clinical rotations, which are a crucial element in the curriculum, all accepted Occupational Therapy students must pass a background check and drug screen prior to matriculation. Applicants will be responsible for the costs in obtaining a background check report and drug screen. In addition, students are required to obtain immunization required by the state of Texas and clinical affiliates. Information is available at the College of Health Sciences Compliance Web site.
2. Students are required to maintain an overall 3.0 GPA throughout the program.

## Prerequisite Courses

Applicants for the program should have completed the following prerequisite courses:

Code	Title	Hours
	Medical Terminology *	1
	Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab **	4

Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab	4
Introduction to Psychology	3
Abnormal Psychology (or Equivalent)	3
Other Social Sciences ***	3
Statistics for Non-Math Majors	3
Human Development Across the Entire Life Span	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>24</b>

\* Successful completion of a medical terminology competency exam will substitute for this prerequisite.

\*\* Courses must cover the nervous, muscular and skeletal systems.

\*\*\* Courses incorporating group dynamics and research in social sciences are strongly recommended.

## Degree Plan

Required Credits: 85

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Masters-Occupational Therapy (All DRSC courses require a grade of C or better; all OT courses require a grade of B or better unless otherwise specified)</b>		
Required Courses:		
DRSC 5301	Normal Physiology/Embryology	3
DRSC 5388	Pathophysiology for Health Sci	3
DRSC 5389	Research in Health Science	3
DRSC 5390	Neuroscience for Hlth Sciences	3
DRSC 5396	Medical Kin & Biomechanics	3
DRSC 5495	Anatomy for Health Sciences	4
OT 5102	Surface Anatomy	1
OT 5136	Preceptorship Studies	1
OT 5204	Span for Occup Therap Profess	2
OT 5301	Anal & Adapt of Occupation I	3
OT 5302	Anal & Adapt of Occupation II	3
OT 5310	Concppts & Fndts of Occup Pract	3
OT 5312	Psychosocial Aspects of Occup.	3
OT 5314	Concppts & Fndts of Cmnty Engmt	3
OT 5315	Legal/Ethical Issues Hlthcare	3
OT 5316	Leadership in OT	3
OT 5320	Occupation Perfor/Older Adults	3
OT 5324	Occup Perf in Early Childhood	3
OT 5325	Occup Perform in Sch Age Child	3
OT 5424	Occup Perf in Mental Health	4
OT 5485	Research & Evidence-Based Prac	4
OT 5628	Occupational Perf for Adults I	6
OT 5629	Occupational Perf in Adults II	6
OT 5640	Fieldwork II Rotation I	6
OT 5641	Fieldwork II Rotation II	6
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>85</b>

## Director

Dahlia Castillo

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Education: OTD, Mount Mary University

## Assistant Professor

William (Bill) Roberts (<http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=wroberts2>)

Contact Information: wroberts2@utep.edu; 915-747-8153

Education: BS, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; Ph D, Colorado State University

## **Clinical Assistant Professor**

Dahlia Castillo (<http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=dahlia>)

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Education: BS, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; MS, The University of Texas at El Paso; OTD, Mount Mary University

Cecilia Fierro (<http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=cfierro6>)

Contact Information: [cfierro6@utep.edu](mailto:cfierro6@utep.edu); 915-747-7263

Education: OTD (Doctorate in Occupational Therapy), Rocky Mountain University

Timothy Tu (<http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=tatu1>)

Contact Information: [tatu1@utep.edu](mailto:tatu1@utep.edu);

Education: ScD, Baylor University

## **Occupational Therapy**

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