

## **FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Must I have a specific undergraduate major to be accepted to the program?***

No. You must have earned a B.A. or B.S. degree in any field of study. Your application will be evaluated and reviewed based on its merits and in the context of the applicant pool for that year. Examples of what other students have majored in at the undergraduate level include biology, kinesiology, psychology, sociology, anthropology, liberal arts, and anatomy. Regardless of the major, make sure you have taken the necessary prerequisites for admission into the program within 5 years of application to the program.

### ***Do I need to take the GRE?***

Yes. The Revised GRE must be taken within 5 years of the application deadline. The minimum required score is: 150 verbal, 140 quantitative and 2.0 writing. Official GRE Scores are sent to The UTRGV Graduate College. They may also be sent to OTCAS or self-reported on OTCAS (with verification with UTRGV). The applicant's score is factored into the overall evaluation of the application. If a score component is missing the application will not be reviewed and will be considered incomplete.

### ***If I do not have the required GPA or GRE scores, will my application still be reviewed?***

Yes, if all application components are submitted, the application will be reviewed by the Admission Committee. They have the final decision regarding the status of the application. If any required component is missing the application will not be reviewed and will be considered incomplete. Acceptance to the graduate Occupational Therapy Program is very competitive

### ***Can I apply before I have completed all the prerequisites?***

No. All prerequisites must be completed by the admission deadline. If prerequisites are not completed, then the application is considered incomplete and is not reviewed. Prerequisites may be taken at any accredited university, college or community college. Internet on-line courses are acceptable. AP credit must appear on official college transcripts and be equivalent to the appropriate college-level coursework.

### ***Can I require a prerequisite course wavier or substitution?***

Yes. Applicant may request a prerequisite course wavier and/or substitution via a written petition to the Admission Committee. To request a wavier/substitution, a formal appeal clearly stating what you are seeking along with supporting documents should be submitted to the Admission Committee of Department of Occupational Therapy via Fax: 956/ 665-2476 or email: [occtherapy@utrgv.edu](mailto:occtherapy@utrgv.edu). A waiver or substitution will be good for the current admission cycle only. Course substitutions and waivers are considered on an individual basis and must be approved before the application deadline.

### ***Does program have specific prerequisite course numbers and titles to meet the requirement?***

No. The UTRGV OT Program does provide specific course numbers for the prerequisites, as many can fit the descriptions. You as the student will need to use the Occupational Therapy Program prerequisite course description guide to identify a suitable course, which is what is typically done when applying to graduate programs.

### ***How many volunteer hours or work experiences do I need?***

There is no set number of volunteer hours or work experiences that you need to complete in order to be considered for admission into the program. Nor are you required to complete hours in occupational therapy through work or observation. However, it is vital that you have been exposed to volunteer and/or work experiences. (Observations are not considered as volunteer or work experiences.) Your volunteer and/or work experiences are submitted through the OTCAS application.

***How much competition is there to be accepted in to the MS in Occupational Therapy program?***

Acceptance to the graduate Occupational Therapy Program is very competitive. Currently the admitted class size is 22-24 students each year. The Admission Committee seeks a diverse mix of students representing a variety of racial/ethnic, geographic and economic backgrounds. We admit a class that is the most academically promising and able, and whose varying perspectives will serve to enrich the occupational therapy community.

***Is this an “easy” program? Will I have to study?***

No, this is not an easy program. Yes, you will have to study. The program is rigorous and quite demanding of your time. You will need to be a serious student. Graduate students in Occupational Therapy are expected to maintain an overall 3.0 GPA in all OT coursework. If this is not acquired or maintained the OT student become ineligible to continue and will be suspended from the program.

***Can I take some of the classes in the evening or on the weekend?***

No. The MS in Occupational Therapy curriculum has been designed to be a full-time activity for the students. Courses are generally structured for the traditional day times. Most courses are blocked to make the best use of time on campus. However, courses may be scheduled for evening times to accommodate clinical exposure and professional experiences.

***Can I work and attend classes?***

The MS in Occupational Therapy program consist of a very demanding course load with a great deal of time spent in class and clinical experiences. There are also special seminars, guest lectures, events, and activities that may be scheduled on relatively short notice.

***What are my chances of getting a job after graduation?***

Very good. At the end of fieldwork, current graduates are typically offered 1-3 jobs. You will likely have offers from which to choose - locally, statewide, or nationally.