

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Department of Occupational Therapy
Wavier/Substitution Instructions

Students may request a prerequisite course waiver and/or substitution via a written petition to the Chair of the Admission Committee. The student must have a signed waiver/substitution form by the OT Admission Chair, OT Department Chair, or OT representative as proof of approval. All requests should be submitted to the Department of Occupational Therapy via departmental email: occtherapy@utrgv.edu. Course substitutions and waivers are considered on an individual basis and must be approved before the application deadline.

Process for Wavier or Substitution:

A waiver or substitution can be requested at any time, either prior to applying to the program or during the application process (November 2nd through October 31st). However, all requests are only valid for the current admission cycle. Each request is considered on its own merit. Waiver/substitution forms can be found on the program's website: www.utrgv.edu/ot.

Waiver(s): Prospective applicants must submit a **written request** stating what type of waiver (i.e. course waiver or waiver of the 5-year time limit) he/she is seeking. This must include all supporting documents, contact information, a copy of the course catalog or syllabus, and/or transcripts. An example of a waiver might include waiving the statistics 5-year limit for someone currently working as an educational diagnostician. In these cases, documentation of the work experience will be required. All applicants are encouraged to contact the department's program coordinator regarding course waiver/substitution questions.

Substitution(s): Prospective applicants must submit a **written request** stating what course(s) he/she would like to substitute for a specified prerequisite course. This must include a syllabus of the course that will be substituted. An example would include a registered nurse who substitutes a psychiatric nursing course for an abnormal psychology course.

A grade of "D" or "F" will not be accepted for any prerequisite courses. Students may re-take prerequisite courses any time before the application deadline. In these cases, the grades for both courses will be averaged together if they are taken within the 5-year time frame. If more than 5 years have elapsed, then grades outside the 5-year time frame will not be averaged.

Credit for transferred courses is determined by the University. However, the occupational therapy program has the final decision when determining if a transferred course meets the program's prerequisite requirement. If there is not a Texas common course number attached to the course, the Chair of the Admissions Committee or Department Chair will determine whether the course meets the content requirements for the foundational standards. This can be determined and accepted based on the course description and syllabus provided by the student. **(Please see the OTD Prerequisite Course Descriptions)**

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Department of Occupational Therapy
Course Wavier / Substitution

_____ has petitioned and been granted a course waiver / substitution for the Occupational Therapy Doctoral (OTD) program application cycle of _____. Appropriate documentation of the coursework and/or life experience has been presented.

Prerequisite Course

Completed / Substitution

Anatomy & Physiology I (Lecture & Lab)

Anatomy & Physiology II (Lecture & Lab)

Biomechanics

Basic Statistics

Intro to Psychology

Human Development Across Lifespan

Abnormal Psychology

Anthropology or Sociology

Chair, Admission Committee/Faculty

Date Granted