

**ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY**  
**Doctorate of Occupational Therapy**

**APPLICATION GUIDE FOR STUDENTS APPLYING AS COLLEGE JUNIORS, SENIORS, OR GRADUATES**  
**with Temporary COVID-19 Policies for the 2021 Application Cycle**

This form offers a guide/checklist for collecting all relevant information required for application to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program that is submitted through OTCAS as well as required materials that are sent directly to the OT Office. Deadlines and pre-requisite course guidelines are provided. Please contact the OT Department at [ot@sau.edu](mailto:ot@sau.edu) or 563-333-6277 for assistance with any questions.

The OTD Program is three years in length. A student can apply to the OTD Program as early as their Junior year and begin the OTD Program in their Senior year. However, to be eligible to begin the program as an undergraduate student with Senior status, all general education requirements, all undergraduate degree program requirements, and all minimum admissions criteria must be met. Graduate program tuition applies to all three years of the program, even for an undergraduate in the first year of the OTD Program. Students are encouraged to meet with Financial Aid to determine the specific impact this may have on their financial package.

**MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST**

- Prerequisite Courses:** The following prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C or higher in each course. The prerequisite GPA must meet a minimum of 3.0 (4.0 scale).
- A grade for each class, except for research methods and/or ethics must be available by the application deadline. Note: Because research methods and ethics may be taken after applying, they are not calculated as part of prerequisite GPA.
- In OTCAS, the applicant will indicate what courses have been taken to satisfy the prerequisites. It is the responsibility of the **applicant** to provide accurate and complete information on the application. Providing a course that does not match the content may slow the processing of an application. (See Prerequisite Course Guidelines on page two.)

Prerequisite Course (corresponding St. Ambrose course)	Semester Hours	Course Name &Number	Grade	Where Taken
Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 230)	4			
Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO 232)	4			
Medical Terminology (HS 250) or Competency	1			
Lifespan (PSYC 212)	3			
300 level or above social science	3			
Statistics (STAT 213)	3			
*Ethics (PHIL 207) OR BioMedical Ethics (PHIL 310)	3			
*Research Methods (PSYC 215)	3			

- Observations Hours:** Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, observation hours are waived for applications submitted in 2021 for admission in Fall of 2022.
- Letters of Reference:** All applicants must submit three letters of reference.
- Personal Statement:** All applicants complete a personal statement that addresses why they selected OT as a career and how an Occupational Therapy degree relates to immediate and long-term professional goals.
- Graduate Record Exam:** Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the GRE requirement is waived for applications submitted in 2021 for admission in Fall of 2022.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Applications for the upcoming cohort of occupational therapy students will be accepted upon the opening of the OTCAS cycle (usually in July/August) through December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Applications received by December 1<sup>st</sup> are given priority; however, applications will be accepted until the class is filled. Applicants can request to be a part of an early decision admissions cycle, if qualified, by meeting a September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. A select number of early decision spaces are available. An early decision applicant will automatically be considered in the general admissions cycle if they are not accepted early. (Continue to back of page for more details.)

### **Early Admissions Decision: Application Deadline September 15th**

To be considered for early admissions, applicants must have submitted a complete application and have a minimum pre-requisite GPA of a 3.4 or be affiliated with St. Ambrose as an alum or degree seeking student.

### **General Admissions Decision: Application Deadline December 1st**

Applicants submitting complete applications by December 1<sup>st</sup>, and any applicants who already submitted an application for an early admissions decision but is not yet accepted, can qualify for an interview if meeting the minimum requirements for admissions.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- Complete full application online at [www.otcas.org](http://www.otcas.org) by application deadline. OTCAS application includes:
  - Listing and submitting transcripts of all courses taken that apply toward college credit, note obtained (or planned) baccalaureate degree, and provide other information related to observation, work, and volunteer experiences.
  - Three letters of recommendation.
  - Personal Statement

### **Prerequisite Course Guidelines**

Eight pre-requisite course must be completed with a grade of C or higher, for a combined pre-requisite GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale). Grades for all pre-requisite courses must be available at the time of the application deadline (except where indicated with an \*). The St. Ambrose OTD Program requires the applicant match a course taken to each pre-requisites. Providing a course that does not match the content may slow the processing of an application.

(St. Ambrose course numbers are shown with the required pre-requisite courses. A listing of transfer equivalencies accepted into St. Ambrose can be found at <http://www.sau.edu/academics/academic-resources/registrar/transfer-course-equivalency>)

Anatomy and Physiology I with Lab (SAU Course: BIOL 230)  
Anatomy and Physiology II with Lab (SAU Course: BIOL 232)  
Course must focus on human anatomy and physiology.

Medical Terminology (SAU Course: HS 250 or competency)  
The competency test can be taken at no charge and attempted up to two times. Self-study ahead of test is recommended. Contact 563-333-6277 or [LaneRhondal@sau.edu](mailto:LaneRhondal@sau.edu) for more information.

Lifespan (SAU Course: PSYC 212)  
Course must address human development from birth through death. At some institutions, more than one course may be required to address the entire lifespan.

\*Research Methods (SAU Course: PSYC 215)  
Course must provide skills for critical evaluation of research and scholarly literature. Methods of qualitative and quantitative investigation and principles of research design must also be addressed.

Statistics for Social Science (SAU Course: STAT 213)  
Course must address methods of quantitative statistical analysis. Content related to methods of qualitative analysis is of benefit but not required.

Social Science (300 Level or Above)  
Social Science courses include those from the disciplines of Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology.

\*Ethics or Biomedical Ethics (SAU Course: PHIL 207 or PHIL 310)  
Course must address a process for critical thinking and decision making used to analyze factors or issues within a framework of ethic-based and/or values-based reasoning.

THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM IS ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION (ACOTE) OF THE AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (AOTA), LOCATED AT 6116 EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, SUITE 200, NORTH BETHESDA, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, C/O AOTA, IS (301) 652-AOTA, AND ITS WEB ADDRESS IS [WWW.ACOTEONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.ACOTEONLINE.ORG)