Occupational Therapy, Master of Science in - Postprofessional Program

Program Directors: Vogtle
Faculty: Clelland, Johnson, Peyton, Rowe, Steiss, Vogtle, Warren, Whitley, Zachow

The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham offers two tracks in the master's program. The Postprofessional Program provides advanced learning for the individual who already holds a degree in occupational therapy.

The program offers postprofessional education to occupational therapists who wish to learn advanced theoretical, clinical, and research skills. The 33 semester hour program guides the student through four specific domains: foundations, specialty clinical application, research methodology, and a project or thesis. Elective coursework from related departments may be approved for degree requirements. Each student meets individually with a graduate advisor and the Director of the Postprofessional Program to design a plan of study. Graduates of the program may use this degree to enter specialized areas of practice, to assume leadership positions within the profession, or to prepare for doctoral-level study.

Credentials Conferred: Diploma  The Master of Science degree is awarded by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Length of Study: Minimum of four semesters (15 months) for the full-time student and approximately seven semesters for part-time students.

Program Entrance Date: Any semester throughout the academic year.

Application Deadline: During the term preceding the expected semester of enrollment.

Application Procedure: The following materials must be submitted to the UAB Graduate School Admissions Office:

- completed UAB Graduate School application materials (all forms available from Graduate School, Hill University Center, Room 511, 1400 University Boulevard, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-1150),
- non-refundable application processing fee,
- official transcripts from each college attended,
• official test score report (GRE or MAT), and
• three evaluation forms (references).

Requirements for Admission: For unconditional acceptance, the student must satisfy the following requirements:

• a baccalaureate degree in occupational therapy from an accredited educational program with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (A= 4.0) computed over the last 60 hours of coursework,
• eligibility for licensure as an occupational therapist,
• a score of at least 500 on each section (verbal and quantitative) of the GRE general test or a minimum MAT score of 50,
• completed application for admission to the UAB Graduate School,
• three letters of reference,
• personal interviews with members of the faculty of the Division of Occupational Therapy, and
• if accepted, complete the UAB medical history questionnaire and physical, provide proof of required immunizations, and receive satisfactory screening by the UAB Medical Center Student Health Service.

Essential Requirements: Fundamental tasks, behaviors, and abilities necessary to successfully complete the academic and clinical/residency requirements of the program and to satisfy licensure/certification requirements, if any, have been outlined and are available upon request from the academic program office. Students requesting disability accommodations must do so by filing a disability accommodation request in writing with the academic program office.

Typical Program
(Course requirements are listed in semester credit hours)

All students must specify an interest area upon entering the program. These include the following: administration, education, leadership, practice, or research. Students may identify a focus within the practice field (i.e., geriatrics, low vision, mental health, or pediatrics ). Coursework will be chosen based on the four interest areas and include courses in a clinical focus area if indicated. At least 12 hours of coursework must be chosen from occupational therapy classes listed below:

OT 608 Neurophysiological Principles of Patient Care (5)
OT 630 Occupational Performance (3)
OT 636 Principles of Applied Forces in the Upper Extremity (3)
OT 655 Qualitative Research Methods for Health Professionals (3)
OT 656 Data Management for Clinical Research (3)
OT 660 Seminar in Interdisciplinary Services for Infants, Children, and Youth with Developmental Disabilities (1-2)
OT 665 Geriatric Rehabilitation for Health Professionals (3)
OT 667 Research Methods (3)
OT 671 The Advanced Theory of the Assessment Process in Occupational Therapy (3)
Electives offered outside of the occupational therapy curriculum are allowed up to 15 hours. These electives must be chosen with the supervision and approval of the student's graduate advisor and may include courses that coincide with the student's interests. Examples of programs from which electives may be chosen are: public health, health administration, early childhood education, physical therapy, gerontology, psychology, and sociology. The Graduate School allows up to 12 hours of courses to be taken at institutions other than UAB as long as the student receives a grade of B or better. Transfer of such courses must be approved by the occupational therapy faculty.

For further information, contact:

Program Coordinator
Occupational Therapy Postprofessional Program
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For course descriptions, see the UAB School of Health Related Professions Catalog - Course Descriptions.

Go to list of SHRP Programs of Study.